

Buffalo County Local Emergency Planning Committee
Quarterly Meeting

Chairman Loewenstein called the meeting in Fire Station I, Kearney, Nebraska held on January 23, 2006 to order at 7:15P.M.

Roll call

present (11): Robert Anderson, Amy Elwood, Don Engel, Jr., Vern Fiala, Judy Jobman, Darrin Lewis, Tim Loewenstein, Dan Lynch, Wesley Quail, Dan Saathoff and Jerry Thompson.

Excused (2): Mike Martinosky and Ken Tracy

On Leave (1) Kim Schmidt

absent (2): Michael Morgan and Harlan Simmerman

There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Dan Lynch, seconded by Vern Fiala to approve the minutes of October 24, 2005. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Robert Anderson and Dan Saathoff updated the membership on their proposals for LEPC shirts. Three options are being considered, Robert and Dan will make the final decision after further review, everyone listed their shirt sizes and hopefully the shirts will be available for distribution at the annual meeting in April.

Emergency Manager Darrin Lewis and Amy Elwood informed us about the new Id system purchased by Two River Health Department and the Emergency Manager. It is made by Claritus and has the capability of scanning someone's driver's license and their picture and ID number is automatically added to the database and the new card. It can print one or two sided, has magnetic strip and bar code options. You can create your own graphics to add to the card or use some pre-made ones. They are able to print black and white temporary IDs for spontaneous volunteers. It is VERY portable as it comes in a hard case on wheels. A laptop, color printer, camera, ID scanner, and black and white printer are included. Darrin and Amy worked with others for the creation of a logo for use on each card for cohesion between all entities.

Amy Elwood, Response Coordinator-Two Rivers Health Department advised there will be Sub-Hub exercise Amy Elwood, Response Coordinator with Two Rivers Health Department advised there will be a Sub-Hub exercise in March which will be held in collaboration with NEMA, Nebraska Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, FBI, FEMA, US Marshals, Nebraska Army National Guard, Nebraska Department of Roads, Nebraska Game and Parks, Nebraska State Patrol, University Of Nebraska System, local public health departments, local law enforcement, city and county government and many other local agencies. These exercises are held to identify any problems in a mock setting so entities are prepared in an emergency setting.

Kearney Fire Chief Jerry Thompson advised if the LEPC wishes the mobile command center can be housed at the Fire Departments Training Center located on Airport Road and he will have more information and further details for our April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Emergency Manager Lewis updated the committee on the (CNRI) Central Nebraska Regions Interoperability project. He stated things are progressing on the Fast Track with all racks delivered to the entities which were identified in the memorandum of understanding for Public Safety Services Interlocal Agreement group composed of Buffalo, Adams, Dawson, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harland, Kearney, Phelps and Red Willow and the participating cities and villages within said counties currently being programmed. A press conference is tentatively scheduled by the Governor for February 10, 2006 at the Law Enforcement Center on the main floor at 1:00 P.M.

Amy advised with regard to the Radon test kits, the grant submission date did not allow enough time frames to compile and submit the grant application, so nothing was done.

The Emergency Manager offered the (LEOP) Local Emergency Operating Plan had been reviewed and updated with nothing major changed.

The Question had been raised at the previous meeting of the LEPC as to the cost of the Hazmat team when called to assist. Kearney Fire Chief Thompson advised the original understanding of the entities involved in the Hazmat team was there was no charge to be imposed when the Hazmat team was involved. The Fire Department insures the Decon trailer and the upkeep and stocking of and the Emergency Manager through Buffalo County insures the Hazmat trailer. The Hazmat team doesn't go outside the Fire District unless requested by the Emergency Manager therefore, its Volunteer Fire Departments trained together and aiding each other through the mutual aid association and the team is administered by the Buffalo County Emergency Manager.

Discussion was held on possible recommendations for the various vacancies on the LEPC. Chairman Loewenstein will make contact with the people discussed to see if they would be interested in serving.

Jim Reider was the presenter for (CERT) Community Emergency Response Team. Mr. Reider shared the mission of CERT that: *Everyone can do something to be safer from the dangers we all face – natural disasters, terrorism, crime, public health issues and other medical emergencies – and to help our communities be safer too.*

Jim explained about the CERT program and handed out registration forms for training to become CERT members which is a 20 hour hands-on course in disaster response which will be taught in Holdrege on March 24, March 25 and April 1, 2006 with attendees required to attend all three days for Certification. They will learn the following:

1. Disaster Preparedness
2. Disaster Fire Suppression of small fires
3. Disaster Medical Principles and Treatment
4. Light Search and Rescue Operations
5. Team Organization, Communications and Operations
6. Personal readiness and Equipment
7. Terrorism recognition

Mr. Reider also encouraged the LEPC to become or form a CERT team.

After the presentation it was moved by Lynch, seconded by Lewis that the LEPC accept formally the role and responsibility to serve as a (CERT) Community Emergency Response Team which much like our current LEPC brings together leaders from law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical, emergency management, volunteer organizations, the private sector, and local elected officials to provide local oversight for engaging citizens in homeland security and for promoting community preparedness and family safety. The motion further stated that the entities of (VOAD) Volunteer Organization Active in Disaster who might be called upon in disasters, be invited to the April meeting for dialog and to inquire if eventually they would act as a subgroup like a " Citizen Corps Council" since they already assist in disaster and would bring the necessary talents and skills. Motion carried.

Oral communication and reports were shared as follows:

Guest Danny Baer reported the Ham Radio Club is getting ready for Storm season and advised there would be Storm Spotter Training on March 8, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. at the Fire Department Classroom in the facility located on Airport Road.

Police Chief Lynch advised he received notice from the FBI to keep a watchful eye on airports, fuel trucks and fuel farms.

Emergency Manager Lewis reported he is receiving Tier II Reports in his office. Chairman Loewenstein updated members on LB1222 proposed by Senator Baker and explained the intent of the bill is to change provisions of the Emergency Telephone Communications Systems Act and the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act and told how it would negatively affect (PSAP) public safety answering points and the citizens in an emergency. He stated he would be in attendance at the hearing to testify against the bill.

Adjournment

Chairman Loewenstein declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M. until the annual meeting April 24, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. at UAP Distribution Inc. 1720 16th Avenue, Kearney.

Judy Jobman, Secretary

Possible shirt logos follow:

