



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

22-069 sll

HAWAII STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
MEETING # 125

Friday, March 18, 2022, 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: Kathleen Ho, Deputy Director of Environmental Health; Gerald Kosaki, Hawaii County LEPC; Carlton Yamada, Honolulu LEPC; Jeff Kihune, Maui County LEPC; Dr. Yuanan Lu, Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, University of Hawaii; Luke Meyer, HI-EMA, Department of Defense

Non-Voting: Sharon Leonida, Isaiah Kela-Pacheco, Dept. of Health, HEER Office; Bob Harter, City and County of Honolulu, DEM; Bill Jones, US EPA; Gen Tamura, James Cruz, Giovanni Williams, Homeland Security; Jonathan Chin, Dept. of Business Economic Development and Tourism; Ruth Yender, NOAA, Emergency Response Division

1. Elizabeth Galvez called the virtual meeting to order at 9:04 am.

- 1.1 Kathy will join HSERC meeting when she has completed an earlier meeting. Liz will conduct the meeting until then.
- 1.2 Introduction of attendees on Zoom.
- 1.3 Approval of minutes #124, minutes accepted pending changes. Motion to accept by Luke Meyer, seconded by Dr. Lu.

2. LEPC Updates:

- 2.1 Hawaii County: Gerald Kosaki, LEPC Chair
 - 2.1.1 LEPC meeting will be held in April via Zoom.
 - 2.1.2 There was a fire at the Hilo transfer station
 - 2.1.3 No major incidents reported by other agencies.
- 2.2 Kauai County: Chelsie Sakai for Kauai LEPC Chair
 - 2.2.1 Kauai was not represented at the meeting.

- 2.3 Maui County: Jeff Kihune – LEPC Chair
 - 2.3.1 LEPC meeting was held February 1, 2022 via Zoom.
 - 2.3.2 Funds were approved to send two personnel to the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO).
 - 2.3.3 By Laws for LEPC, rules and regulations, were sent to Maui County Corporation Counsel three years ago. Due to the pandemic, LEPC has not received any reply to the request. LEPC will make a motion to adopt the By Laws at the next meeting.
 - 2.3.4 On December 24, there was a chemical smell at Kihei police station due to a leaking battery in the computer room.

Safeway at Kahului had a propane gas leak in the line that resulted in a flash fire that led to a plumber receiving burns.

Mike’s Hongkong Bistro in Wailuku reported a propane leak. It was isolated and turned off. Hawaii Gas was notified.

On February 16, Walmart was applying a liquid floor sealer in its store. It was reported a woman had difficulty breathing. Toxic chemical alarm went off. Monitoring of the site was done; high readings were observed. HEER Office was notified. It was determined the sealer was the cause and the store was evacuated and ventilated. Later the area was cleared for employees to return.

Last week there was a propane leak at the Lyons Aquatic Center. The line from the propane tank to the pool was corroded and was leaking. Valve was turned off and Hawaii Gas was notified.
 - 2.3.5 Two fire stations were temporarily decommissioned due to COVID concerns.
 - 2.3.6 The 93rd CST Training was completed a month ago on, February 18, 2022.
 - 2.3.7 Equipment approved for purchase in October will be coming in. Problems with Procurement Office and company that was supplying equipment due to COVID.

Two multi-gas monitors should be arriving soon.

Next LEPC meeting will be on May 11, 2022.

- 2.4 City & County of Honolulu (CCH): Carlton Yamada - LEPC Chair
 - 2.4.1 Last meeting was held March 15, via Zoom. About forty-six people attended.
 - 2.4.2 Marcie Stone is the Chief of Chemical Security, part of the Department of Homeland Security. She spoke about the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s ChemLock program. This program is a volunteer program which provides no-cost services and tools to facilities that carry hazardous chemicals to help them better understand risks and improve their security posture. An assessment is done for the facility that can be developed into a security plan that would fit their needs and circumstance.

- 2.4.3 MST 1 Weldon James from the Coast Guard Sector Honolulu gave a report on incidents that occurred this past quarter. In December there was a “Kona Low”, type of seasonal cyclone usually formed in the winter in the Hawaiian Islands; this caused thirteen incidents that the Coast Guard responded to on Oahu and Maui.
- 2.4.4 The fire department is having their annual Fire Operations HazMat, First Responder Training. Initial Hazmat First Responder Training was given to twenty-one recruits in the 111, Recruit Class.
- 2.4.5 A gas line was hit during construction. Chief Yamada described the incident and what actions were taken to insure everyone’s safety until the gas line was secured. Fire department worked with the Honolulu Police department and Hawaii Gas Company. Bob Harter reminded everyone about April being Tsunami Awareness Month.
- 2.4.6 House Bill 1644 concerns items that are made with PFAS. This would prohibit the manufacture and sales of anything made with this ingredient. This law would go into effect July 1, 2024. For fire departments, PFAS is contained in Class B foam. There is alternative Class B foam that fire departments can use. The private industries may have large amounts of PFAS foam stored. This is a concern and we should be aware of this.
- 2.4.7 Chief Yamada thanked Alex Adams for years of service in the Honolulu Fire Department and for being the Honolulu LEPC Chair. Captain Ricky Yamashita will be assisting Chief Yamada with the LEPC. He has also been promoted to replace Alex Adams as a HazMat Captain.

3. Chemical Safety Day – HEER Office

This will be held on June 15 and 16; June 17 will be the next HSERC meeting. Location of these events will be at the Salvation Army Kroc Center Hawaii. Workshops and the HSERC meeting will be a hybrid meeting; if you are unable to attend in person you will be able to join via Zoom. The agenda has not yet been completed. Some of the topics where we have invited speakers to present include: Fentanyl response; how to respond to a Lithium Ion Battery Fire. Bill Jones, Sharon, and Liz have a meeting on March 25th. More information will be available soon. Honolulu LEPC will try to change their meeting to the same week as Chemical Safety Day.

4. Annual Unknown Sample of the Month Challenge – Winners for 2021

Liz Galvez, OSC HEER Office, Sonia Campbell, University of Hawaii

Liz wants to save this award until the next HSERC. The unknown samples will continue to be sent out to the different stations. Please continue to complete the test and send them in to Sonia and the HEER Office SOSC's.

HazCat training was done on Oahu in 2021. Planning for training on the neighbor islands will be done.

James Cruz gave notice on the CISA's ChemLock Program and stated that there is a website available.

Bill Marhoffer spoke on alternative AFFF Fire Fighting Foam.

5. USEPA UPDATES – Bill Jones

EPA personnel is helping with the Red Hill response and are also preparing for the upcoming firefighting season. They are also looking forward to coming to Hawaii for the Chemical Safety Days.

6. HMEP Updates – Harold Lao

Harold is on leave. We have received a twelve-month HMEP Grant Extension until September 29, 2023. HazMat Tech Training and HazMat Conference can still be used.

Carlton had a meeting with Harold and Captain Matsuda on planning to have a HazMat class on Oahu and a neighbor island.

Jeff stated that Maui had a training in November 2021.

Gerald will check to see if there are plans to have a HazMat class on Hawaii County. It is their turn for training this year.

7. Updates on Health Department: Kathy Ho

Legislation on Environmental Health Administration package looks like it will cross over. There are many bills regarding Red Hill and regulating underground storage tanks (USTs), of more than 100,000 gallons. It looks like there will be no permitting allowed of UST of more than 100,000 gallons above the Underground Injection Control line.

The Emergency Proclamation Rule for COVID 19 will expire on March 25. This includes an end to Safe Travel in the islands, masking in state office buildings and vaccine requirements.

All zones for Red Hill should be cleared in the next few days. There will be long term monitoring. Working on recovery and restoration of the aquifer.

There was a DOH Emergency Order in December 2021 to defuel the twenty tanks at Red Hill; on March 7, 2022 the Secretary of Defense issued a directive to the Secretary of the Navy to defuel and de-commission the twenty tanks. A plan was to be developed by the Navy by May 31, 2022. The state is working with the Navy to develop a safe plan to avoid another spill.

Alex asked if the counties are using an alternative type of foam. Hawaii County is using up old AFFF, they have ordered an alternative foam.

Jeff of Maui County is trying to find out if fire still using old foam or alternative. For our next HSERC meeting, Liz has proposed that each county provides an update on what type of foam the fire department is using.

Oahu HFD is using an alternative, none of Class A or B they use contain PFAS or PFOS.

Bill Marhoffer asked about a study that DLNR Aquatic Resources did several years ago. It could have been 'Concentration of PFOS in the near Coastal Marine Environment'. Liz has not heard of the study. Ruth Yender also has not heard about it. We need to follow up on this. Bill is not sure who DLNR was working with. Bill stated that PFAS and PFOS in different things were more of a concern for inland, fresh water sources, drinking water aquifer.

A ship fire in San Diego several years ago caused concern that these chemicals were going into the harbor although he believes that there has not been a lot of attention on the marine environment.

8. Other Business: HSERC, LEPC

Bill Marhoffer mentioned that boom deployment exercises were conducted on several different islands. Coast Guard equipment was used and, state and private agencies worked together to either validate the Geographic Response Strategies or to develop new Geographic Response Strategies where none existed.

There was an update on the Hawaii Dispersant Use Plan, specifically on the subject of the Endangered Species Act consultation. A letter was received from the Fish and Wildlife Service agreeing to the determination that there will be no adverse effects.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries wants the Coast Guard to pursue a formal consultation. EPA Regional Response Co-Chair and Bill have signed a letter agreeing to a formal consultation.

James Hodges from the Coast Guard explained the Prep Exercise that would be taking place at Pearl Harbor. Equipment deployment using booms will be put out at JBPHH on March 30, followed by a Unified Command Review which will be held on March 31. Area Committee Meeting is on April 7, with state, federal and local agencies.

There will be training on March 28 at 8:00 am at Club 14 with different speakers. In the afternoon there will be an ICS refresher.

Communications and media training will also be given at the same time as the boom deployment on March 30.

Bob Harter has had a change in job positions to a Logistic Officer. He will continue to support the LEPC.

Luke Meyers from HI-EMA advised HSERC about the annual Makana Kapili, which is an annual series of exercises and training with different agencies; this year's Makana Kapili exercise will be held from May 9 – 13.

Liz announced that the next ADDS exercise is being planned for the first week in August with the Coast Guard.

9. Next HSERC Meeting: June 17, 2022 at the Kroc Center. Kathy asked for a motion to conclude the meeting. Dr. Lu agreed and Carlton Yamada seconded the motion.

Meeting Adjourned – 10:41 am

Respectively Submitted,



Sharon L. Leonida, Environmental Health Specialist IV