



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
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HAWAII STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION  
MEETING # 122

Friday, June 18, 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: Liz Galvez, Dept. of Health; Gerald Kosaki, Hawaii County LEPC; Alex Adams, Honolulu LEPC; Chad Pacheco, Maui County LEPC; Albert Kauai, Kauai County LEPC; Mark Want, Dept. of Business Economic Development and Tourism; Greg Takeshima, Dept of Agriculture; Brandy Lolotai, Occupational Safety and Health Division, Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relation;

Non-Voting: Sharon Leonida, Terry Corpus, Harold Lao, Isaiah Kela-Pacheco, Ramon Mendoza, Adam Teekell, Tom Gilmore Dept. of Health, HEER Office; Eric Jensen, Tetra Tech; Bob Harter, City and County of Honolulu, DEM; Joanna Seto, Dept. of Health, EMD; Tin Shing Chao, citizen

1. Elizabeth Galvez called the virtual meeting to order at 9:03 am.
  - 1.1 Introduction of attendees on Zoom.
  - 1.2 Approval of minutes #121, minutes accepted pending changes. Motion to accept by Mark Want, seconded by Gerald Kosaki.
  
2. LEPC Updates:
  - 2.1 Hawaii County: Gerald Kosaki, LEPC Chair
    - 2.1.1 LEPC meeting was held on May 26, 2021, via Zoom. Seven Members and five non-members attended. Thomas Gilmore introduced himself, he is the representative on Hawaii Island for Department of Health HEER Office.
    - 2.1.2 A gas tanker trailer's tire caught fire and blew. Although there was no release from the tanker, that caused a small brush fire.
    - 2.1.3 Will HazCat training be starting again?
    - 2.1.4 There is a new Fire Chief, Kazuo Todd, he started about two months ago. Gerald was selected in May to be on the Fire Commission. This is a volunteer position.

2.2 Kauai County: Albert Kauai – LEPC Chair

2.2.1 No meetings have been held. Working with Chelsea from Kauai Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to set up meetings. She is busy dealing with the County issues.

2.2.2 There were a couple of propane releases, one was in Hanalei on March 3rd. Smell was gone when fire department arrived. They did an investigation and no smell was detected.

The second propane incident happened June 11th, there was an incident at Kukui Grove. Construction workers smelled a strong odor of Mercaptan. When the fire department arrived on scene there was a slight smell of propane. The Gas Company came and used their instruments to conduct monitoring; nothing was detected. It's possible that the emergency valve activated temporarily and reset itself. Fire checked with other businesses in the area, everything was fine.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, there was a spill at a gas station at Kapaa. A rental jeep attempted to fill up and spilled two gallons. Fire crews inspected and found a stick had punctured the gas tank. The jeep was pushed on the side and rental company was contacted. Spill was cleaned up.

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, a gray canister about two feet long and four inches in diameter was washed ashore, it was smoking. Labels indicated that it contained phosphorus and was flammable. Coast Guard and Pacific Missile Range Facility, PMRF, were notified. Police secured the area. PMRF stated they would take care of cylinder; they use them for their training missions.

Liz asked if a picture of the cylinder was available. Alex had a similar incident. Albert will follow up and get back to Liz.

2.3 Maui County: Chad Pacheco – For LEPC Chair

2.3.1 No LEPC meetings yet. Jeff is trying to have one next quarter.

2.3.2 Chad called Liz for a leaking 55-gallon drum of Sodium Hydroxide solution at the Four Seasons Resort. Workers punctured the drum with a forklift. The drum was put in to an overpacked container and spill was cleaned up.

2.3.3 In Makawao, a tree trimming company had cut a eucalyptus tree measuring five-foot-tall and four foot diameter. The log rolled down the hill and hit a 288-gallon propane tank. The tank was knocked off its base and flipped over. A Gas Representative arrived and air monitoring was done. The tank was undamaged; using an excavator and straps, tank was up-righted. However, the incident caused the service line to the home to leak. Valves were shut off.

