



BRAZOS COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Rudy's Bar-B-Que, 504 Harvey Road, College Station, TX

PRESENT:

Steve O'Neal, Capsher Technology
Michele Meade, Brazos County OEM
Christian Kehl, Milstead/Masters ARS
Denise Walker, GHLEPC
Arthur Davila, BCHD
John Heritage, BVCOG
David Villareal, BCOS
Tassie Hermann, TAMU EHS
Jeff Truss, TAMU EHS
Harold Watkins, Brazos County ESD 2

Bryan Ruemke, Washington County OEM
Chet Barker, South Brazos County FD
Brad Trefz, TTI
Antonio Ramos, FUJIFILM
Taylor Tulloch, FUJIFILM
Justin Reily, FUJIFILM
Megan Sullivan, BCHD
Jennifer Wiginton, ARC/CERT/ARES
Jason Ware, Brazos County OEM

Meeting came to order at 11:52 AM

1. OPENING REMARKS

- A. Steve O'Neal (LEPC Chair) gave a speech in memory of Kim Sullivan, former LEPC Chair, who passed away unexpectedly. A moment of silence was held.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Each member was asked to introduce themselves.

3. BUSINESS MEETING

A. OFFICER REPORTS: N/A

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Membership (Steve O'Neal).
 - i. Steve discussed his vision for the Brazos County (BC) LEPC, including an all-hazards focus and community engagement. He encouraged members to spread the word about the LEPC via trifold, website, etc.
2. Emergency Response
 - i. Train derailment in Bryan– rail cars were upright on the tracks, damaged but not leaking, however could not be transported. Put on the track close to F&B

and Agronomy waiting for transfer. Monday, UPR had 2 transfer groups and a contractor. Transfer cars were brought to transfer propylene from damaged cars. 2 cars/day over 8hr/day. 6 cars total. Some cars were sent to UPR for repair, some sent to TEEEX for repurpose as props.

3. Right-to Know (Committee). No report.
4. Public Information (Jason Ware): No report.

C. LIASON REPORTS:

1. Hazardous Materials. No report.
2. Emergency Management (Michele Meade).
 - i. Rene Ramirez has retired from the BVCOG/CERT.
 - ii. Jason Ware and David Villareal have been working with Brazos Valley Fair and Rodeo. A drone component has been added to the rodeo for surveillance.
 - iii. BC OEM is updating the BC Hazard Mitigation Action Plan.
 - iv. BC THIRA must be rewritten. New scenarios are needed.
3. Brazos County Health District (Arthur Davila).
 - i. Flu season – Texas DSHS data records Region 7 flu levels low compared to last year’s levels.
 - ii. Covid – From July to September, there were 3 Covid-related deaths in BC. Community levels are low in all of Texas except for BC and 4 surrounding counties, which are considered medium.
 - iii. Free Covid test kits available at the Brazos County Health District office.
4. Search & Rescue (Jason Ware).
 - i. BVSAR is planning a full-scale exercise set for January/February in Lake Somerville. More details to follow.
5. Cyber Security (Steve O’Neal).
 - i. Phishing/social engineering via text is becoming more prominent.
6. Other Reports. N/A

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

5. OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

6. NEW BUSINESS. No new business.

7. **PROGRAM:** LEPC Purpose and Greater Houston LEPC Best Practices (Dr. Denise Chatam Walker, Greater Houston LEPC Chair)

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. Board Changes - Steve O'Neil has assumed position as LEPC Chair, Jason Ware is Vice-Chair, Erin Dunn remains Secretary, and Michele Meade remains Treasurer.
- B. Meeting Location Change – Rudy's Bar-B-Que has been chosen as the new meeting location of the Brazos County LEPC.
- C. Meeting Date Changes – Meeting dates have changed to the 1st Wednesday of every other month on odd months.

9. **ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM