



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HAWAII STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
MEETING # 121

Friday, March 12, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Department of Health, Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office
2385 Waimano Home Road, # 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96782

Attendees

Voting: Keith Kawaoka, Dept. of Health; Gerald Kosaki, Hawaii County LEPC; Alex Adams, Honolulu LEPC; Dr. Yuanan Lu, Public Health Studies, University of Hawaii; Jeff Kihune, Maui County LEPC; Albert Kauai, Kauai County LEPC; Mark Want, Dept. of Business Economic Development and Tourism; Brandy Lolotai, Occupational Safety and Health Division, Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relation;

Non-Voting: Sharon Leonida, Terry Corpus, Liz Galvez, Harold Lao, Isaiah Kela-Pacheco, Ramon Mendoza, Adam Teekell, Diana Felton Dept. of Health, HEER Office; Eric Jensen, Tetra Tech; Bill Marhoffer, USCG/Oceania RRT; Bob Harter, City and County of Honolulu, DEM; James Cruz, Gen Tamura, Dept. of Homeland Security; Bill Jones, EPA Region 9; Joanna Seto, Administrator for the Environmental Management Division; Sonia Campbell, University of Hawaii,

1. Keith Kawaoka called the virtual meeting to order at 9:03 am.
 - 1.1 As a result of the most recent March 2021 severe flooding, Bill Marhoffer announce that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is working with FEMA on a joint damage assessment to see if the dollar cost of damage across the state reaches the threshold for a major disaster declaration.
 - 1.2 Approval of minutes #120, minutes accepted pending changes. Motion to accept by Gerald Kosaki, seconded by Jeff Kihune.
2. LEPC Updates:
 - 2.1 Hawaii County: Gerald Kosaki, LEPC Chair
 - 2.1.1 First virtual meeting using Zoom was held on February 25, 2021. There were eight members and four non-members. Chelsea Eckert from Hawaii Pipeline Safety Association also attended. There is a new member, ZerLena Mayner, who is with BEI.
 - 2.1.2 PGV reported they have started operations in November of last year and are currently running at 30% capacity. There have been no releases and are

monitoring some of the fissures around the area. Readings are lower than the reportable threshold quantity.

- 2.1.3 Liz informed us about some grants that are available for training from Homeland Security and Chief Okinaka reported using some of the grants. The Department of Homeland Security-FY2020 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants are being used to add six more new Captain positions at One Man Stations, but none for manned stations. The grant is also being used to purchase equipment such as a new Hazmat ID Machine and HFD will be purchasing new gas monitors for Hazmat.
 - 2.1.4 There was a Haz Mat Technicians class last year in November.
 - 2.1.5 Next meeting will be on May 26. Gerald asked about the Zoom program. He is hopeful that we can start holding in person meetings.
- 2.2 Kauai County: Albert Kauai – LEPC Chair
- 2.2.1 No meetings have been held. Kauai Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is still in lockdown, and are not allowing people in. Landslides have been occurring, EOC continues to be used for emergencies
 - 2.2.2 Fire department completed Hazmat Tech Certifications and finished up the Operations level for the fire fighters.
 - 2.2.3 One incident occurred at Kukui Grove Shopping Center; Zale’s had an odor coming out of the HVAC system. Hazmat responded and investigated. There was building construction going on, paint fumes got into the ventilation system and spread throughout the shopping center.
 - 2.2.4 Rain is coming through again, Kauai still under a warning.
- 2.3 Maui County: Jeff Kihune-LEPC Chair
- 2.3.1 There were five incidents this quarter. On December 20, an Oxygen storage tank was off gassing at Airgas in Kahului. The relief valve closed, and situation corrected itself. Incident was over when Maui Fire arrived. On December 30, there was a two-gallon muriatic acid spill on the highway by Kihei. Baking soda was used to neutralize, and clean up was done by Public Works, Maui County.
There was three feet in diameter ammonia spill at a Kihei apartment building. It was ventilated and ammonia evaporated.
At a residence, a Carbon monoxide detector went off and the residence were evacuated. The cause was determined to be a waste product build up in the plumbing and a plumber was called.
There was an oil spill at the Kahului Bird Sanctuary. There were two x-five hundred gallons and one x- three hundred gallons tanks impacted by the rain, causing them to overflow. Multiple agencies and the Coast Guard were there. DOH was notified. Coast Guard had jurisdiction because of waterway. When doing an inspection of the property, they found more five- and twenty-five x-gallon buckets and containers. Sorbent material were put in the waterway to prevent any spreading of the chemicals and absorbent pads were used to clean up the area by the tanks.
 - 2.3.2 The CST training exercise was canceled due to COVID concerns.

There was a confined space training several weeks ago as a refresher course for Hazmat and Rescue teams.

2.3.3 The Fire Department has approved purchasing a Raman Spectrometer by using a grant. Personnel has been attending demonstrations for several weeks. Bids go out on Monday.

2.3.4 Last meeting was on March 9, 2020. Jeff has talked to several members and will try to plan a virtual meeting for April using Zoom.

2.4 Honolulu City & County: Alex Adams- LEPC Chair

2.4.1 Last LEPC meeting was December 8, 2020. March 16 is the next meeting.

2.4.2 Bob distributed the 2020 Emergency Response Guidebooks (ERG), to the Honolulu Fire Departments (HFD). HFD is still involved in the COVID vaccine program at Leeward Community college. There are 100 to 230 people from different organizations helping. Between 900 to 1,100 shots a day are being given to people. This is by appointment only. This is for first responders and frontline people. Some teachers were there, also the utilities companies, Hawaiian Tel, Spectrum, and others.

2.4.3 Some Fire Captains submitted a written testimony for the HEER Office to be declared emergency workers. Liz will talk about that later.

2.4.4 Fire Chief Manny Neves has retired, Lionel Camara, Jr. is the Acting Fire Chief. Sheldon K. Hao is the Acting Deputy Fire Chief.

2.4.5 The RAD Responder program was introduced to HFD by Jeff Eckhart, formerly with Radiation Branch and; Alex wanted to know more about it. It is a Nationwide Drill where anybody could participate if you had an account with Rad Responder network. This is a radiation-based program. He explained some of the details for the program and showed how the information was collected to be used and explained what it means. There are other different sections to this program.

Keith added this was the Ten-Year Anniversary of Fukushima Tsunami and Nuclear Power Plant failure.

Bill Marhoffer advised the HSERC that the Coast Guard and Customs and Borders Protection do both targeted and random safety and security inspections on Foreign vessels. If a high level of radiation is detected, they have Level Two Isotope Identification devices and can find the likely source.

3. WIIN Water infrastructure Improvements for the Nation – Hawaii schools: Diana Felton Toxicologist – HEER Office

Diana introduced Joanna Seto, Administrator for the Environmental Management Division. Diana used slides to help explain the project.

The new project's goal is to reduce children's exposure to lead in Hawaii by testing the drinking water for lead at schools and childcare facilities. This project was named after the federal act that was passed and is funding this project. There are a series of EPA grants to the states for voluntary testing of lead drinking water at schools and childcare facilities.

Money from the EPA Grant was combined with additional state funding sources through the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund to maximize the benefits of this project. The EPA has an extensive website about the project, the

WIIN Grant is a small part of a larger act that deals with water infrastructure. Diana explained about the different ways lead can get into the drinking water. The effects of lead poisoning do not show symptoms at the time of exposure, but, appears as developmental problems such as school attention behavior later. Prevention is the key to success; once kids are exposed to lead there is less that can be done to help them.

Diana is already working on a Lead Poisoning Prevention program that is a joint program through the DOH.

The slides listed the different offices, agencies, Department of Health, Department of Education, as well as the private testing business.

The EPA Guidelines follow a manual the EPA uses to test drinking water called the Three T's.

Elementary Public and Charter schools and licensed childcare facilities that were built before 1988 are at higher risk since the lead ban went into effect in 1988.

Diana explained how this sampling would take place and what procedures would be used. Test results would be sent to the facilities and posted to our website. There is a project flyer available.

The HEER Office has the Physician Sentinel system for reportable contaminants, such as lead. Hawaii has a unique problem because of the smelting of lead fishing weights. During this process, particles may fall into the soil, and come into contact with children. Toys, dishes, other imported items could also contain lead.

4. NRC Dispersant/SMART Exercise: Isaiah Kela-Pacheco, DOH, HEER Office

This was a joint dispersal and Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART) exercise, that involved the HEER Office and the National Response Corporation, (NRC) with Gabe Nelson.

This exercise was to practice our dispersing operations capability in cooperation with the NRC's Douglas aircraft. The exercise was held on January 26 and the SMART monitor was mounted on the NRC response vessel.

Isaiah showed slides taken during the exercise and explained what happened.

It collects rapid real time water column data and it is used to provide the unified command with information that aids in decision making in response actions.

Isaiah described the testing and what steps were taken using the instrument.

After background data was collected, fluorescein dye was released to simulate an oil spill and the NRC's Douglas aircraft could conduct their practice run for "spraying an oil release". Video was provided of the fly over.

Bill Marhoffer explained how the company was required to go through the crew testing and the nozzle dispersal verification. This is the standard for application of aerial dispersants.

Bill spoke about the different companies and their aircrafts that are available in case of an oil spill.

5. USEPA Updates: Bill Jones, EPA

Brett Moxley and Chris Reiner are unable to attend today's meeting. Oceania Regional Response Team (ORRT), meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2021.

There was a virtual eight-hour Haz Whopper training for Guam. If anyone needs training, he will try to arrange it. EPA will be putting other training online.

Virtual Tabletop exercises have been developed and are available, these include Ammonia, Propane and Chlorine.

There was a question on illegal dumping, such as used motor oil or tires. Is there a specific amount? What is the responsibility of somebody noticing or finding these things happening? Should it be reported to EPA? Bill Marhoffer, Liz Galvez and Bill Jones, explained about the NRC, state guidelines and discharges in the marine environment.

6. HMEP Grant: Harold Lao, HEER Office

We were allocated \$134,809 for this year, but due to COVID, travel is uncertain. We applied for \$75,000 worth of training monies because the grants officer encouraged us to apply for only what we are going to spend. Next year it will be all training money. From last year's money we had programmed about \$30,000 for two conferences. One was a chemical safety day training, the other was for a state-wide meeting for the LEPC's. This money is still available, and we will try to use it this year. If not, we will ask to reprogram it into next year's money. We don't want to lose it, but it is contingent on the travel restrictions.

The HazMat Technical training is for all counties but will be hosted by; Honolulu plus one other county and is based on who is going to need a hazmat tech training class.

7. Annual Unknown Sample of the Month Challenge – Winners for 2020: Liz Galvez, HEER Office, Sonia Campbell, University of Hawaii

This challenge was started in 2012, Liz explained about sending unknown samples to each of the state's HazMat teams and that the hazmat units had to use the tools that they had and provide answers to Sonia.

Liz reviewed the past year's winners.

She also gave a sample of one scenario that was provide when an unknown sample was sent. The hazmat units need to provide the rationale and how they did the test. They are encouraged to ask questions. The field-testing result report form was shown; this is the form that the units use and send in.

Hopefully the HEER Office will be able to visit the stations soon.

Second Runner-up	Hawaii	Makalei Station	Shift C – Capt. Ho & Crew
First Runner-up	Oahu	HazMat 1 Station 32	Shift B – Capt. Adams & Crew
First Place	Oahu	Hazmat 1 Station. 32	Shift C – Capt. Nip & Crew

Liz congratulated the teams.

8. Update on Health Department – Keith Kawaoka

The 2021 legislative session is at the crossover point right now. There are hearing notices for next week.

Liz gave an update on the emergency workers bill. A hearing is set for March 16, with the Judiciary Committee. House Bill 73 would amend the definition of an emergency worker to include state on-scene coordinators. Please submit your support.

President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan. The State and Counties should get about \$6 billion dollars overall. \$1.6 billion will be for the State. This should prevent any furloughs or layoffs for now. The economy is looking better. Businesses are doing better, and more visitors are arriving.

This could change the budget we submitted and the items that were slated for reduction. However, the outcome is still unsure, and the State and Counties will be affected by it.

The COVID vaccinations are ongoing. The limiting factor to vaccinating Hawaii's residents has been the supplies; incoming supplies have been delayed and, it may be another week or two before delivery. Category 1C was just opened, this is for people 65 years of age and above and the last group of essential workers.

Neighbor islands have smaller population and have set up distribution points. On Oahu, the bigger hospitals are setting up the different stations to do the shots. There was a question on the Environmental Response Revolving Barrel Tax which has reached a plateau on incoming revenue. The legislature is looking at all the special funds and seeing where they can get money.

9. Other Business: HSERC, LEPC

Bill Marhoffer – There will be an Oceania Regional Response Meeting on May 5th on Microsoft teams.

One of the hot topics is the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Coast Guard and EPA had a powwow yesterday. They are going to restart the stalled Endangered Species Act consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. This planning is for the Offshore Oil Disperse Plan that has been stalled since July 2019. Some issues between federal agencies have been resolved, we are going to re-engage on the process. This is incumbent by federal law.

Exercises that have been done have been very difficult because of the interpretations from different agencies on how to do things.

There is a concern about the amount of fuel that was spilled at Honolulu Airport on March 4, where the total amount of fuel spilled was, much greater than the original amount reported.

Bill expressed his concern about what the potential release could have been.

Bob Harter did not receive any report on this until March 10, when, spill occurred on March 4.

Hazmat did not receive notification of this spill.

Ramon Mendoza gave a short briefing of how the incident was reported to the HEER Office, the personnel that responded, and how the containment and clean

up was handled. It is still being monitored and total amount of fuel has changed from the original amount.
Keith suggested that a presentation on the incident be on the agenda for the next HSERC meeting.

FEMA assigned the Coast Guard to provide an Incident Management Team to assist Hawaii with the COVID Vaccination Program. This is expected to continue for several months.

10. Next HSERC Meeting is June 18, 2021.

Meeting Adjourned – 11:20 am

Respectively Submitted,



Sharon L. Leonida, Environmental Health Specialist III

