

COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON

Local Emergency Planning Committee

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
 100 GRACEDALE AVENUE
 NAZARETH, PENNSYLVANIA 18064-8430
 Telephone: (610) 746-3194
 Fax: (610) 746-3199

Date: June 3, 2026

Time: 1000 Hours

Location: Northampton County Emergency Operation Center, 100 Gracedale Ave. Nazareth, PA 18064

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

AB	Austin Boccardi	St. Luke's Health Network	JK	John Kluk	Meier Dutch
AH	Adam Hamrick	OSHA	JS	Joe Sipel	Wilson Borough Fire Dept.
BMG	Brendan McGlevy	US Cold Storage	JU	Jonathan Ulanoski	PA DEP
BS	Bill Santa	Lehigh University - EHS	KT	Kevin Thomas	Beth. City FD / HazMat
CW	Christian William	Lehigh Valley Health Network	MAU	Mark Aurand	NC – Dire. of Administration
DM	Dave Malloy	Public	ML	Michael Lenner	NCEM – Director
GM	Greg Mertz	Lehigh Cty. Spec. Ops.	MR	Michael Rampulla	NCEM – LEPC Treasurer
IM	Ian Macleod	BioSpectra	MRI	Mike Rinker	NCEM – LEPC Chairperson
JB	John Bast	Public / LEPC Vice-Chair	RHI	Ryan Hinkel	US Cold Storage
JEC	Jose Echeverry	Air Liquide	TC	Tim Craven	PA DEP
JF	Joseph J. Fittos, III	EWMI / Rapid Response	TG	Thomas E. Guth, Jr.	NCEM – LEPC Secretary
JHU	Jeff Hunsicker	PEMA - EAO			

I. Call to Order

- MRI called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. Attendee Introductions

III. Public Comment

- None

IV. Introductions


- Michael Lenner, Director of Northampton County Emergency Management Services
- Greg Mertz, Coordinator for Lehigh County Special Operations

V. Approval of the March 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

- MRI requested a Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes:
 - 1st by JB, 2nd by DM, all in favor

VI. Financial Report (presented by MR) *As of May 30, 2026*

- MR shared the following financial information with the Financial Statement.



Northampton County
Local Emergency Planning Committee

Michael Rinker
Chairperson

COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON

Local Emergency Planning Committee

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
100 GRACEDALE AVENUE
NAZARETH, PENNSYLVANIA 18064-8430
Telephone: (610) 746-3194
Fax: (610) 746-3199

Financial Report For June 3, 2026 as of 5/30/26

Starting Balance 1/1/2026	\$ 164,156
Year to Date Total Revenue	\$ 69,583
Total	\$ 233,739
YTD Expenditures	\$ 145,325.85
Ending Balance	\$ 88,503.15

MISC Employee Benefit

- Education \$ 0.00
- Staff Training & Development \$ 176.25
- Convention Expenses \$ 620.00
- Dues & Membership \$ 35.00

Communication

- Telephone \$ 4,524.05
- Postage \$ 0.00

Admin Supplies & Equipment

- Minor Equipment \$ 0.00 *Encumbrance \$ 0.00*
- Security & Safety supplies \$ 0.00

Serv & Other Operating Supplies

- Educational & Recreational \$ 0.00
- Food \$ 129.68
- Operating Supplies \$ 0.00 *Encumbrance \$ 0.00*
- Personal Protective Equipment \$ 0.00

Professional Services

- Professional Services \$ 49,500

Program Operating Cost

- Repair & Maintenance of Equipment \$ 4,390.87
- Misc. \$ 0.00

Capital

- Equipment \$ 89,950.00 *Encumbrance \$ 2,500.00*

- MRI requested a Motion to Approve the March 4, 2026 Financial Report:
 - 1st by JS, 2nd by JB, all in favor.
- Sara Title III Collections – As of June 3, 2026 (presented by MRI)
 - Tier II billing & payments –

