



Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2011

Call To Order

Linda Blais called to order the regular meeting of the LEPC on **November 10, 2011** at 11:05 am at 2015 Sens Road, La Porte, Texas.

Introductions

Introductions were made around the room. View the attendance list @ www.laportelepc.org.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

A motion by Alton Porter, Gas Innovations was made to accept the October 14, 2011 meeting minutes. Rick Anorga, Harris County Sheriff's Office, seconded the motion. A vote was taken; Motion carried.

Reports

- a) **Emergency Communications** – Dan Heiken, Emerge Systems showed a new feature that is in testing stage. The new feature allows users to acknowledge incident reports inside Emerge Systems.
- b) **Emergency Response & Resources** – Tim Mann: No report at this time.
- c) **Hazardous Materials Facility Liaison** – Gene Contereas reported the committee is continuing work on the pipeline manual project. Work is tedious due to the large number of pipelines and corridors and work has to be done individually.
- d) **Planning** – Linda Blais reported out for Don Price; questionnaire was completed showing 30 questions and school district will review by end of the year. The committee will do an assessment and see if any issues need to be addressed.
- e) **Public Education & Information** – Bill Bower reported the Wally Wise Program is currently scheduled for December 6 and 7, 2011. The Committee manned a booth at the Lomax Elementary Fall Festival on Saturday, October 22, 2011. The next event will be Christmas on Main Street on December 1st. Volunteers are already signed up.
- f) **Treasurer's Report** – Balance as of October 31, 2011 is \$15,293.85. Receipts of \$10.00 for deposit after alterations payment. Total Disbursements of \$3,153.84: \$1,604.74 - final Safety Fair expenses, \$624.19 - lunch, \$63.87 - work on the pipeline map and manual project (Hazardous Materials Committee), \$20.00 - costume upkeep, \$12.87 - electricity and \$517.16 - signs for the Whelan sirens approved at last membership meeting. Contribution worksheets will be available at December membership meeting.
- g) **Golf Tournament** – Alton Porter reported the committee met prior to the membership meeting today. Golf Tournament is scheduled for March 7, 2012 with a 12:30 shotgun start; room for 33 teams. Robert Eldridge, Odfjell Terminals will be the contact person for door prizes and Donna Cuevas, SSI Chusei, Inc. will be the contact person for the goody bags. Items for the door prizes and goody bags are needed. Proceeds from the golf tournament will be used for Emergency Information/Awareness Signs in the City Parks and Neighborhood. Flyers were made available at the membership meeting.
- h) **Membership** – Currently reviewing and compiling the absenteeism sheets for end of the year. Remember to sign in on the attendance sheets.
- i) **Incidents**
Solvay, Lisa Adams
October 19th, Solvay was performing a controlled decomposition at 23% of hydrogen peroxide. Sometime during this process, an accelerated decomposition occurred and produced a large vapor cloud that quickly got out of hand resulting in a Level II Incident. Alarm sound at 8:50 a.m. with the Emergency Response Team responding. Solvay & Ineos share Emergency Response Team and the incident was reported incorrectly as Ineos, a fire and Shelter in Place. Additionally, initial notification was beyond 15 minutes. Control was gained shortly and at 9:30 notifications were made as Solvay, reported as an emission escape, and with no offsite impact. The incident is currently under investigation to determine the root cause. Company will re-train employees and ensure notifications are made in a timelier manner and with accurate information for our neighbors.

AKZO Nobel, Ron Wilson

Incident occurred at 12:30 p.m. on October 22, 2011. Changed from Level 1 (originally just smoke) to a Level III, as it escalated into a fire and impacted neighbors and roads. Independence Parkway was shut down for about 70 minutes due to the heavy smoke and limited visibility. Cause of the fire is still under investigation, preliminary reports shows a leak which may have been due to corrosion under the insulation. The tank was visually inspected earlier this year and showed no signs of imminent danger. All notifications made as well as contacting the neighbors. All clear issued by 3:20 p.m.

E R Carpenter, Rob Pruett

Incident occurred at 2:44 a.m. on November 5, 2011. A ruptured disc on one of the reactors at the facility failed. The ruptured disk was rated at 150 psig, but failed at 90 psig. Operations personnel secured the reactor quickly. Staff followed up on the incident later in the day and determined that no information had been put on the CAER line and no ENotify notification had been made. A courtesy notification was made through ENotify at that time. Subsequent calculations indicate that approximately 3300 lb. of propylene oxide was vented. The incident is under investigation.

j) Reverse Drills – The following companies presented for the reverse drills that took place during the month:

Oxyvinyls, Justin Cox

Plant received notification of a Level III on November 2, 2011. Notification made within 5 minutes, but was for the wrong site. Notification not made to LEPC and then was posted as a Level 1 Test not a Level III. Corrective action – re-train personnel on proper notification and processes.

Metton America contacted but never received call back. Gwendolyn McNeill will check and report out at next meeting.

Here is the script used by dispatch for the reverse drills.

“This is the City of La Porte Dispatch Center. We are notifying you for the LEPC Reverse Communications Drill. You have a Level 3 incident with an off-site impact. Please follow your notification and communications procedures. Again, this is the LEPC Reverse Communications Drill.”

The dispatcher will then ask you your first and last name.

Old Business

- a) Nominating Committee: Linda Blais has been nominated to fill the Chairperson position. No nominations made from the floor. Melisa Boaze has been nominated to fill the Treasurer position. No nominations made from the floor. Vote will be taken at the December membership meeting.
- b) HMEP Grant: Jeff Suggs reported that we were not awarded the HMEP grant, as eligibility requirements for the grant have changed. Jeff has requested clarification from the State as to why the application was denied.

New Business

- a) Beth Tragus and Mark Braddock, Texas Parks & Wildlife at the San Jacinto Battleship State Park
Beth gave a very interesting and colorful presentation and overview of the State Park. The park is a historic landmark consisting of 1200+ acres and is also a civil and engineering landmark. Receives about 254,250 visitors annually. Host the Texas Independence Relay in March, San Jacinto Day and reenactment in April, May celebrating a century (Battleship commission in 1914 and 100 years since the historical launch), June and July – provide day camps of the habitats and history of animals on the site and offer children’s summer camp for 5 weeks. In December hosts Yuletide Texas, A Sailors Christmas on December 12th with movies and pictures with Santa. Also offers year round facility rentals school and group tours as well as guided tours. Fishing is free, no licensed required in state parks. People visit for lunch to enjoy a peaceful setting. Ongoing program is tree planting and on-site volunteers. Offer confined space rescue training on the battleship.
- b) Discuss non-budgeted item (printing costs for water bill insert): Kristin Gauthier
Discussed cost to print water bill insert with information on the outdoor warning sirens and shelter in place. For approximately 12,000 copies, it will cost no more than \$1,000. This is a non-budgeted item and requires approval by membership. Motion made by Gene Contereas, Nissan Chemical, and a 2nd motion made by Robert Eldridge, Odfjell Terminals. Vote taken and motion carried.

Announcements

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed. Meeting adjourned @ 12:20.

LB:jsh

2011 Monthly membership meetings: December 8