

**Minutes of the Denali Borough Local Emergency Planning
Committee (LEPC) Meeting
Denali Borough Office
Healy
November 16th, 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 – Sam Kimmel, Tri-Valley Fire Department/Denali LEPC – Kate Batten, Tri-Valley Fire Department/ Denali LEPC – Tamera Ohlund, Healy community member – Diane Kalina, GVEA - Jim Syvertsen, Denali National Park- Sarah Ellison, Denali National Park - Chris Noel, LEPC Coordinator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Steve moved to approve the agenda, seconded. Approved

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes were approved.

REPORTS:

The LEPC Coordinator reported on the Fall Preparedness Conference held in conjunction with the Department of Health's Hale Borealis Conference. The committee was presented with the conference agenda. Hale Borealis is a high quality public health focused conference held every two years. It is worth making the effort to attend future conferences put on by Department of Health.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Revision of the All Hazards Plan: The committee discussed revising the all-hazards plan in stages and decided to focus on contact numbers and available resources first. There was much discussion on the need to practice using the plan periodically with multi-agency exercises. The LEPC Vice-Chair sent information in via email to be presented at the meeting. She would like to see an Annex covering Tactical EMS response protocol and communication procedures. This should also be exercised regularly with all member departments through a table top discussion or exercise. Two non-members with emergency management and military experience volunteered to tackle the initial plan review. They will present an update on their progress at the next meeting.
- b. Dispatch Update: After an extended discussion at the last meeting, there was a brief update on the current state of affairs. The Tri-Valley fire board voted to retain control and responsibility for dispatch services on behalf of all borough departments at their November meeting, with the understanding that more information was needed. There was a discussion regarding the lack of addresses in the Borough, and the implications for public safety (among others). Tri-Valley EMS recently received Healy subdivision

maps which will help. During the summer, seasonal EMS responders may not be familiar with house names or common landmarks. Those in attendance decided that a letter to all Borough residents supporting a move towards addresses was a priority. LEPC grant funds can be used for this type of mailing. It was decided that it should primarily come from the fire departments and the tone of the letter should reflect the public safety consequences of not having street addresses. Other points considered were Park entrance area buildings and locations, and whether EMS has a map of locations. Large hotel properties also can be confusing for responders, though often they provide security personnel to escort EMS to the patient.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Civil Air Patrol Presentation: Tami Ohlund presented to those present that she is trying to revive a Healy Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). CAP has the largest fixed wing air fleet in the world, and members have incident command training among many other skills and abilities. It is a civilian wing of the Airforce, and their three fold mission is to 1) Assist emergency services 2) Perform aerospace education and 3) Develop cadet programs. She is looking for interested residents. A Healy wing will need approximately 6 pilots to have an airplane stationed in the Borough. CAP could assist in a variety of situations including search and rescue operations.
- b. Borough wide mutual aid agreement: Those in attendance were presented with a copy of the current borough wide mutual aid agreement, it is set to be reaffirmed in 2017. It was suggested that it could be considered at an annual leadership meeting of Fire and EMS departments. Partners including the National Park Service, Clear Air station, and City of Nenana should be included. It was brought up that we still do not have a Memorandum of Understanding with our Red Cross Partners related to shelter or canteen abilities. We do have a good working relationship with both the Fairbanks and Mat-su chapter and the Borough can count on a coordinated response if needed.
- c. Alaska Assessment: the Coordinator presented on the basics of the annual Alaska Assessment which is due to Homeland Security by December 31st each year. It is a document that allows a jurisdiction to critically look at its capabilities related to all aspects of emergency planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. It can be used as a tool to identify gaps and justify needs in training or equipment. Kate and Sam volunteered to look over a rough draft before it is submitted to Homeland Security. Parks Service rangers would also like to review the final copy when it is available.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. It was decided that a letter to borough residents should go out, in coordination with all fire departments and the LEPC. Sam and Chris will draft a letter for parties to consider, and it was suggested to run it by a Public Information Specialist with the Park Service as well.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held February 8th, 2017 in the Denali Borough office.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.