Invoiced / Outstanding:	\$ 11,225.00
Fees Collected:	\$ 47,275.00

VII. **Plans** *(presented by MRi)*

- **Emergency Response Plans**
 - **Updated**
 - None
 - **New**
 - None
- **Preparedness, Prevention, Contingency Plans**
 - **Updated**
 - BioSpectra
 - Fuller Technologies
 - Ardent Mills
 - Bardot Plastics
 - Talen Energy
 - Bethlehem City Water Treatment Plant
 - **New**
 - None

VIII. **Site Visits** *(presented by MRi)*

- **Completed**
 - None
- **Upcoming**
 - Nothing scheduled

IX. **Agency Responses / Trainings / Reports – Quarterly** **Northampton County Emergency Management** *(provided by MR)*

- 2 responses since last meeting;
 - 5/10/25 – Bomb/explosive removal
4000 block of Locust Drive, Lehigh Township
 - 5/19/26 – MVA w/Spill (diesel fuel)
Rt. 33 & I-78, Bethlehem Township/Lower Saucon Township
- **Trainings**
 - **Courses Completed:**
 - AWR-230 & 231: Response to/Prevention of Bombing Incidents – 3/19
 - G-402: ICS Overview for Executives / Senior Officials – 3/24
 - AWR-426: Tactical Response to Suicide Bombings – 4/16
 - ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents – 4/20 thru 4/22
 - ICS-400: Advanced ICS for Complex Incidents – 5/26 & 5/27
 - **Courses Scheduled:**
 - L-2300: Intermediate EOC Functions – 6/23 thru 6/25
 - L-0105: Public Information & Warning – 9/15 thru 9/17
 - G-393: Introduction to Hazard Mitigation – 10/26 thru 10/28
 - G-235: Emergency Planning – 11/17 & 11/18

- **Courses Planned:**
 - AWR-160: WMD/Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders
 - AWR-235: LE Response to Suicide Bombing Attacks
 - L-0146: Homeland Security Exercise Evaluator Program (HSEEP)
 - MGT-448: Hazards Planning for Animals, Agricultural. & Food Related Disasters
 - AWR-328: All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters
 - FLBU: Flammable Liquid Firefighting*
 - NFFB: Foam Firefighting Basic*
 - NFFT: Foam Firefighting Technician*
 - LDHO: Large Diameter Hose*
 - PUOP: Pump Operations I*
 - PUOA: Pump Operations II*
 - RFWM: Rural Fire Ground Water Movement*
 - TAWS: Tanker Water Supply*
- * *Denotes USDOT PERG grant funded course*
- **Report / News / Updates**
 - Nothing reported

Lehigh County Special Operations *(provided by GM)*

- Responses with/into Northampton County.
 - 4/21 –CO from drain, baking soda & vinegar poured down the drain
900 block of Main Street, Northampton Borough
 - 4/24 – Diesel fuel poured down the drain at car wash. Connected to water system.
1600 block of Main Street, N. Catasauqua Borough
- **Trainings**
 - **Courses Completed:**
 - O-305: Incident Management Team training – 4/27 thru 5/1
 - **Courses Scheduled:**
 - None reported
 - **Courses Planned:**
 - None reported
- **Report / News / Updates**
 - Greg Mertz is the new Coordinator for Lehigh County Special Operations team. Contact information is:
 - Office Phone: 610-782-4602
 - Cell Phone: 484-239-0705
 - Email: gregmertz@lehighcounty.org

