



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

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HAWAII STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION  
MEETING # 123

Friday, September 24, 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: Kathy Ho, Deputy Director of Environmental Health; Liz Galvez, Dept. of Health; Gerald Kosaki, Hawaii County LEPC; Alex Adams, Honolulu LEPC; Jeff Kihune, Maui County LEPC; Chelsie Sakai, 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; Luke Meyers, HI-EMA; Dr. Yuanan Lu, Thomson School of Social Work and Public Health, University of Hawaii

Non-Voting: Sharon Leonida, Terry Corpus, Harold Lao, Isaiah Kela-Pacheco, Ramon Mendoza, Adam Teekell, Dept. of Health, HEER Office; Eric Jensen, Tetra Tech; Bob Harter, City and County of Honolulu, DEM; Joanna Seto, Dept. of Health, EMD; Bill Marhoffer, U.S Coast Guard; Bill Jones, US EPA; Richard Mitchem HomeLand Security; 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 #122, minutes accepted pending changes. Motion to accept by Gerald, seconded by Luke Meyers.
  
2. LEPC Updates:
  - 2.1 Hawaii County: Gerald Kosaki, LEPC Chair
    - 2.1.1 LEPC meeting was held on September 2, 2021, via Zoom. Eight members and two non-members attended.
    - 2.1.2 Fentanyl Lab on Alii Drive.
    - 2.1.3 There were two carbon dioxide (CO2) releases. First release was at a McDonalds, their soda machine had to be turned off. The second release was at a gas station. There was a Jet A fuel release, valve was left open. Five hundred gallons was confined to the containment area, this was at Keaukaha. Fire did not respond. Liz gave a report on this incident.

- 2.1.4 Andrew Kendrick from Hawaii Pipeline Safety Association gave a presentation and will be attending the LEPC meetings.
- 2.1.5 Fire Department is requesting funds for CAMEO Training and Laptop Computers.  
At this meeting they did not have quorum. Gerald is planning another meeting to address the request for these items.
- 2.1.6 LEPC has received their funds from HSERC.  
Gerald has left copies of the Emergency Response Guide Books, ERGs, at the District Health Office. He will send out copies on request.
  
- 2.2 Kauai County: Albert Kauai – LEPC Chair
  - 2.2.1 No meetings have been held. Albert is currently out of state. Chelsea from Kauai Emergency Operations Center (EOC), was not able to get updates for the meeting. The EOC is usually used for the LEPC meetings.
  - 2.2.2 They have received the LEPC funds and ERGs.  
Different agencies were notified about the ERGs, pick up point was at the EOC.
  
- 2.3 Maui County: Jeff Kihune – LEPC Chair
  - 2.3.1 Jeff was unable to get a quorum for a meeting last quarter. He is trying to schedule a meeting for October 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. He is waiting for replies from members.  
He asked Liz if he could use HEER's ZOOM account to hold his meeting. Liz is offering to host Maui and Kauai's meetings on ZOOM.
  - 2.3.2 LEPC has received requests for equipment from HazMat. This needs approval from members.
  - 2.3.3 There was a chemical spill on Piilani Highway, Skidders, equipment used in construction, battery over charged. Fire department disconnected the battery and responsible party did the cleanup.  
A bottle of drain cleaner was spilled in a car at Lahaina. Fire department conducted monitoring and responded by neutralizing the problem.  
On July 4<sup>th</sup>, there was a shipping container fire at Pier 3 in Kahului Harbor that involved scrap metal from Hammerhead Recycling.  
Coast Guard was involved with incident. Company was advised to get a vacuum tanker to clean up the water runoff.  
There was a five-gallon fuel line leak from a garbage truck on the highway.  
Two propane leaks occurred in Kahului, both had valves mishaps. Both were turned off.  
On September 8<sup>th</sup>, there was a ½ gallon of a fuel spill in Lahaina Harbor.. No one responded, it was reported to the NRC and HEER Office.  
Fire department responded to six structure fires, they did the air monitoring for cleanup.