2.3.4 Maui Police asked the Maui Fire Department (MFD) to assist with a Butane Honey Oil lab at Haiku. While a team from California would be dismantling the lab, MFD was asked to be on-standby to assist on scene. Personnel from Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and Homeland Security were other agencies there.



Authorities said it was a very high-tech lab with about \$150,000 worth of equipment. The facility is believed to have the capacity to produce about \$100,000 worth of the drug every 10 days. The product was being sold to medical marijuana stores. Chad described how the oil is extracted from the leaves and small disk-like cakes are produced. These are high in tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). This product is **not illegal to sell, but it is illegal to make.**

- 2.3.5 The department received a new Raman Spectrometer, it's a Rigaku brand, model ResQ CQL.  
They also have a brand-new Ford 150 utility truck.

#### 2.4 Honolulu City & County: Alex Adams- LEPC Chair

- 2.4.1 Last meeting was held June 15<sup>th</sup>, by ZOOM.

- 2.4.2 Andy Kendrick spoke on Cyber Security with the petroleum and gas Pipeline System in Hawaii.

Gen Tamura and Giovanni Williams spoke regarding cybersecurity. They are from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). They are an agency that companies can seek assistance to check out the systems they are using, and how their systems can be improved.

Chief David Jones, United States Coast Guard, gave an update on responses for this quarter.

Bill Marhoffer gave a report on the Express Pearl cargo ship. There was a nitric acid spill in a container on the ship that started a fire that could not be extinguished. The cargo ship ended up sinking in shallow water.

Annually, the FBI holds a National Improvised Explosive Familiarization Chemical Industry Outreach Workshop. This year, classes were held May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. In the training area, homemade explosives were set off along with demonstrations on how to make the devices and how big the impacts can be.

Rad Responder Nationwide Drill is coming up next week. After doing the drill Alex can give a briefing. This is a virtual type of nationwide radiological data drill. Different agencies can join More information at the next LEPC meeting.

- 2.4.3 This week has the 93<sup>rd</sup> Civil Support Team (CST) Hurricane Preparedness Training. CST and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package ((CERFP) will be at Kalaeloa Area with an additional CST group. The scenario will be a rescue in a hurricane with a collapsed building with Hazmat elements involved.

There were two pre-plan visits, Spectrum Kaneohe, data hub and Hawaiian Telcom in Aiea. They have similar type of operations. Both facilities contain lead acid battery backup systems and a generator if power goes out.

- 2.4.4 Alex showed slides of a canister that turned out to be a marine location marker that had washed ashore as it was still burning at Bellows. Albert confirmed it was the same thing Kauai Fire has found. Alex explained how it works and is still asking for more information.

Mark Want asked about safety concerns.

From his Army background, Bob Harter noted that these markers are dropped from planes to mark a location for other vessels or aircraft. Liz would like to get someone to do a presentation at next HSERC meeting.

3. Coral Restoration for State of Hawaii – David Gulko, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources

Mr. Gulko was unable to attend.

4. Case Studies: Hotel Pier Oil Spill – Pearl Harbor and Honolulu Airport Oil Spill  
Honolulu Airport Oil Jet Fuel Spill – Ramon Mendoza, State-On-Scene Coordinator  
This is one of the major land spills our office has responded to from March to April of 2021.

On March 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:50 am, the emergency shut off valve was activated at Gate 10 at Daniel K Inouye Honolulu International Airport. Jet A fuel was seen coming out of one of the isolation fuel vaults. This vault and pipeline are owned by Hawaii Department of Transportation Airports. Signature Flight Support is the contractor that oversees the operation of the pipeline system. It is estimated that the duration of release was thirty (30) minutes before it was found and stopped. Fuel was flowing down the tarmac, downstream towards the surface water area and at a canal outfall. All the emergency response resources were immediately mobilized. This included DOT Airports, Airport Fire, Signature Flight Support and their contractors along with the HEER Office. Southwest Airlines gates 8, 9, 10 and two 737 were in this area. Terry Corpus took the initial call from DOT-A duty manager; it was estimated at the time as a 1,000-gallon spill. OSCs arrived on scene at 12:30 pm. Ramon used the slides to explain what was being done to collect the fuel and to prevent the fuel from reaching the canal. Airports Fire department was on standby to help in case an incident occurred. Signature Flight Support contracted three response organizations to help which involved 40 – 60 personnel.

