

**02.03.11**

**Linn County Emergency Management Agency**

**8:30 am**

**Linn LEPC Minutes**

**Present**

Brand Ransford – Linn County EMA  
Jason Decker – ADM  
Susan Carroll – ADM  
Tom Ulrich – Linn County EMA/HAZMAT  
Art Potratz – General Mills  
Don Vincent – Linn County EMA  
Rebecca Palmer – DAEC  
Greg Smith – CRFD  
Barry Richmond – Alliant  
Anne Strellner – St. Lukes  
Julie Stephens – Linn County Public Health  
Shane Dodge – Linn County Public Health  
Mike Goldberg – Linn County EMA  
Greg McGivern – Linn County Sheriff  
Dawn Nelson – Linn County EMA

**Introductions Conducted**

**Minutes from 11.18.10 LEPC Meeting**

Approved (moved mc givern; second ulrich)

**Training**

**ICS 400**

CRPD and Linn Public Health are partnering for ICS 400 class to be held April 28 and 29, 2011. To register contact Julie Stephens [julie.stephens@linncounty.org](mailto:julie.stephens@linncounty.org) 319.892.6023

**Anhydrous Ammonia Response**

- May 2-4 at Hawkeye Downs in Cedar Rapids
- Transcaer will be providing training; sponsored by DNR, Union Pacific, Iowa Department of Transportation, BSNF, Canadian Pacific, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway Co, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and EPA.
- Six other training dates in Iowa during April and May 2011
- Training geared for responders, but others can attend
- Additional information and registration found at [www.transcaer.com](http://www.transcaer.com)

**All Hazards Incident Command Training**

- Incident Commander Training; March 21-25, 2011; Black Hawk County EMA
- Logistics Training; February 28-March 4, 2011; Johnson County EMA
- Operations Training; February 22-25, 2011; Linn County EMA
- Planning Training; March 15-18, 2011; Johnson County EMA
- For additional details contact Linn County EMA [ema@linncounty-ema.org](mailto:ema@linncounty-ema.org)

## **Traffic Access**

Group specific training related to the radiological emergency response plan is provided by DAEC. For additional information contact Rebecca Palmer [Rebecca.Palmer@fpl.com](mailto:Rebecca.Palmer@fpl.com)

## **Communications**

Linn County LEPC Release Notifications

- January 23, 2011, Penford had a release of 17 .1 lb ethylene oxide due to scrubber failure

Cedar Rapids HazMat Response

- None since last meeting

Linn County HazMat Response

- Consultation with Linn County Sheriff Garage regarding oil spill.
- Consultation with Linn County Roads regarding disposal of 55 drum of acid.
- Truck carrying liquid nitrogen tipped over. No spill.

## **Equipment**

No discussion

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

### **HazMat Budget**

Preface for addenda item request

Linn County Public Health has been requested to provide funding for the Linn County HazMat Team. Linn County Public Health (LCPH) supports the team. Before LCPH becomes a funding advocate for the team we must make sure there is fiscal need. The requests have been for necessities such as personal protective items and the hazmat ID upgrade.

### Background

Prior to 93 the Linn County HazMat Team was under the umbrella of the Linn County Sheriff's Department. In 1993 the team was shifted to the Emergency Management Agency (EMA). EMA was not and is not a funding source for the hazmat team. The Linn County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution that the hazmat team was a volunteer organization under the supervision of the Linn County Emergency Management Commission. EMA functions as the fiscal agent of the Linn County Hazmat Team.

The By-Laws can be obtained from Mike Goldberg.

### Issues

- The Linn County HazMat team is inadequately funded.
- Funding comes from seven surrounding counties that contract for hazmat service. This amount totals \$26,000/year. Additional funding comes from actual response billing. If response incidents are low, the funding is not sufficient to maintain the team. An additional flaw is budgeting based on projected hazardous material incidents. This is not how other public safety groups are typically funded.
- Linn County does not provide direct funding for Linn specific hazmat response.
- Linn County would allow the use of Linn County EMA funds to hazmat, but that would come at the expense of EMA staff needed to support State of Iowa required EMA activities.

- There is no state requirement to maintain a hazmat team. If a local hazmat team is not available to a given community there are many potential impacts to include life loss and extensive environmental damage. It could take several hours for the nearest team to respond.

#### Additional Comments

- There is a grant to support hazmat training that comes from the State of Iowa.
- In previous EMA job descriptions hazmat duties were assigned, but currently the EMA job descriptions do not include hazmat duties.
- Cedar Rapids Hazmat covers the City of Cedar Rapids.
- If Cedar Rapids HazMat would be asked to cover the county or any county-owned facilities within Cedar Rapids, the county would be billed for response costs. In addition, Cedar Rapids Hazmat would likely charge Linn County a retainer fee if they were contracted to provide county-wide coverage.
- The Linn County HazMat Team is mostly volunteers, with its members representing diverse backgrounds, including law enforcement, industry, emergency management and public health.
- There is some Linn EMA in-kind personnel support of the hazmat team. However, it should be noted that this is a reciprocal relationship as the Linn County Hazmat Team has provided EMA-specific support for activities such as office relocations and emergency equipment deployment.
- Hazmat response capabilities are needed for the nuclear response requirements.
- DAEC provides funding for a full time employee.
- The hazmat budget is allowed to carry over funds.
- Industries in the City of Cedar Rapids are assessed a “right to store” fee.
- A small group of LEPC members could be called together if needed to work on or review the hazmat budget/plan.

#### Next Steps

- The Linn County Hazmat team will identify a five or ten year fiscal plan to include replacement of outdated equipment. This plan will be presented at the next LEPC meeting in May.
- Review current budget items and make sure they are accurate
- Revisit “right to store” fee for areas outside City of Cedar Rapids that is currently covered by Linn County HazMat Team.
- Mike will check on the possibilities hazmat funding as part of the sales tax referendum.
- Although grants opportunities are limited for hazmat teams, the team can continue to look for opportunities.
- If information is shared with the board of supervisors, LEPC support of the hazmat team should be noted in some manner.

#### Lisbon-Mt Vernon Hazard Mitigation Plan

Lisbon and Mt Vernon asked Linn County EMA to assist with their hazard mitigation plan. The rough draft can be found at:

- City of Lisbon website: <http://cityoflisbon-ia.gov/>
- City of Mt. Vernon website: <http://www.cityofmtvernon-ia.gov/>

A hard copy of the plan can be provided by contacting Linn County EMA [ema@linncounty-ema.org](mailto:ema@linncounty-ema.org)  
Please provide any comments to Don Vincent, Linn EMA Plans Officer [don.vincent@linncounty-ema.org](mailto:don.vincent@linncounty-ema.org) 319.892.6504

#### Siren activation guides

Please share the following guideline with those in your organizations:

## **Outdoor Public Notification Warning Sirens Linn County Area**

### **Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) & Fire Department Quick Reference Guide for Activation and Testing**

Sirens should be sounded for 3-5 minutes, resounding for the duration of the threat (every 10-15 minutes is recommended).

#### **Severe Weather**

##### **Tornadoes**

- Tornado Warning issued by the National Weather Service and/or
- Tornado or funnel cloud reported by a trained spotter

##### **Severe Thunderstorms**

- Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued by the National Weather Service or report received from a trained spotter that includes:
  - Wind 70 mph or greater, or
  - Golf ball sized hail or larger

#### **Local Life-threatening Events**

Non-weather emergencies (hazmat incident, terrorism, nuclear emergency, etc.) that pose a threat to those outdoors and require action to protect life, should be alerted via the outdoor warning sirens by local officials based on existing agreements or local discretion depending on the emergency.

#### **All Clear**

There will be no “all clear” signal from outdoor warning sirens.

#### **Testing**

First Wednesday of each month at 8:45 am. If a severe weather watch or warning is in effect for Linn County prior to 8:45 am, on a scheduled test day, the sirens should not be tested that day. Outdoor warning siren tests will resume on the next scheduled monthly date.

#### **Business/Industry Response Drills and DAEC Exercises**

If your business is interested in receiving an exercise inject during a nuclear power plant drill, contact Mike Goldberg [mike.goldberg@linncounty-ema.org](mailto:mike.goldberg@linncounty-ema.org) 319.892.6501. The next drill will be in May.

You would receive a call from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with an inject and your organization would determine the organization’s next step(s) based on your own response plans.

The next drill will be in May.

#### **Linn County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**

Although the name notes “medical,” non-medical volunteers are also needed. Medical Reserve Corps units are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers—medical professionals and others—who want to donate their time to prepare for and respond to emergencies. MRC volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources.

## Linn County MRC Project History

- In 2003 a grant was secured to purchase equipment to support a medical reserve corps. At that time community members volunteered to assist with the project however scope of MRC use, volunteer coordination, and volunteer training were not fully mapped out.
- In the fall of 2010 a small group of MRC planning members started meeting weekly to address logistical, financial, and operational issues of a local medical reserve corps.

Planning partners include:

- Mercy Medical Center
- St. Luke's Hospital
- Linn County Emergency Management Agency
- Linn County Medical Society
- Linn County Public Health

Potential uses of the Linn County Medical Reserve Corps are:

- Mass Dispensing of health supplies (ex water) or medical vaccination/dispensing
- Special needs sheltering support

Brochures promoting the project were shared with the group.

For additional information please contact Julie Stephens [julie.stephens@linncounty.org](mailto:julie.stephens@linncounty.org)  
319.892.6023

## **Public Comments**

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

- Linn EMA will be providing CERT training each Monday evening in April.
- Businesses could consider offering the CERT training for their businesses.
- For additional information contact Mike Goldberg [mike.goldberg@linncounty-ema.org](mailto:mike.goldberg@linncounty-ema.org)

## **Adjournment**

Motioned strellner; seconded potratz

## **Next LEPC Meeting**

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011; Linn EMA; 8:30 am