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Champaign County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Meeting Minutes
February 25th, 2025
Location: ILEAS Boardroom
1701 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802
Time: 10:30 AM

- I. Welcome and Introductions – The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by John Dwyer.
- II. Public Comment – There was no public comment, as there was no one from the public at the meeting.
- III. Review and approval of minutes from the November 26th, 2024 – Brett Johnson motioned to approve the previous minutes, Jenny Nargelenas seconded that motion, the minutes were approved by all.
- IV. Local incidents, training, exercises, and upcoming events discussion.
 1. John Dwyer stated that he is still working on the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant 22-25 and the Willard Airport Full scale exercise is May 19th, 2025.
 2. John Dwyer said the county has 155 facilities that have until March 1st, 2025, to turn in their Tier II documentation. As of yesterday (February 24th, 2025) 21 facilities have yet to file, 91 have filed but not sent documentation to the LEPC/Champaign County EMA, and 43 have sent their documentation by mail (19) or by email (24) to the LEPC/Champaign County EMA.
 3. No national incidents were brought up. John Dwyer talked about local incidents where smoke or blowing dust/dirt/debris causes issues on the interstates/highways/or county roads. He said that if the Champaign County EMA office was notified, he could get help from the National Weather Service (NWS) for plume modeling and up to date weather conditions.

4. Brian Ball reported the following information:

A. From the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Conference in Illinois:

1. Illinois will be launching free awareness and operations level training for emergency response to pipeline incidents. He is not sure of the funding source, but it will be presented through IFSI instructors.
2. A detailed presentation regarding the response to the Teutopolis Ammonia Truck crash was given by the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief of T-Town.
3. Details of a fire that broke out on the roof top solar array of a large plant in Alsip and how they successfully used PV Stop agent to cover and eliminate electrical hazards on the adjoining panels that weren't involved in fire.
4. The presentation on the East Palatine Ohio train derailment was cancelled due to new lawsuits being filed.
5. MABAS worked with IEMA to ensure funding through June 30th. All the federal programs that fund 2/3's of the MABAS budget are frozen.

B. From the Champaign Fire Department (CFD) side:

1. 8 members completed the All-Hazards Incident Management Team training
 2. All 115 members along with bomb technicians from UIPD and CPD attended radiation detection training last week from Illinois Emergency Management.
 3. 4 members are currently at MABAS receiving training for new radiological detection and identification equipment through the Securing The Cities program. This program includes 14 of the nation's population centers and the Chicago Fire Department is the lead agency for Illinois. This program began with training and installation of fixed and mobile rad detection equipment throughout the city for land, air and water entry into the city. It expanded last year to include the collar counties of Cook and now 6 additional communities, including Champaign, are involved as the preventative "Net" is cast over a larger area surrounding the target city.
5. John Dwyer said the Norfolk Southern Safety Train will be here for training from August 11th thru the 15th, with the 15th being an exercise for the Champaign Fire Department's hazmat team.

- V. Open Discussion and Wrap up – John Dwyer talked about the NWS weather fact sheet handout and how Illinois was #1 in the number of tornados last year, with Champaign County being listed as the #4 county with the greatest number of tornados per square mile based on data from 1950-2024. He also said that people should not drive around barricades for any reason. He also stated that the weather alert radios do have the capability to provide information in other languages on the scrawler, but the verbal announcements are only available in English. Susan Monte asked John Dwyer about the Hazard Mitigation Plan and he said that he was awaiting approval from IEMA about the grant. Jenny Nargelenas said they were working with the Champaign Fire Department (CFD) on an exercise that involved an ammonia leak, because the previous one had to be cancelled due to a real-world incident that CFD had to respond to. Chris Hanson said they were planning on beta testing Artificial Intelligence (AI) utilization in the field and on real world incidents. John Dwyer said the NWS was providing a daylong seminar in Peoria on March 1st, 2025. He also reminded everyone that the sirens would go off if the “destructive” tag was used on any weather event that would hit any sirens within our boundary. He shared the example from the year before where the “destructive” tag was used by the NWS and our sirens would have gone off more than thirty minutes in advance of when the actual storm hit our area. Stating that the sirens may sound twice before the storm system would be in our area and that the sirens never indicate an all clear. Steve Lyddon, from Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security (CISA), offered to work with any businesses or offices in the area. Saying that he has been working with Faith based organizations and non-government organizations (NGOs) recently and that FEMA funding might be delayed a month. He also said that there is a Rural Railroad course (AWR 147) being taught up north in Joliet on April 23rd, 2025. Sarah Michaels said “Don’t touch birds, alive or dead!” as the bird flu is an ever growing issue. John Dwyer said that there is a NWS storm spotter training opportunity on March 27th, 2025 starting at 6:30 PM until 9:00 PM at the ILEAS Training Center Auditorium.
- VI. Adjournment-Next Meeting— June 24th, 2025 – Chris Hanson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Susan Monte seconded that motion, and the adjournment was approved by all.

Attendees:

John Dwyer-CCEMA
John Riegel-CCEMA
Sarah Michaels-CUPHD
Jenny Nargelenas-UNFI
Brett Johnson-CFD
Steve Lyddon-CISA

Jason Madden-UIEM
Richard Williams-IEMA-OHS
Joshua Goode-UNFI
Susan Monte-CCES
Raymond Mucha-CUPHD
Chris Hanson-U of I Hazmat