The Fire Chief requested the OSCs to provide air monitoring; readings were taken at different locations. It was recommended that air monitoring continue throughout the night.

DOT provided a person who knew where all the storm drains were located.

Coast Guard responded and checked the Keehi Lagoon outfall, no release was reported. It was estimated to be about 5,000 gallons on the tarmac. 10,000 gallons were recovered from the G10 fuel vault, 5,000 gallons from two oil water separators, 13,500 gallons of standing fuel, 1500 gallons recovered from absorbent. A total of 30,000 gallons were released.

Booms were placed at different parts of the canal leading to the outfall. They were changed several times. The emergency response phase was finished in April. This was turned over to the SDAR section of the HEER office.

For enforcement, A Notice of Interest was sent to DOT Airports and Signature Flight Support.

Alex asked how much equipment was on scene at the airport spill.

Signature has their facility half a mile away at the tank farm. All the emergency equipment was ready to be deployed.

The Airport Duty Manager made the call to our office.



#### Hotel Pier Oil Spill:

Ramon explained the ongoing release from this pier. This pier is where there is a manifold system used to fuel large ships; the pipelines from this pier go all the way to Red Hill.

This pier was built in 1941 and has fueled ships since World War II. There is a history of oil spills in the area largely from underground storage tanks (USTs) totaling 28,000 gallons from before 1990.

About 3100 gallons were collected from March 2020 to February 2021. On December 21, 2020, Department of Health (DOH) issued a Notice of Interest to the Navy.

Regular visits are being conducted by DOH. Pipeline testing has found leaking fuel lines that were taken out of service. A sub-surface investigation found an oil plume.

Additional contractors were brought in to contain and recover the oil. Trenches and observation wells were also put in. Oil is being recovered daily on land and water.

A total of 7,694 gallons of oil has been recovered since response started. The volume of oil that has since been recovered has been reduced. Ramon went over the plan to continue this operation.

There are plans to start transitioning this site to remediation cleanup.

Mark Want asked, what is the cost of this? The information given was the initial contract was \$2 million. They are now looking for additional funding.

#### 5. USEPA Updates: Bill Jones, EPA

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, an announcement was made that June 18<sup>th</sup> would be a Federal Holiday. There were no EPA or U.S. Coast Guard personnel that attended the meeting.

#### 6. HMEP Grant: Harold Lao, HEER Office

An application was submitted for the third-year grant cycle; there was a request for \$78,000 to be used for Hazmat Tech Initial Training. Approval should be before September 2021.

Sharon asked about Travel Funding for LEPC. It is still on hold.

#### 7. Salvage/Marine Firefighting: Liz Galvez HEER Office

This is a continuing issue that HSERC is keeping track of. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Deputy Director of Health, Keith Kawaoka, the Deputy Director for Transportation and Fire Department attended a meeting hosted by the Coast Guard. No DLNR deputies attended.

They are working on a sub-chapter for this issue. They all recognize that Marine Firefighting is a big issue. It needs to be dealt with. No one wants a situation where a problem could develop in a Harbor or Terminal. Liz will report back when more information is available.

#### 8. Updates on Health Department: Liz Galvez

Keith is retiring June 30<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Ho is his replacement, she has worked with the HEER office as HEER's deputy attorney general since 1992. Keith worked for 22 years with the state.

Liz showed pictures of Keith during his years at the HEER office and Department of Health.

#### 9. Other Business: HSERC, LEPC

Bob Harter had a Pipeline Association for Public Awareness (PAPA) Safety Bulletin notice go out about brush fires and fire lines and pipeline safety. Firefighters need to be aware of buried utilities and pipelines when building fire breaks/line. Drought conditions are in effect.

10. Next HSERC Meeting: September 24, 2021

Meeting Adjourned – 10:50 am

Respectively Submitted,



Sharon L. Leonida, Environmental Health Specialist III