

CARBON COUNTY LEPC

Minutes

Meeting: November 2, 2016

Attendance: Alex Ator, Tom Kohley, Chad Barry, Ralph Dawson, Josh McQuillan, John Grewell, Tom Frieders, Mike Nordstrom, Drew Brown, Hunter Bell.

Announcements and Training Opportunities:

- FirstNet Meeting October 6, 1200 Hrs., Billings
- Great Montana Shakeout, October 19, 1019 Hrs.
- Carbon County Fire Council, October 20, 1900 Hrs., Belfry
- SERC (State Emergency Response Committee) Meeting and Training, October 24-26, Helena
- LEPC Training, October 26, Helena
- ICS-400, November 7-8, Billings Clinic, Billings
- Exxon Mobile Pipeline TTX, Bridger, Date?

*The new DES Training Calendar is now online at – <http://readyandsafe.mt.gov/calendar>

Old Business

A train derailment Table Top Exercise (TTX) is being planned for next spring – tentative date is March 18. The planning committee has not yet met but hopes to do so in November. MLR contacted by Tom to see if they would like to participate or assist but they have not returned message.

New Business

FirstNet: Tom distributed handouts on FirstNet and provided some high level discussion about this new, nationwide, dedicated public safety communication service coming to Carbon County (expected rollout sometime in 2018). Tom, Josh McQuillan, Kelly Carrington and Tom Kuntz recently attended an informative meeting with the FirstNet consultants on October 6 in Billings. Questions from LEPC members were asked about the supported devices and how much they would cost. Tom stated that he was told the devices would look and feel very similar to today's smart phones and tablets (as compared to hand held radios). A paid subscription model would also be put in place to access and use FirstNet – similar to the wireless carrier model. Whether or not the devices themselves would cost money up front was not disclosed at the meeting in Billings.

LEPC: Tom gave a historical overview as to why LEPCs were formed. He also covered the mandated functions and roles of LEPCs. Tom attended the SERC meeting in Helena where there was also LEPC training with Tim Gablehouse – a renowned expert on environmental law and LEPCs. Tom gave an overview of Tim's presentation including the "golden rules" of LEPC. Tom also reviewed the bylaws and articles of the Carbon County LEPC including some elements the Committee was not currently following. The remainder of the discussion by the group was mostly about the role and function of our LEPC. Alex Ator made the comment that he found LEPC to be very useful because of the networking that took place at the meetings and also that he has learned about the roles and resources of other agencies/organizations. Tom Frieders made a suggestion to have each LEPC representative give a short (10 minute) presentation (one at each meeting) on what resources they have in place that could assist the County in a disaster or emergency planning. This was agreed upon by the group to be a good addition to our meetings as several of the members did not know of other member's resources. Tom Kohley will follow up and request one of the members prepare that presentation for the December meeting.

Agency or Citizens Report/Comment

None.

Meeting Schedule and Adjourn:

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 7th @ 1330; Red Lodge Fire Hall

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm