Clark County Local Emergency Planning Committee

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
PUEBLO ROOM
LAS VEGAS, NV 89106

DRAFT MINUTES

WEDNESDAY MAY 14, 2013 1:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

LEPC MEMBERS PRESENT:
FERNANDEZ LEARY, JANE SHUNNEY, DAN LAKE, RYAN TURNER, PHIL KLEVORICK, BRIAN PASSOW, JOHN HIGLEY, WARREN GLIDEWELL, RIC LAPORTE, WENDY PAGAN, RICHARD BRENNER, ROY MICHAEL, CAROLYN LEVERING, JEFFREY NELSON, TODD LERICOS, CALESHA JOHNSON, THOMAS COLEMAN, MICHAEL JAQUES, BRIAN HARTLEY, JAMES OLSCHLAGER, DAVID STUHAN

LEPC ALTERNATES PRESENT:
DIMITRI THEODOROU, JASON MANZO, MAUREEN HIGGENS-TEAGUE, FRANK TAYLOR, JASON MOYER, DOUG SHARP, WENDELL RAMCLAM

LEPC MEMBERS ABSENT:
NICOLE HART, TIM SENDELBACH, DAVE GOSS, GLENN CLOSSON, MIKE MURPHY, SUSAN CROWLEY, PAUL GERNER, SANDY SEDA, ROGER GOODMAN, GEOFFREY WILLIAMS, TOM AXTELL, KEVIN NICHOLSON, ELAINE HOUSER, DAVE DAHL, FELIX ACEVEDO, JEFF BREWER, MIKE RICHARDSON, MIKE BRYANT, BILL RICHARDSON, LEO FERNS

I. Call to Order

Fernandez Leary, LEPC Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:33 P.M. on Wednesday May 14, 2013.

II. Roll Call

Misty Richardson: Quorum present.

III. Public Comments

- Chief John Higley, Mesquite Fire, spoke about the passing of former Chief Hughes and announced the arrangements for his funeral.
- Todd Lericos, Chief Meteorologist, National Weather Service, introduced himself and spoke briefly about new undertaking and organizational efforts of the NWS attempting to become more deeply involved in the emergency management and incident response community. The most significant change is that they are being more proactive in offering their assistance versus just waiting back at the office to be called for information. They are looking for more on scene involvement. Todd cited the Boston Marathon and the Texas fertilizer explosion by stating that forecasters were on scene with Incident Commanders assisting with immediate information. Todd asked the committee to please keep the Weather Service in the loop, too involve them in exercises and training opportunities so that if they are needed that they have the ability to know what is expected and to be a good partner.
- Todd Lericos, briefed the committee on National Monsoon Awareness week coming up in June. He can be reached at 263-9744 should anyone like to request assistance from the NWS. Dan Lake added that the NWS should be included in the WebEOC

DRAFT

working group. Chief Leary advised Todd that SNHD may benefit from his involvement.

IV. Comments from the Chair

The Chair advised the committee that the agenda would be changed in order to accommodate some presenter's schedules.

V. Approval of February 13, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion, by Dan Lake: To accept the minutes as recorded.
Seconded, by Jane Shunney.
No discussion, motioned carried.

(Item number X moved up on the agenda above item VI)

X. Incident Management Team (IMT) Progress Update

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Johnson presented the most recent organizational efforts and information about the IMT. By narrating through a power point presentation *(see attached*) He briefed what the IMT is, how it benefits the community and why there is need for support for the team. He also advised that they are working on establishing teams under the Incident Commanders. The IMT will be participating in the upcoming SNHD Exercise.

VI. Approve and Recommend applications for the United We Stand Grant Application for up to $30,000 from the SERC

Diana Blake, Clark County Office of Emergency Management, introduced the applications put forth to the grant subcommittee on May 6, 2013. Upon that meeting the recommendation from the subcommittee is to fund the following two requests: Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department in the amount of $10,103 and St. Rose San Martin Campus in the amount of $19,789 for a total grant request of $29,892.

Richard Brenner asked to know what items were specifically being purchased and if they tied back to combating terrorism. Lt. Devin Ballard, LVMPD, spoke on behalf of his department and detailed the requested equipment. Connie Kling, spoke on behalf of St. Rose and detailed their requested equipment. Both explained how their requested equipment met the grant requirement.

Motion, by Dan Lake: To Approve the applications as submitted
Seconded, by Ryan Turner.
No discussion, motioned carried.

VII. Review and Approve Updates to Annex K of the Southern Nevada Health District SNS Plan (Closed Session)
(this item moved to the end of the agenda above item XII)

VIII. Accept and Approve Fire Shows Reno Grant to Send Individuals to the Conference in October 22nd-24th 2013

Richard Brenner introduced the item explaining what the grant and the conference were about and who the target audience was for this opportunity. Richard asked the committee for 5 people to attend the conference. Thus far there was interest from Sunrise in attending and Richard advised that he was reaching out to UMC to determine if they had an interest.

Motion, by Richard Brenner: To send 5 people to the conference
Seconded, by Carolyn Levering.
No discussion, motioned carried.

DRAFT

IX. NV Energy

Brian Hartley reported that there was nothing additional to add to the previous presentation made by Bruce Barnes in February 2013.

X. Incident Management Team (IMT) Progress Update
(Item X moved above item VI)

XI. A. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

a. Plans Administration Subcommittee

Richard Brenner advised that they haven't yet met this year but plan to soon for the purpose of reviewing the HazMat plan.

Irene Navis asked to speak and reported on the MCI planning process and updated on the kick off meeting that was had on April 24, 2013. Subsequent to that meeting there have been some discussions about to better integrate or utilize Annex H Appendix 2 as it relates to the MCI plan. They will be looking at that Annex and the MCI plan and try to sort out which part of those plans are operational and which are planning and guidance. Because they are going to be looking at this more indepth they will be pushing out their meeting a little further than initially planned out of respect for all the meetings that are crammed in the next four or five weeks. Expect to see a meeting invitation in the next few weeks for a meeting early July. This will allow time for finalizing the plan in the fall in time for New Years Eve.

Irene also reminded the LEPC that the Hazard Mitigation Plan kickoff workshop for the yearly update is scheduled for July 17, 2013 at the Clark County Fire Training Center.

b. Training Subcommittee

Ric LaPorte reported that they would be finalizing a date for the TEPW some time in July. Watch for an invite.

c. Grants Subcommittee

Diana Blake reported that with the LEPC's approval of the aforementioned grants she will be submitting them to the Board of County Commissioners for approval of the LEPC to administer these funds.

d. Public Information Subcommittee

Jeff Nelson reported that he met on February 26th where Richard Brenner agreed to serve on the subcommittee as well. The primary focus of the subcommittee right now is updating the Hazardous Materials Awareness brochures. There was also discussion about modernizing the outreach approach and exploring the development of a Smartphone/Tablet Application. Moving forward they are going to be working on understanding the overall process for application development. Richard shared information on a company that specialized in public safety apps, Jeff advised that he would share that information with the LEPC.

e. Legislative Subcommittee

Irene Navis, Subcommittee Chair, provided a brief overview of all the current BDR's/Bills that could affect in one way or another public safety or emergency management. Irene narrated through a select list *(see attached)* and commented on how they were applicable or could be related in one way or another to public safety.

DRAFT

f. Community Awareness & Emergency Response (CAER)

Richard Brenner reported on behalf of Susan Crowley he advised that they had a meeting in April and detailed who was present including the Trust that controls the property where Viola is cleaning up the property behind TRONOX. Discussion was had about the new radio system and the incompatibility issues with CCFD and HFD. They are in the process of working through those bugs so everyone is aware of their new radio system. There will be some TTX's throughout this year to get more comfortable and then towards the end of the year first of next they will begin working with SNACC on compatibility.

They also discussed ICS training and the need for industry people to participate. Tours were also of topic, that the HazMat team had participated in January and there was some training done at TIMET for hazmat technicians. Lastly, they discussed the new Hazard Communications Standard dealing with the global harmonization process. This deals with putting chemicals into smaller containers and the need to have your employees that do this trained by December 2013.

g. Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

Connie Morton, reported that they met a month ago and began a set of training for a TTX centered around earthquake response. That TTX will take place November 2013.

h. Emergency Management Coordinators Group

Irene Navis, briefed the committee that the EMC met at the new CCFD Fire Department Operations Center. The National Weather Service provided a comprehensive overview of all the changes taking place at the national level as well as how those changes will impact the office locally, more emergency management support will be offered and details of how they propose to do that were discussed. Conversation was also had about the possibility of providing a more formal structure to the EMC, with a specific purpose in helping Clark County as a region in planning efforts and Clark County OEM in achieving Emergency Management Accreditation by meeting one of the specified standards of having a formal body similar to the statewide EMCC. This suggestion wasn't met with much interest and the group decided that instead of formalizing this informal group that Clark County OEM should pull the planning piece that was mentioned over into the LEPC planning subcommittee and expand that group, if needed, to focus on plan and coordination updates. The purpose of doing that would to also have this group vette certain aspects of the plans and reconcile the differences of the plans. Irene stated that this wasn't a formal agenda item to move all planning under the LEPC subcommittee now but it was simply being proposed to the LEPC as a suggestion. Irene further stated that she was looking at the overall regulations that govern the LEPC to see if this would be ok with the SARA Title III requirements and anything that might be an obstacle in making this change.

i. Metropolitan Medical Response Update

Chris Sproule reported that he is currently working on the After Action Report improvement plan for the deployment of the 16 bed MMRS portable medical facility that was done in January.

MMRS will have an exercise component for the SNHD Encore Exercise in June 2013, they will be testing their alerting and notification procedures.

Adding to what Chief Johnson reported earlier, they continue to work on the operating guidelines and the bylaws. Their goal is to have the bylaws completed and approved by the end of this year.

DRAFT

Chris advised that in Chief Johnsons earlier briefing that they are standing up the team for the Encore exercise, in preparation for that exercise they are putting on an Incident Commander course June 3-6 at the CCFD Training Center. Active recruitment for Incident Commanders is still taking place though they are becoming more selective now that they are at a different phase in this IMT.

j. Nuclear Waste Division Yucca Mountain Update

Phil Klevorick reported that he has six points to discuss. He provided a quick update on the Yucca Mountain status advising that currently there has been no further information coming out regarding the court case decision. He believes that they will determine that they should recommence review of the applications of Yucca and there is no funding to do that. Second, Phil advised that in February DOE released the site wide EIS 10 year update which was 16 years in the making. Phil detailed the timeline that took place for this most recent EIS and advised that it wasn't very well written for a lot of reasons and it was very in-depth and scientific. Phil further advised that Clark County had significant heartburn, and issues with the responses that they received back from the Department of Energy to Clark County's issues that were raised back during the draft EIS in 2011. Phil stated that DOE commented back to Clark County basically saying it doesn't matter how you feel about the comments that were made to our comments and so suck it up and be with it, we are only interested in any new comments that you may have or any new information regarding the hybrid alternative. He advised that Clark County provided significant review on the alternative that basically looks at expanded actions for transportation of low level mixed level waste to the NNSS and other security measure issues of classified materials. Third, he advised that they are expecting a greater than class C EIS to be released at anytime. This should have been released in February the draft of this EIS was done in the summer of 2011. He will have to go back and review all of the material to determine if NNSS was selected as being a shallow barrier or bore hole, whatever the methodology of thinking was going to be, none of which will be legal. He qualified that statement by saying the only legal way to dispose of greater than class c materials in this country is through deep geological repository so to look at any other methodology of disposal of this highly dangerous material is probably irrationally in violation of NEPA and many other federal laws. As a final point Phil stated that most likely everyone had seen in the news over the last several months the U233/35 shipments that will be coming forthwith the Nevada test site for disposal. This is the material that shouldn't be classified as low level but is being classified as low level. Clark County is working with State Nuclear Waste and NDEP trying to coordinate an effort with the DOE EM's office to at least quash some of their concerns such as the OST shipments and the how and where of disposal. Phil asked that everyone stay with him and asked to have their support in reviewing the comments particularly emergency management representatives.

A member of the public Kathleen Peterson was allowed to speak. She briefed the group on the U233/35 and the disposal of this materials according to her conversations with three or four other sites in the complex and that their view of the final resting place for this material has to be in Nevada. She also reiterated that the input from NEPA isn't accurate or up-to-date.

k. State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Richard Brenner reported on behalf of Karen Pabon. There are a number of things that they have been working on, primarily the United We Stand grant that was discussed earlier in the meeting as well as Fire Shows Reno. They have also been addressing changes coming through the Legislature, pertaining to budgets. Once a year, because of financial issues, they meet as a group with the most recent being held in April where there were four new appointments by the Governor to the State Emergency Response Commission. Richard also advised that with the recent

DRAFT

explosion events in West Texas there has been considerable media attention from Reuters and the AP contacting individual states and speaking with their SERC's to get information, he advised that he has done several interviews recently. Richard thanked everyone in the LEPC both present and past, for the great working relationship that exists. He cited previous community incidents such as PEPCON and he further discussed that Texas does not have a State Fire Code nor do they want a regulatory body to perform oversight and they also do not have zoning regulations. Nevada's process works when it comes to being proactive in dealing with hazardous materials.

Richard advised that the federal government is changing some of the tier II forms, there are approximately 400 chemicals that if you have them over threshold planning quantities you have to submit that information to the SERC, your local fire department and local LEPC. Richard stated that a few years ago they began an online reporting system in Nevada that has worked really well from the standpoint of getting that data to first responders and planners. Because the feds are changing the forms the SERC online reporting must also change forms so they are working to update that system.

l. Satellite Phone Update

Dan Lake reported that there isn't much happening but that they continue to share information amongst the group. Because funding is limited they are just keeping informed of the technology available.

Dan advised that the results of the after action from the Zombie exercise in February indicated that more than ever before we must combine efforts and share resources.

The next meeting will likely take place after the summer months.

m. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Report

(see attached report provided by Mike Ardito)

n. ARES/RACES Update

No report

VII. Review and Approve Updates to Annex K of the Southern Nevada Health District SNS Plan (Closed Session)

The Chair announced to the members of the public that this was a closed session to discuss sensitive material and asked that anyone who was not a voting member of the LEPC to leave the room. After discussion was had about the item the meeting reconvened and the vote taken.

Motion, by Dan Lake: <u>To approve with the changes identified by this working group to the Dispensing, Escort and PIO sections</u>
Seconded, by Brian Passow

XII. Public Comments

- ✓ Richard Brenner spoke about Trans Care, a chemical transportation group. There are a number of classes being offered on chlorine, ammonia, and ethanol. There is also some hazmat training that he has been working for the past year to bring to Las Vegas.
- ✓ Richard Brenner also mentioned a monthly virtual table top exercise hosted by the National Fire Academy. This month will be on earthquakes and over the summer there will be one on hazmat. The Fire Academy would like is 12 different disciplines from the jurisdiction to be involved. This is really designed for small cities that don't

DRAFT

necessarily have an emergency management group but if anyone is interested Richard offered assistance in facilitation.

- ✓ Richard Brenner asked if Rick Partain was present as he wanted to give an update about a new pipeline that is located in Clark County. The main terminal is in the City of North Las Vegas on the road heading to Apex. He will be on the next LEPC agenda to discuss their emergency operations plan. This is a secondary fuel pipeline to Kern River.
- ✓ Warren Glidewell announced his retirement from Southwest Gas and introduced his replacement Donnie Foster.
- ✓ Dan Lake referenced the grant process that took place early in the meeting. He advised the LEPC that nobody likes to deny grants to anyone but it was difficult this time because there was such a lack of information provided by the applicants, some were not present and therefore, not able to explain their requests. Dan asked everyone to please make sure that all their I's are dotted, T's crossed and that it fits the scope, so if there is any wiggle room that you are at least at the presentation to answer questions.
- ✓ The Chair advised that the presentation given in April by Rocco Forte was not something that was going to be of assistance to the area and therefore, not something that was going to be pursued.
- ✓ The Chair advised the LEPC of the potential loss of UASI funding for the area and briefed everyone on the Risk Profile that was just published ranking the Las Vegas Urban Area at 33 on the list. He further explained the upcoming process and how funding is proposed to be distributed according to criteria should the UASI not receive money.
- ✓ The Chair discussed using the LEPC subcommittees for a little more than they have been in the past in relation to Irene's earlier comments about the planning subcommittee this is something to be explored. He stated that there may be some membership changes in the future because of the high rate of absenteeism and the concerns of reaching a consistent quorum.

Next LEPC meeting: Wednesday August 14, 2013 at 9:00 A.M., Pueblo Room Clark County Government Center 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion, by Jane Shunney: To adjourn
Seconded, by Ric LaPorte.
No discussion, motioned carried.
Meeting ended at

In accordance to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, this meeting was properly posted and electronically recorded.

DRAFT

The Southern Nevada Type 3 All-Hazard Unified Command Incident Management Team

What is an IMT ?

Concept : *Experienced Backup*

•For Incident Expansion and Complexity

•For Long Duration Incidents

➢Primary IMT Capability:

<u>*Additional incident management expertise*</u>

…to handle additional complexity
and long duration

What is a "Type 3" IMT ??

