

Sherman-Valley LEPC
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2017

Present:

Alec Baillie, Mayor – Loup City
Tom Bandur, Sherman County Board of Commissioners
Mike Beck, Litchfield Fire
Alma Beland, Region 26 Emergency Management
Mike Dorsey, Loup City Fire
Kaleb Ericson, Sherman County Sheriff's Office
Roger Hofts, Sherman County Dept of Roads
Michael F. Janulewicz, Sherman County Sheriff's Office
Ashley Jeffres, Loup Basin Public Health
Daryl Jorgensen, North Loup Volunteer Fire
Tim Kusek, Rockville Fire & Rescue and Village of Rockville
Linda Lewis, Region 26 Emergency Management
Danny Patterson, Sherman County Emergency Management
Scott Philbrick, Valley County Emergency Management
Larry Proskocil, Valley County Health Systems
Randy Scott, Trotter Incorporated

- 1) Chairman Alec Baillie called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. The Open Meetings Law was brought to our attention and participation from the attendees was encouraged and welcomed.
- 2) Larry Proskocil moved, seconded by Daryl Jorgensen to approve the October 11, 2016 minutes. All voted aye, motion passed.
- 3) Old Business –
 - a) Region 26 Severe Weather Symposium – April 1, 2017 – Alma reported that the symposium will be at the Trotter Event Center in Ord and shared that her goal was to educate people of all ages about severe weather and would like to have a LEPC Booth representing all LEPC's in Region 26 area and is calling upon the members of the LEPC's to help man the booth.
- 4) New Business
 - a) Randy Scott reported on a conference he attended on LEPC's, small communities and volunteers. Most LEPC's across the state only hold their annual meeting and that's it. To energize a LEPC it needs to be active.
 - i) What can we do in an all hazards disaster?
 - (1) Quarter off a section of the town or area that is unsafe
 - (2) Provide education in Sheltering-In-Place
 - (3) Create Bulletins or flyers to keep the people informed in key areas
 - (4) Assist the school in chemical clean up in the classroom – get a list of chemicals in the classroom and janitorial supplies.
 - (5) Teach safety with chemicals
 - ii) Educating others to assist in an incident
 - (1) Opportunities at Council Meetings
 - (2) Fire and EMS
 - (3) Hospitals

- iii) OSHA vs EPA – due to Fertilizer, chemicals at stations we as LEPC would deal more with EPA than OSHA.
- iv) Limitations
 - (1) We need to know what we can and cannot do
 - (2) How far is too far in dealing with a chemical
 - (3) Need education for the LEPC to know duties at an incident
 - (4) Hospitals have limitations on what we may be able to do...what are they?
 - (5) What are our legal limitations?

QUOTE: “Tell me and I’ll forget, Show me and I may remember, Involve me and I will remember.”

b) Area Disaster Discussion

- i) December 21st Fire –
 - (1) Evacuation of Trail 12 – Alec received a call to help find a place to open for evacuees. He was able to utilize the Loup City Community Center.
 - (2) People started showing up with food for the volunteer firemen and evacuees before it was even requested.
 - (3) CodeRED was used by the Region 26 Director, Alma Beland to send out the evacuation message and another message sent to advise location of shelter. CodeRED is a great tool to use but people need to be signed up for it and the user needs precise, accurate information to pass on to the citizens.

CodeRED discussed in more detail. Maybe it should be used more so people get used to receiving calls; people tend to delete apps or programs that don’t get used. On the other side of that, if it’s used too much for non-emergency events they may want to delete because of overuse. Education about CodeRED and a push to get people signed up may be in order. Officer Ericson suggested that there be guidelines for Sherman/Valley Counties set up for the use of CodeRED so there would be no questions at the time of an incident. We could also use a local number so people don’t think it’s a telemarketer. This could cause an influx of calls to the dispatch center or the administration line. We could try it and see what the feedback would be and change it later if needed.

The use of sirens was discussed and the reason they weren’t used is because when the lake’s siren is set off the town’s siren would also go off due to being on the same frequency. This could cause panic causing more issues. The possibility of separating the frequency will be discussed at a later date.

- (4) A Disaster Declaration needed to be signed by both Sherman and Valley Counties because aircraft was used to help suppress the blaze.
- (5) Communication – The responding departments had difficulty communicating with each other. The mutual aid channels were discussed but a potential problem with that is they only reach a few miles. Everyone that came had different channels. One of the problems realized was that the Loup City Fire Department’s radios were programmed in a confusing manner and caused problems in being able to communicate with Incident Command.

Roger Hoft with the Sherman County Commissioners shared that county resources could help out more if he had radio equipment to communicate with responders. He would

be able to dispatch his road crews to assist. Sheriff Janulewicz may have what he needs and will look into it.

- (6) The amount of gawkers became an issue and law enforcement from a neighboring county came to assist.

- c) CERT Teams – (Community Emergency Response Team)
 - i) CERT Teams are trained Volunteers with equipment and a tool kit that is used in response
 - ii) CERT Teams can assist in many different ways in a disaster.
 - (1) Divert volunteers to productive protocols that are in place
 - (2) Know what they need to know and be able to do it
 - (3) Clean up crew to assist exhausted firemen
 - (4) Credentialing
 - iii) CERT classes teach
 - (1) Taking care of yourself and family until others get there so you can respond.
 - (2) Search and Rescue
 - (3) Use of fire extinguisher
 - (4) Wrench and how to turn off gas meter
 - (5) Cribbing to lift things off.
 - (6) Limitations in responding.
 - iv) Liability - Liability would belong to whoever calls them into action.

- d) Severe Weather Awareness Presentation for Sherman County will be March 6, 2017, 6:30 at Loup City Community Center. This is a great opportunity for anyone to learn more about weather in your area.

- 5) Other:
 - a) Sherman/Valley LEPC now has a FACEBOOK page set up that Scott Philbrick has offered to manage
 - b) Possibility of putting an article in the paper reporting on what the local LEPC is doing.
 - c) Larry Proskocil had questions on who notifies schools and hospitals in an emergency situation.
 - d) CodeRED sign ups – need to do another push in the paper to make people aware of this service. The only ones to receive an All Call message are those that are signed up. During the tornado drill in March during Severe Weather Awareness Week.
 - e) There will be a Human Trafficking Awareness meeting with Meredith McDowell a counsellor from Kearney along with two other speakers. This will be held on January 23, 2017 at 7pm at the Loup City Community Center.
 - 6) Next regular meeting – April 11, 2017 which will be our annual meeting.

Submitted by Region 26 Emergency Management/Secretary
Linda Lewis