
Calcasieu Parish Local Emergency Planning Committee
901 Lakeshore Dr. Suite 200
Lake Charles, LA 70601
P.O. Drawer 3287
Lake Charles, LA 70602
Phone : 337-888-5665
Email : ml7@suddenlink.net



September 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Mason Lindsay (LEPC Chair), Megan Powell (Secretary), Ron Tower (LEPC Vice Chair), Jared Maze (OEP, Treasurer), Ty Istre (CPSO), Chris Vice (Vinton Fire), Sean LaFleur (LSP) Greg Satterfield (LyondellBasell), Mark Conner (EMS), Liz Harmon (Hospitals) Sammy Short (USCG), Jessica LeBouef (CERT), John Naquin (SFD), Jim Rock (LAIA), Andrew Malveaux (LCPD), Amanda Butler (CPPJ-Planning), Jonathan Duff (WLFD). Robby Trahan (WIFD), Stuart Weatherford (Lake City Council)

Guests present: Garrett Speights (Biolab), Crystal De Los Santos (Biolab), John Bourgeois (Biolab), Scott Kyle (LCMH), Doug Cramer (NWS), Chris Chaisson (LYB), David Schrvica (LYB), Nicole Dumas (CERT), Patience Frederick (Cal. OEP), Mark Armstrong (Denbury), Seth Dickerson (Denbury), Mark Kern (Calca Solutions), Randy Powell (Sasol), Cynthia Robertson (M68M), Julio Galan (Family & Youth), Jerry Pierroite (SCSWLA), James Boyette (WLFD)

Mason Lindsey opened the meeting at 10AM with the pledge by Ron Tower.

Mason asked if there were any Agenda changes from the group, none heard from the group.

Mason requested a motion to accept the agenda as is. Motion made by Ron Tower, seconded by Greg Satterfield. Motion carried.

Mason asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August meeting. Motion made by Greg, seconded by Ron. Motion carried.

Mason asked that Ron provide some guidelines to govern the Biolab presentation. Ron thanked the personnel from Biolab for volunteering to provide the incident review to the LEPC. Ron advised that when Biolab presents, questions may be asked by the LEPC members only.

Mason called for public comments. Cynthia Robertson asked if the agenda was sent out in the previous email. Megan Powell advised that the agenda was in the email as an attachment. Mason asked for any other public comment. No other comments were made, and the public comment period was closed.

Garrett Speights, Biolab general manager, gave an incident review of the Biolab incident that occurred on July 2, 2024.

The morning of the incident was reported by Biolab employees of smoke coming from their east bay building. Employees responded and they removed the wall of the north and east wall of the building to easily access the incident. Emergency Response Team then took measures to gain control at the source. It is still under investigation to find the root cause. No reports of warehouse damage or leaking were evident before the event. Smoke contained HCL, water vapor, and some dust.

The winds were from the south going towards the production building and the lake but then changed to the north, which is when the decision was made to close I-10 as a precautionary measure. DEQ was notified when the incident occurred and did mobile air monitoring around the south side by the lake, and on the I-10 side on the P66 side of the facility. All the tests came back nondetachable. The smoke was the most visible. Forty-one employees were on site. Biolab internal team managed the event from start to finish. Westlake Fire responded. CAER was also notified. No injuries were reported.

A debrief was conducted that afternoon to check to make sure everything was good. Acadian was also on scene to check any employees. Multiple Mutual Aid response personnel from other facilities also did monitoring. There was an issue getting the monitoring results from the other facilities.

Question from LEPC member - "Why did it take so long to do a CAER notification? It happened an hour before the incident. Speights advised it was communication with security and a fault within. Speights advised since the incident there has been more training to better communicate.

That completed the verbal review. The written report is expected to be forthcoming.

Mason asked if there were any upcoming drills, exercises, training, or incidents.

Sean LaFleur advised there was one incident of a tank truck leak, but nothing major.

Mason shared that Jared Maze is working on scheduling some drills for 2025.

Mason advised there is a Citgo worst case drill taking place September 24th, 25th, 26th. Ron will be representing the LEPC along with many other response agency representatives.

Mark Armstrong, with Denbury, advised they had nine firefighters from Calcasieu that recently attended the pipeline training that was offered through TEEK. Todd Parker, the fire chief of W6FD attended as one of the instructors. Houston River FD along with W6FD were the firefighters who attended. It is open to any Calcasieu Parish firefighters at the time. It will be offered to industry in the future, but the volunteer firefighters have been filling the classes up. If anyone is interested, they can reach Mark Armstrong with Denbury pipeline.

Mason discussed the recent pipeline fire that happened in Deer Park, TX yesterday near Walmart. Over 1000 houses were sheltered in place.

Mason advised of the upcoming Port Security Grant workshops. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Megan Powell, mpowell@calcasieu.gov.

Mason advised of the Red Cross disaster bootcamp coming up. If you are interested, scan the QR code on the flyer that was given out.

Mason asked Ron to give an update on the Public Education & Information committee. Ron advised that the committee had their first official meeting yesterday. It was a good meeting with great people that will be serving on that committee. Additional committee members will be added. It was really an orientation and discussion. He is looking forward to working with the committee.

Mason informed the LEPC that the alerting and notification committee chair would be Ryan Novak. Ryan has agreed to accept this appointment and will start putting the committee together.

Mason adjourned the meeting at 10:30AM.

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