

**Minutes of the Denali Borough Local Emergency Planning
Committee (LEPC) Meeting
Denali Borough Office
Healy
August 3rd, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER:

The committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Love at 6:05 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Steve Love, LEPC Chairman – Rob Graham, Tri-Valley Fire Department/Denali LEPC – Marge Nord, Cantwell Fire Department / Denali LEPC – Dale Nord / Cantwell Fire Department - Bob Doss, AK Region Communications Center NPS, - Clay Walker, Denali Borough Mayor- Dorothy Leake, City of Anderson – Art Nash, UAF Extension Office – Daniel Keller, McKinley Fire Department - Dave DeCaro, McKinley Fire Department - Jean Balay, Panguingue Fire Brigade – Baxter Mercer, Tri-Valley Fire Department – Scott Thompson (via phone), Anderson Fire Department – Marsha Lambert, Denali Borough - Chris Noel, LEPC Coordinator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Steve moved to approve the agenda, seconded. Approved

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes were not available. The coordinator will send out via email and take comments or corrections to be considered at the next meeting.

REPORTS:

There were no reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. The Committee participated in a webinar covering Rave Mobile Safety's (Rave Alert) mass notification product. The system is cloud based, and is accessible through the internet or via cell coverage. Who is able to send alerts? Authorization comes from the user groups, and the system can be set up so that different Administrators have permission to send specific messages to individual user groups. There are unlimited administrators, so all fire departments and the school district could use the system. It can be used as an internal alert tool (ie: message to first responders regarding an evening training) or it can be used for external messages to the public (ie: missing child, or severe winter storm). Rave Alert will conduct initial training to help users become familiar with the system, and they have technical support available 24/7/365.
- b. The committee voted in support of engaging with a mass notification vendor. It was not included in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget and therefore could be considered as part of a budget amendment. It is anticipated that this type of service will cost less than \$5,000 per year, and will include an initial set-up

fee and yearly subscription. It was also suggested to reevaluate the service on a yearly basis to ensure it is still valuable and necessary.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Recent staffing shortages, coupled with declining state revenue and severe budget cuts in the University of Alaska system led to a situation where University Dispatch can no longer cover the Parks Highway Departments. The committee was given a letter from University of Alaska Fairbanks' Police Chief summarizing the situation. This is much to the dismay of all Borough departments who have received high-quality, professional, and uninterrupted service for many years. The Committee participated in a conference call with representatives from Fairbanks Emergency Communications center (City Dispatch), who agreed to take over coverage of the Parks Highway departments. City Dispatch manager Stephanie Johnson and Supervisor Bonnie Nolan presented on the capabilities of the dispatch center, and the process for adding a new client. To initially set up the Computer Aided Dispatch console, City Dispatch needs certain pieces of information including: Road Names plus jurisdiction, common sites, landing zones/airstrips, jurisdictional boundaries, auto-aid/mutual aid agreements, and station information. Questions were raised about when City Dispatch would be able to tone out on the Departments' conventional two-tone channels. It will involve an additional piece of equipment on City Dispatch consoles, with a to-be-determined price tag. It should be available in the short term. Text tone-outs are possible and can be done automatically once the department profiles are complete. City Dispatch can auto upload run information into Image-trend or email/fax run reports automatically after the close of each call. Long term, the Fairbanks Northstar Borough and the City of Fairbanks may need a Memorandum of Understanding with the Denali Borough/borough fire departments to use FNSB's 911 phone system. Dispatchers will be sent to the Borough to tour the communities and become familiar with the Departments. There is an open invitation for Denali Borough responders to stop by and tour the Dispatch Center.

There was a discussion regarding the Draft Contract that was sent to Denali Emergency Services Association (DESA) and the Denali Borough. It was determined that short term, DESA should remain the signatory on the month-to month contract. The fire departments of DESA and the City of Anderson will discuss next steps, and whether to request the Borough assume Emergency Communications powers under Alaska Statute 29.35.130, on an Area wide basis to include the City. Denali Borough Charter states the Denali Borough Assembly shall exercise any powers, and therefore it would take multiple meetings (months) to fully accept the power and contract with an emergency communications center. A code ordinance with an accompanying fiscal note is one mechanism to assume a new responsibility.

To properly route 911 calls made within borough boundaries, the municipality must request individual phone companies route 911 calls to City Dispatch. City Dispatch center's equipment can utilize enhanced 911 information.

OTHER BUSINESS:

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held November 16th, 2016 in the Denali Borough office.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.