

Minutes of the Denali Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting Denali Borough Office Healy May 4th, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

The committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Love at 6:08 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Steve Love, Chairman – Rob Graham, Tri-Valley Fire Department/Denali LEPC – Marge Nord, Cantwell Fire Department / Denali LEPC – Joe Chatfield, Denali LEPC - Sam Kimmel, Tri-Valley Fire Department/Denali LEPC – Bob Doss, AK Region Communications Center NPS, - Brian Napier, AK Region Communications Center NPS – James Chenoweth, Tri-Valley EMS – Kate Batten, Tri-Valley EMS – Celia Jackson, American Red Cross/Denali LEPC – Bill Morrow, American Red Cross/Denali LEPC – Denny Capps, Mckinley Fire Department/NPS - Chris Noel, LEPC Coordinator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Steve moved to approve the agenda, seconded. Approved

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Steve moved to approve the minutes, seconded. Approved

REPORTS:

The coordinator reported on the Spring Preparedness Conference. The conference focus was one course on training and exercise plans. The Borough currently does not have a consolidated training and exercise plan, each department maintains their own schedule. The course provided an easy to use template that can be custom fit to each jurisdiction. There are numerous trainings available for responders that are no-cost, and delivered at locations throughout the US. The process to attend a training is an individual is nominated by their department head, and the application is forwarded to the State training officer for consideration.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. The Nenana Canyon evacuation plan was indefinitely postponed. An opportunity to include the Plan in a larger DOT project did not pan out. It was widely agreed that this plan is a valuable endeavor, and that in the future this should be a priority for the Borough. Due to staff time limitations, it was determined that this would be a good potential project for grant funding or an emergency management Intern.
- b. It was recommended to move forward with a mass notification vendor. Notification service would require participants to enroll their cell phone number in the plan. Initial roll-out should come from the fire departments to increase local buy-in. With a mass-notification service, residents can be notified based on their geographic location, so messages can be targeted. The LEPC committee recommends the

Assembly fund the mass – notification service, and that a group of EMS/Fire Leadership choose the vendor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. The committee discussed Smart 911 service. American Red Cross shared that the Fairbanks Northstar Borough has Smart 911 capabilities but very low participation. Smart 911 allows dispatchers to see critical information from 911 callers, such as physical disabilities or pets. The downside is it must be entered individually by residents who opt in. It was decided not to pursue this type of service at this time.
- b. Denny Capps, Denali National Park geologist presented on the mid-winter Healy landslide that occurred on a tributary to Dry Creek, named the Wickwire slide. The slide was imaged soon after it occurred and it was flown again, and high resolution imagery taken, in mid spring. Long term questions remain such as where else in the Borough do the layers that failed occur? Will the slide continue moving? Was the slide isolated or is it tied to more widespread climactic changes? A school group will visit the slide later this spring to learn more about geology. Residents should use caution when visiting the area.
- c. The committee held a discussion on Radon in the Denali Borough. The presenter was unable to make it, but the University of Alaska Fairbanks extension Office is willing and able to deliver Radon awareness classes to Borough communities. Radon is recognized by the EPA as the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. It is prevalent in the Borough, where coarse sediments allow the gas to seep to the surface. It affects homes that have a basement or crawlspace set into the ground. Radon tests are inexpensive and Tri-valley community library has considered purchasing a set of digital meters to loan to community members. It was suggested that LEPC Outreach funds could be used to run an awareness campaign. A mailer could be sent out with information on how to test and what to do if the results are above the recommended limit. The Red Cross will also consider adding a radon focus to their smoke alarm campaign.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Committee had an extended discussion regarding property markings within the Borough. It is an issue throughout, as the Borough does not have an existing property database of addresses. Homeowners often use historical information to identify their homes on a 911 call and if responders aren't familiar with the description, it can lead to a delay in response. It was suggested that Usibelli could require house numbers for all homes within their lease.

NOAA is coming to Denali National Park at the end of May to solicit feedback on their warning model. It is available to emergency managers, decision makers, responders, and provides real time updates on severe weather events.

The Red Cross is still looking for a couple Volunteers in the Denali Borough. These volunteers would have access to disaster response resources and could respond to local emergencies such as house fires.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held August 3rd, 2016 in the Denali Borough office.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.