



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HAWAII STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
MEETING # 132
Friday, December 15, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting at Red Conference Room located at 2385 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City,
HI 96782

And via Zoom

Attendees

Voting: Kathleen Ho, Deputy Director of Environmental Health; Gerald Kosaki, Hawaii County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Chair; Carlton Yamada, Honolulu LEPC Chair; Jeff Kihune, Maui County LEPC Chair; Abraham Mohr, Kauai LEPC Chair; Dr. Yuanan Lu, Thompson School, Social Work & Public Health; Kimberly Fuller, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources; Chris Takeno, Dept. of Transportation.

Non-Voting: Grace Simmons, Sharon Leonida, Isaiah Kela-Pacheco, Adam Teekell, Liz Galvez, Dept. of Health, Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office; Chris Reiner, United States EPA; LCDR Jesse Harms, William Marhoffer, United States Coast Guard; Eric Jensen, Tetra Tech; Bob Harter, City County, Dept. of Emergency Management

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Kathleen Ho.
 1. Introduction of attendees on Zoom and in person
 2. Motion to approve minutes from meeting #131. Motion to approve accepted and approved.
 3. Announcements: The meeting covered a range of topics including updates on Red Hill, the Maui fires, and air monitoring. Specific speakers such as General Lance Okamura were mentioned, who would provide further details on Red Hill. There was a discussion on batteries. There was also mention of a forthcoming distribution of Response Emergency Guide Books (ERG) books in late February or early March.

2. LEPC Updates:

1. Hawaii County: Gerald Kosaki, LEPC Chair

2. LEPC meeting was held on November 9, 2023. There were 14 members and 6 non-members in attendance.

3. There was also discussion about Civil Defense's work on a mitigation plan for natural disasters and their communications improvements, as well as concerns about the spread of invasive species through wood chips from a planned chipping machine.

4. The fire department reported on the County's Puna Geothermal Venture's (PGV) new well delivering 34.5 megawatts of power and ongoing wastewater treatment and biodiesel processing improvements.

5. Hawaii Electric Light Company (HELCO) reported that they are still working and sending workers over to Maui to help to restore power. Chris Leonard is working in the emergency alert system for Maui and the Big Island, and also working on the State plan for communication plan statewide.

6. The team also discussed the approval of a military member's inclusion in the Hawaii County LEPC and scheduled their next meeting for February 8th.

2. Kauai County: Sky Asio (KEMA)

1. October 26 was the last LEPC meeting, with 10 members in attendance.

2. Kauai Fire Department purchased 2 new monitors for propane.

3. Kauai Fire Department held a tech class that 12 new recruits successfully completed.

4. The Quarterly Training budget was approved. It will go into Kauai Fire Department's budget for next year.

5. November 9th Kauai Fire Department held a joint training with Kauai Police Department for decontamination entry and sampling.

6. There was a spill at the Kapaa base yard December 6th. Lihue airport reported an eight (8) x gallon spill from a lavatory, it was cleaned up quickly.

7. There was a propane tank leak that caused an evacuation approximately a half mile radius.
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3. Maui County: Chad Pacheco sitting in for Jeffrey Kihune, LEPC Chair
 1. Their last meeting was held on September 27th, with 11 attendees. There was a report from retired Captain Greg Jenkins, who's working with the EPA audit with the lithium-ion battery disposal.
 2. There was a sampling training with the HEER office, with Liz Galvez and Sonia Campbell's assistance.
 3. The HEER office was contacted regarding one incident with a drum containing acid that needed to be disposed, drum was not leaking.

 4. Honolulu County: Carlton Yamada, LEPC Chair
 1. Last LEPC meeting was held on December 12, 2023, with 36 attendees.
 2. For training, HAZMAT units had a familiarization with Red Hill, walking the tunnels to get an idea of what could possibly go wrong. There was also a certification training with the Honolulu Police Department.
 3. In November, there was a multi-agency Hazmat Capabilities equipment meeting, held by the Federal Fire staff at their headquarters. They are currently doing a Hazmat Incident Management refresher.
 4. Next meeting is March 19th.

 3. Bill Ogawa from Battery Bill presented on the safe handling and disposal of lithium batteries. They demonstrated the potential dangers of lithium batteries and the challenges faced in their recycling. They highlighted the importance of proper safety precautions and the use of fire-retardant storage barrels. Bill also discussed the cost of battery disposal recovery and the difficulty of finding someone to take batteries, indicating potential environmental issues. The discussion revolved around the challenges faced by a small business in Hawaii in disposing of batteries. The speaker emphasized the business's responsibility to dispose of certain items for their customers, even if it incurs costs.