Bethlehem City Hazmat Team *(provided by KT)*

- 7 response shared during meeting.
 - 4/12 – Hazmat investigation, post fire run off (auto body storage yard) 1000 block of Market Street
 - 4/25 – Hazmat investigation, no release – CO2 alarm 77 Wind Creek Boulevard
 - 5/17 – Hazmat Stand-by (mutual aid) – potential X-Site deployment 10th & Hamilton Streets, City of Allentown
 - 5/20 – Bio-Hazard Evaluation/EMS Support, bio-hazard contamination 1700 block of Catasauqua Road
 - 5/21 – Hazmat Investigation, no release – degrading consumer containers 1400 block of Montrose Avenue
 - 5/28 – Hazmat Investigation, no release – persistent odor on lower level Unit block of W. Walnut Street
 - 6/1 – Natural Gas Line Strike – explosive readings in area and buildings 1400 block of Fritz Drive
- **Trainings**
 - **Courses Completed:**
 - March – 80 hour Hazmat Technician course presented by the International Association of Firefighters. Now have 16 members certified at Technician level in the City.
 - May – 40 hour Tactical Chemistry course presented by the Hazmat Guys. Funded via PHMSA PERG Grant funds.
 - May – Held 4, 4-hour Laser Methane Detection courses which were presented by the Hazmat Guys. Funded via PHMSA PERG Grant funds.
 - **Courses Scheduled:**
 - Nothing reported
 - **Courses Planned:**
 - Nothing reported
- **Report / News / Updates**
 - Completed on site PEMA inspection on February 24, 2026 with no deficiencies.
 - Completed PEMA Evaluated Exercise planned for April 16, 2026 at Allentown Fire Academy.
 - Achieved Type II PEMA Recertification. Team is now certified through June 30, 2030.

X. Northampton County Fire School Training Report

- **Courses Completed:**
 - Noting reported
- **Courses Scheduled:**
 - Nothing reported
- **Courses Planned:**
 - Nothing reported
- **NOTE/Discussion:** No attendance from representative of the Fire School. Chairperson Rinker discussed the importance of having a representative from the Fire School at these meetings. Chairperson Rinker also stated that he feels any further requests for funding or assistance shall be brought forth to the committee via a member/representative of the Fire School, not 3rd party or through others.

XI. Old Business

- FY2025 PERG Grant (*presented by TG*)
 - Presentation short PowerPoint on items purchased with the last award of PERG funding. Total award received last fall was for \$124,605. Funds were allocated for the following:
 - \$ 35,860 to hold 15 fire related training courses.
 - \$ 10,000 to purchase a UAV/drone. (Purchased a DJI Matrice 4T)
 - \$ 78,745 to purchase a LION vehicle fire training prop and LION mobile trailer package.
 - MRI asked if departments who want to utilize the trailer to haul a training might be able to just transport the trailer themselves. Stated we shall look into that. MR reminded everyone that no matter who uses the prop(s) or trailer there are currently only 4 persons that have the training to operate the trailer and props, so schedule in advance. Will follow up.
 - KT also stated that he was made aware that all future TAG or PERG grants via PHMSA will ONLY fund training courses or few items associated with the training courses. Will no longer fund for assets or props or actual items.
- Northampton County LEPC By-Laws review/update status.
 - JB shared with those in attendance where this process stands and shared that the county solicitor has reviewed the document and sent back edits he would like to see made. Hopefully have a sold/final draft at next meeting.

XII. New Business (*provided by MRI*)

- 2026 HMEP Grant: \$14,850 was awarded for Hazmat Ops & Awareness classes
- 2026 HMRF Grant: \$10,383 was awarded for Lehigh County Hazmat
- 2027 IAFC Baltimore Hazmat Conference Registration Deadline –April 21, 2027.

XIII. Upcoming meetings **September 2, 2026** **December 2, 2026**

- Unless stated otherwise ALL meetings start at 10:00am.
- Unless stated otherwise ALL meetings are hosted at:
 - Northampton County EOC
 - 100 Gracedale Avenue, Nazareth, PA 18064
 - *If interested in hosting a meeting at your facility please let us know!*

XIV. Good of the Order

- CW showed the attendees medical type bags that were provided to the health networks via the healthcare coalition.
- KT shared that their departments Ahura-Raman identification meter is 20 or so years old and in need for replacement. With the latest PERG grant refusing to award monies to buy one and potential for future grants to not cover it either he will be working on finding funding to purchase a new one. Will check other options and the City of Bethlehem for funding but anticipates approaching the LEPC at the next meeting in September for potential funding help.

XV. Adjournment

- MRI requested a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:
 - 1st by JB, 2nd by JF, all in favor
 - Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Visit our LEPC page: <http://ncem-pa.org/lepcl>
For previous meeting agenda, minutes and more information.