In the United States, there are predominantly five types of **incident management teams** (IMTs).

IMTs are "typed" according to the complexity of incidents they are capable of managing. Incident management starts as the smallest unit and escalates according to the complexity of the emergency. The five types of IMTs:

•**Type 1: National and State Level** – a Federally or State-certified team; is the most robust IMT with the most training and experience. Sixteen Type 1 IMTs are now in existence.

•**Type 2: National and State Level** – a Federally or State-certified team; has less training, staffing and experience than Type 1 IMTs, and is typically used on smaller scale national or state incidents. There are 35 Type 2 IMTs currently in existence.

•**Type 3: State or Metropolitan Area Level** – a standing team of trained personnel from different departments, organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions within a state or DHS Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region, activated to support incident management at incidents that extend beyond one operational period. Type 3 IMTs will respond throughout the State or large portions of the State, depending upon State-specific laws, policies, and regulations.

•**Type 4: City, County or Fire District Level- Non-Team format-Incident Commander only:** Single operational period with moderate to high complexity

•**Type 5: Local Village and Township Level**-Non-Team format-Incident Commander only: Single operational period with low complexity

Why do we need an All-Hazard Type 3 IMT ?

- ✓ Needed for Long Duration situations
- ✓ Easier to develop and deploy locally

- ✓ Used for All Hazards, not specialized

What does "All Hazards" mean…?

- "All hazards" means <u>any incident or event</u>, natural or man-made, and that the <u>teams are composed of individuals from various disciplines</u>, including police, fire, public health, public works, emergency medical and many others.

- "Basically it's <u>all discipline</u> as opposed to all hazards. An IMT can manage any kind of hazard if it's a well prepared team." *Steve Grainer, Chief, State of Virginia Incident Management Systems*

What does All-Hazard Type 3 IMT do ?

<u>Expand management capability, manage resources</u>

- Manage assets
- Expand planning
- Track costs
- Info management
- PIO service
- All based on ICS

What Makes Up the SNUC Type 3 IMT ?

- 75 Trained Individuals
  →From 8 jurisdictions in southern Nevada
- 10 disciplines, such as:
  Fire Fighting, Law Enforcement, Utility service, and Medical Response
- Computer support equipment
- Administrative support: Clark County

Who can call on the IMT…

Any governmental jurisdiction in Nevada
Including the **State**, Nevada **Counties**, **Cities** and **Tribes**

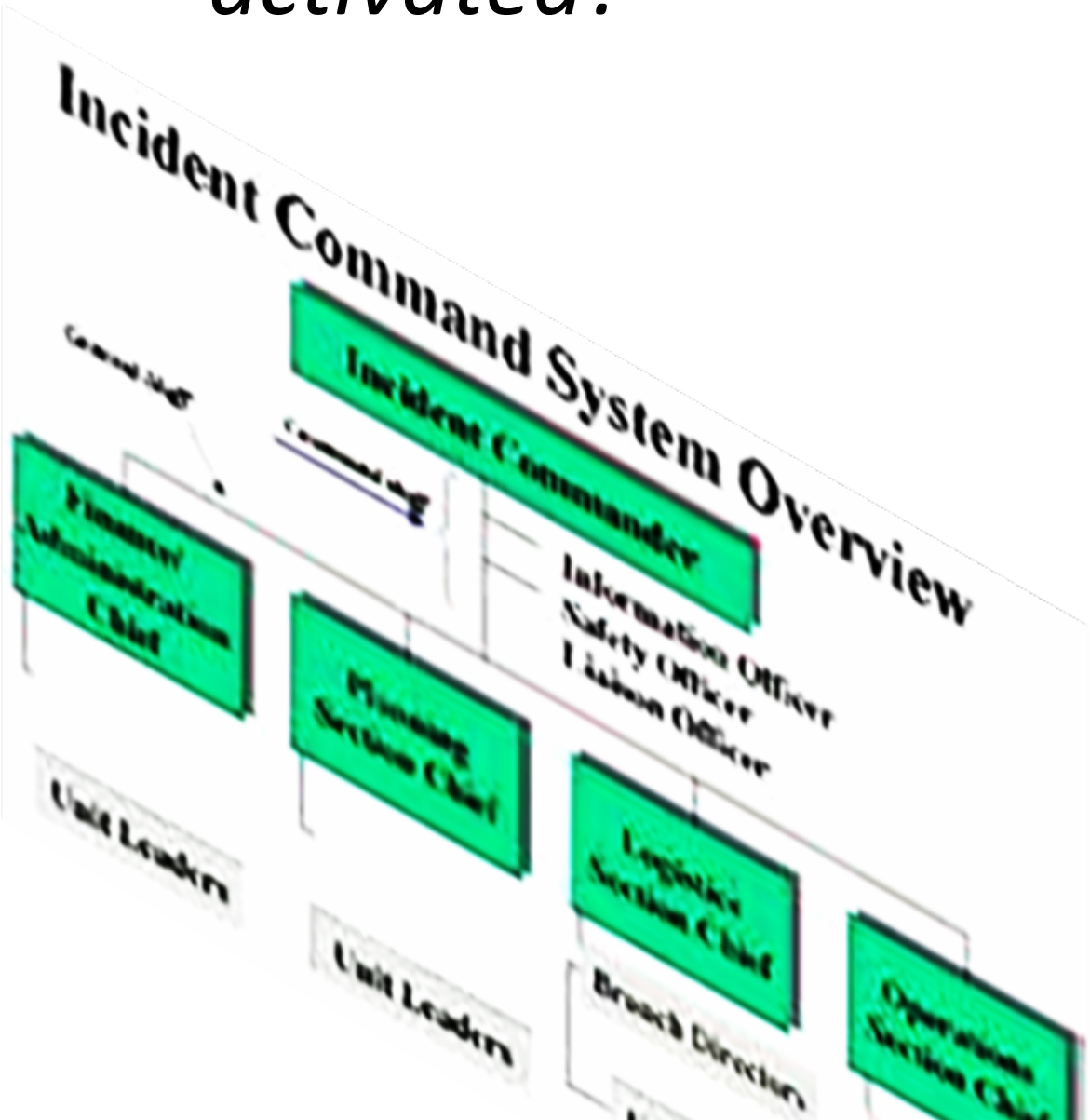
…and How?

1. IMT Activation is requested by the respective Emergency Manager, as a resource, through established Emergency Management channels, to the Clark County Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

2. OEM activates the team notification mechanism, and immediately places the IMT Leader in contact with the Incident Commander.

What happens when the IMT is activated?

- **Deployment**
- **Initial Attack**
- **Transition**
- **Deactivation**



SNUC IMT Status and Applications

- Next organizational setup steps:
  Approval of ByLaws and Operating procedures, Participation in Exercises, and Continued training to expand our member flexibility

- Status of the IMT today: **Currently ready for regional Southern Nevada Response**

- 2010 Mesquite/Moapa Valley
  Large scale infectious outbreak/MCI
  Propane tank farm incident 2008
  Back up for large scheduled events : NASCAR, NYE

Association of Type 3 IMTs

All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Association

Incorporated December, 2010

Member Qualifications

- Foundation: **Experience** as a first-responder
- Candidates are encouraged to complete certain core **ICS and NIMS courses**, and to take a course detailed to one of the various positions in a team.
- "**Shadowing**" or field mentorship assignments. The hands-on experience during a real incident helps individuals apply what they've learned in the classroom. This can be attained through an individuals regular occupation too.
- A candidate should also initiate a **position task book**, which is a mechanism whereby a person is **evaluated** and his or her capabilities and understanding are documented during real operating conditions.

Problems Getting Qualified IMT Members

- Release time for team training and field assignment
- Type 3 Hurdle: credentialing and qualification. Incident management teams have been based on wildland fire teams that credential and qualify over decades of training and taskbook experience. All Hazard Teams, as a concept, was established 10 years ago and does not have the quantity of experienced individuals to call on, making credentialing and qualification of individuals more difficult.
- The field mentorship assignments ("shadowing") are expensive (salaries and overtime are often paid through grant funding)

Questions?

77th Legislative Session 2013

05/01/13

House	Bill	BDR	Description	Last Action	Next Action	Final Action
AB	486	970	Enacts provisions relating to telecommunications modernization	Bill reviewed-no impact on local government/OEM	4/5/13 Assembly Commerce and Labor	No longer tracking
AB	65	402	Revises various provisions relating to open meetings.	Senate Gov. Affairs Do Pass 5/10/13		
AB	150	739	Relating to legislative affairs; creating the Legislative Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability; prescribing the powers and duties of the Committee; eliminating the Legislative Committee on High-Level Radioactive Waste; authorizing the Legislative Committee on Public Lands to review issues relating to the disposal of high-level radioactive waste; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.	4/22 Do pass as amended by Committee; 4/23 Assembly Final Passage, with amendment 498; 4/24 referred to Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections 4/25 Assembly Gov. Affairs		
AB	210	989	Enacts a bill of rights for children who are deaf or hard of hearing (focused on student instruction)	5/10/13 Do pass and reaffirm		
AB	327	554	Revises provisions governing state accountability	5/10/13 Senate Gov. Affairs, no action		
AB	352	510	Revises provisions governing hoax bombs	5/14/13 Senate Judiciary Do Pass		
AB	550	892	Directs the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study concerning state ports of entry (includes hazmat transport)	Returned from Secretary of State by Ways and Means 2/4/13	Bill read. Placed on Chief Clerk's desk 2/4/13	Governor vetoed 2/4/13

77th Legislative Session 2013

05/14/13

House	Bill	BDR	Description	Last Action	Next Action	Final Action
1060	Revises provisions relating to communicable diseases	Filed 2/11/13		No action; no longer tracking		
SB	498	1097	Revises provisions relating to telecommunications	Filed 2/18/13	BDR language reviewed	No longer tracking
		1138	Combines the Health Division and the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services in the Department of Health and Human Services	Filed 2/21/13		No action; no longer tracking
SB	39	342	Revises provisions governing the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security	4/24 Assembly Government Affairs – no action		
SB	42	339	Revises provisions governing the operation of certain emergency vehicles	Referred to Committee on Transportation 2/4/13	Did not pass out of committee	4/13 No further action allowed
SB	44	341	Revises provisions relating to allocations from the Disaster Relief Account	5/6/13 Senate Finance Comm. no action		
SCR	7	1222	Expresses determination of the Nevada Legislature that Nevada is an optimal location for unmanned aircraft system development and testing	4/30/13 – Read and adopted by Senate and Assembly		

Contact info: Irene Navis, LEPC Legislative Subcommittee
iln@clarkcountynv.gov (702)455-57

Important Dates:
Deadline for Second Committee Passage: 5/17/13
Deadline for Second House Passage: 5/24/13
End of Session (Sine Die): 6/03/13

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Pacific Southwest Region Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Program Update For the Clark County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on Wednesday, May 15, 2013

After Action Report Issued for Nevada 2012 Bio-Hazard Response and Recovery Exercise

The 2012 Nevada Bio-Hazard Response and Recovery Exercise held last October 30 at the Las Vegas Readiness Center was sponsored by Clark County, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard. The 27-page After Action Report is now available on the federal Regional Response Team 9 website at: http://www.rrt9.org/external/content/document/2763/1763315/1/2012%20Nevada%20Bio-Hazard%20TTX_Final%20After%20Action%20Report.pdf .

EPA Issues New Area Contingency Planning Handbook

In March 2013, the U.S. EPA issued a new, 67-page handbook as a guide and reference for the development of Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) for environmental emergencies. Here is the link to the document on the EPA website www.epa.gov/emergencies: http://www.epa.gov/oem/docs/oil/frp/EPA_ACP_Handbook.pdf .
While this document is primarily intended for use by EPA emergency response program personnel, area contingency planning is necessarily an inter-agency process, and the use of this handbook to inform other agencies of EPA's planning process is encouraged. Because area plans are focused on specific geographic domains, with many physical and jurisdictional variables, there can be no 'one size fits all' plan format, but maintaining a national consistency in the basic content is important, particularly considering the statutory and regulatory requirements by which EPA and other agencies are bound.

This handbook was developed by EPA's Area Planning Workgroup during 2011 and 2012 and incorporates the accumulated knowledge of years of contingency planning experience. Although ACPs are specifically mandated by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), EPA's responsibilities under other laws, including CERCLA, make an all-hazards approach to contingency planning desirable. The processes of planning for responses to all types of environmental emergencies (e.g., oil spills, hazardous materials releases, natural disasters) share common elements that have been demonstrably successful in major responses. In the interests of conciseness and accessibility, this handbook does not recapitulate extensive portions of related documents, but lists key references, including laws, regulations and technical resources, in appendices.

EPA Pacific Southwest EPP Program Contact for Nevada

For more information about the U.S. EPA's Emergency Prevention and Preparedness program for Nevada, you may contact the liaison, Mike Ardito, at 415-972-3081 or by email at ardito.michael@epa.gov .