2.3.4 Hazmat has been assigned to decontaminate any fire facility that may have been exposed to COVID-19. They have done several lifeguards stands also.

2.3.5 There was some PID training this last quarter.  
Jeff has sent out notices for a Tech Training Class, it is being discussed.  
A new Fire Chief starts October 1, 2021.  
The LEPC has received and deposited their funds.  
Emergency Response Guide (ERGs) have been distributed to the different agencies.

2.4 City & County of Honolulu (CCH): Alex Adams- LEPC Chair

2.4.1 Last meeting was held September 21<sup>st</sup>, via ZOOM. About forty-eight to fifty people attended.

2.4.2 Andrew Kendrick provided a presentation.

Derrick Bernasek from the Coast Guard provided updates for the incidents that the Coast Guard responded to this quarter.

Alex went over the 2021 RAD Responder Nationwide Drill. He explained the program and showed samples of the different readings that were used as part of the drill.

2.4.3 August 8<sup>th</sup>, there was an incident on Sand Island that involved pipes made of polyethylene that caused a huge cloud of black smoke. Captain Nolan Nip and Hazmat 1 conducted the air monitoring and did not detect anything harmful. Adam Tekell from the HEER Office responded, the Coast Guard was notified.

A paint spill on Waiakamilo Road occurred, and the CCH Storm Water Branch was notified. Instructions on cleaning up the spill were given to the responsible party. No paint was allowed to go into the storm drain.

Hazmat did two pre-planning visits at two Hawaiian Tel Com facilities.

2.4.4 Honolulu Fire Department has a drone program, the Unmanned Aircraft System, UAS under Captain Robert Imai as the program manager.

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.

Alex was asked to give information on Marine Flares.

3. Marine Flares – Alex Adams Honolulu Fire

Flares have shown up on Oahu and Kauai. One was at Hanauma Bay in March and the second showed a marker that was still smoking at Bellows AFS. These flares should remain active from forty to sixty minutes after the phosphorus is activated. Someone from Kaneohe Marine Base supplied Alex with this information.

The flares should not be deployed within ten (10) nautical miles of land. It is used for drills and search and rescue. Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard use these markers and deploy them from 10 - 50 nautical miles from shore. Between 100, 9 and 220 markers were respectively released from October 2020 to September 2021. These markers are used mainly by the aviation community to mark reference points. Once deployed the

markers are not tracked. The flares contain phosphorus, these vapors are toxic. Contact the local Explosive Ordnance Disposal, EOD, for disposal of flares.

Alex has asked his contact for more information.

Next LEPC meeting is December 14, 2021.

4. Medical Reserve Corps: What Are they About? Marjorie Tayao

Ms. Tayao used a power point program for the presentation.

The Medical Reserve Corp is under the Department of Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness. This is a national program, there are 800 units nation-wide and in U. S. Territories. There are 200,000 volunteers and they are used for surge assistants during public health emergencies and disasters. Judy Kerns is the program manager. They have helped with the COVID 19 testing. Within the program there is the planning, training and education sections.

Exercises are done, such as Anthrax, Mass Fatality, Mass Case – Shelter Annex. She has worked with Bob Harter from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), with the City and County of Honolulu.

They are part of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, ASPR, which is under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

MRC was founded after 9- 11. Ms. Tayao explained that volunteers showed up at ground zero, there was no way to keep track of the people who wanted to help. This is the reason the MRC was created on a national level.

Each island has an MRC unit, or coordinators; the different contacts were listed on the slides.

The MRC can be activated by the City and County, Department of Emergency Management by asking their Emergency Operations Center, (EOC), or district health office.

The Department of Health can just ask MRC to be activated.

They are used for surge staffing, not meant to replace paid staff, this is usually for only a short period of time.

Most of the volunteers are retired. If people are still working, they need to be responsible to their jobs first.

Slides listed the different types of things that the MRC has assisted with, an example is a request for help at Kalaupapa for three months.

They have assisted different department and agencies in the state, including the Department of Health.

Ms. Tayao does the background checks for the volunteers through a national federal program that manages volunteers.

Training is required such as; Incident Command System, 100, 700, HIPPA, Blood Borne Pathogen's, BBP, CPR, and First Aid. Training has been suspended due to COVID.

Liability of Protection – When the MRC is activated by a unit coordinator, they would be under the Department of Health. They would be state employees and covered for liability.

Liz commented about how the MRC has helped with COVID testing and putting the packet together for the stadium testing.



5. USEPA UPDATES – Bill Jones

EPA has held Virtual Training for Propane, Anhydrate Ammonia, Chlorine and are offering it to anyone that would like to have it. This is free.

Tom Bergman is doing a CAMEO class, there is a cost to take it. Bill can talk to Tom about this if anyone is interested.

Gerald asked about EPA inspections being done on the Big Island from Region 9. Bill will check on this.

Liz would like to plan a Chemical Safety Day. Bill can help with the planning.

On October 27, is the next Oceanic Regional Response Team meeting.

Alex asked if Bill knew any thing about a local company being fined by EPA.

6. HMEP Updates – Harold Lao

He is waiting for Notice of Grant Award for this year's grant application. This is for \$75,000 in training monies.

Honolulu Fire is doing HMEP Training using last years funds. He has sent out e-mails to the other counties asking if they wanted to us funds for HazMat Tech Training. Let Harold know if counties are interested in training.

7. Future Dates for HSERC Meetings – Liz Galvez

Mark reminded HSERC about pass conflicts with the Hawaii Emergency Preparedness Executive Consortium, HEPEC. He is concerned if this will happen again.

Luke Meyers will work to have the meetings on other weekdays. He will try to shift the meetings away from Fridays.

Dates for the next year's HSERC is March 18, June 17, September 16, December 16, 2022.

8. Updates on Health Department: Liz Galvez

Liz will be taking Kathy's place. Department of Health is planning for the upcoming Legislative Session. We don't know what the topics will be.

Department of Health still working on testing for COVID 19, along with vaccinations. It seems to work better when the COVID testing is done with vaccinations at the same locations. Booster shots have started to be offered also.

9. Other Business: HSERC, LEPC

Luke Meyers is involved with the First Responder Tech Campus in Mililani Tech Park, Phase 2. This is a project that is looking at moving the State Emergency Management from Diamond Head and also a larger training center for First Responders at the federal, state, and local levels. This could be a future presentation for HSERC. This depends on the legislatures priority and future funding to enable the planning of this campus.

Bill Marhoffer did an updated on the Federal Mandated Endanger Species Act Consultation.

The Coast Guard and EPA engaged over two years ago with the National Marine Fishers Service and Fish and Wildlife Services to do an Endanger Species Act

Section 7 Consultation for Per Authorized use of Oil Dispersion in certain waters of the state of Hawaii. Concerns from The Fish & Wildlife Service over commercially available disperses that contractors stockpiled, have caused this to be delayed.

The Fish & Wildlife Service have done their own investigation and are satisfied about the disperse. They will be trying to complete the Federal Mandated Consultation.

This will allow them to get the formal approval signatures from the participating agencies on the draft update to the Hawaii Oil Dispersant Use Plan.

Work still needs to be done with the National Marine Fishery Service. They have concerns with the gaps in our Effects Assessments.

Question on What is your State of Preparedness?

Has it degraded because of COVID restrictions on training and exercise?

Discussion with HSERC members.

The Big Island is conducting virtual training. There is an impact by not being able to do a complete excise.

Alex feels that in person training is valuable. Different types of training not available now because of travel restrictions. In person meetings can't be replaced by virtual ZOOM.

Bob has noticed that the Honolulu LEPC has gained in attendance with ZOOM.

NASTTPO is planning an in-person conference in April of 2022 in Kentucky.

Liz answer to 'why put Phosphorus in water?' It reacts to water to use it up.

Have divers reported seeing markers underwater? Yes, but Navy divers could not locate them.

10. Next HSERC Meeting: December 17, 2021

Meeting Adjourned – 10:54 am

Respectively Submitted,



Sharon L. Leonida, Environmental Health Specialist IV