4. General Okamura from Department of Army, Meagan Ostrem, and Commander Ben Dunn from Department of the Navy primarily focused on the progress and future plans regarding the Red Hill facility. The team announced that they had completed the fueling gravity defueling of all 14 main tanks, removing over 104 million gallons of fuel from the facility. They also shared their plans to start the removal of residual fuel in January. The team is set to hand over the facility back to the Department of the Navy by March 31st, 2024, but they have a deliberate turnover plan to ensure the successful transfer of all procedures, practices, and processes. They also emphasized their commitment to rebuilding trust with the local community through proactive, persistent, and consistent engagement. The Navy Closure Task Force was also introduced, which will focus on the permanent decommissioning of the facility, long-term environmental remediation, aquifer restoration efforts, and coordination with state and federal stakeholders. Commander Dunn discussed the safe drinking water program for the Navy and the long-term environmental remediation. They explained that the Navy operates three drinking water wells and supplies about 15 million gallons of water a day to the joint base. After an incident in 2021, the Red Hill shaft was disconnected from the distribution system to ensure safety. A 24-month long-term monitoring program was initiated to test and certify the safety of the water. The program involves sampling about 10% of homes each period and all community facilities. Out of 7,800 samples taken, only 26 instances exceeded certain criteria, but all were cleared upon reprocessing. Furthermore, the Navy is conducting community outreach to rebuild trust and provide education. also discussed the long-term environmental remediation, which involves ongoing modeling and sampling efforts at the Red Hill facility. A contract was ordered to develop a work plan for characterizing the full extent of contamination at the site.

5. HSERC Financial Report Tier II Division of Funds.

The meeting proceeded with updates on the financial report and the division of funds, with a motion to approve the division of funds being passed. Motion to approve accepted and approved.

LEPCs were asked to approve the straight percentage splint. This was approved. HSERC members voted to release funds to the LEPCs.

6. Chris Reiner noted the work EPA is doing on Maui with lithium-ion batteries post fires. The topic of a presentation to the full HSERC about their precedent-setting work on Maui was also brought up. Chris discussed the process of handling and disposing damaged lithium-ion batteries from the Maui fires. They explained the de-energizing process and the development of special containers for shipping these batteries. Chris also reported that the EPA has completed the hazardous materials collection and is now finalizing soil tack work to minimize off-site migration. The EPA's hazardous materials cleanup team is set to demobilize on the 22nd, and a smaller team from the water emergency team will stay on to inspect water lines. Chris also mentioned that the phase 2 clearing of large bulky debris will be handled by the Army Corps of Engineers.

7. Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Report Updates – Liz Galvez sitting in for Harold Lao. Liz shared information about the additional grant received with the HMEP and how to best use the additional grant.

8. Updates on Health Department: Bill Marhoffer from USCG: The Coast Guard is preparing for Hawaii as the primary venue for the national level exercise 2024. Bill discussed primarily about regional response team a little bit about the National Response team and some Coast Guard Headquarters wide initiatives that will have a boots on the ground effect for us here in Hawaii.

8.1 There was a training with the Oceania Regional Response team, focusing on lessons learned on recent incidents.

8.2 Bill Marhoffer discussed a new contingency plan architecture for coastal zone marine focused coast guard owned area contingency plans. The plan is designed to be streamlined and allows responders to refer to specific situations through Annexes. The Coast Guard will create task forces with interagency partners, inviting National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, (PHMSA) The first three special topics to be addressed are salvage firefighting, hazardous substances, and risk assessment. The team emphasized the importance of these plans due to the potential of an area contingency plan in the Pacific Islands and the need to fulfill responsibilities under the national contingency plan.

8.3 The Hawaii Area Contingency Plan is set for its 5-year major revision in 2024, with the focus on addressing six precepts for the Coast Guard National Review panel. The Coast Guard Sector Honolulu has already incorporated most of the previous recommendations. The plan is not expected to undergo significant administrative reformatting changes until 2026. Additionally, the Hawaii Area Contingency Plan will be reviewed by the National Review panel in 2024. The Hawaii area will also be the primary venue for the National Level Exercise 2024, with a focus on addressing major infrastructure damage and biocontamination issues. A new member, environmental toxicologist Dr. Alicia Hendrix, was introduced to the team.

9. Announcements from other Agencies

10. No comment from public.

Next HSERC Meeting: March 15, 2024

Respectively Submitted,

Sharon L. Leonida, Environmental Health Specialist IV

