

NORTH CHANNEL LEPC MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 2009

Galena Park ISD Administration Building
14705 Wood Forest Blvd.
(NE corner of intersection BW-8 and Wood Forest)
Lunch at 11:30 am, meeting began at 11:50

- I. Call to Order and Introductions – Self members self-introduced, 22 persons attending. Judge Bernard, Safety Manager of Tex-Trude, attended upon invitation of Spaid and Squyres. (He explained the cause of their November fire was an overheated motor that ignited polyethylene dust. The fire destroyed a 150,000 sq-ft warehouse.)

- II. Review of Minutes from November 3, 2008 Meeting – Spaid – Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Motion to accept minutes without modification was made by Chief Mike Battise and 2nd by Jim Strouhal. Motion carried by a voice vote.

- III. Committee Reports
 - Finance
 - Treasurer's report – Spaid –
 - 2009 Budget review – Spaid presented a tentative operating budget for 2009. (See attachment.) All members are encouraged to review the budget and send Squyres or Spaid suggestions for modifications to the proposal. Budget changes expected are: to eliminate or greatly reduce storage room fees by using space available at member sites; minimal expenses for advertising since grant money received in 2008 can still be utilized for this. Plans are to present a final budget for membership approval at the next meeting and proceed quickly with dues invoicing.

 - HHWCD – Discussion around this year's HHWCD event date. Date selected for the event: **October 24, 2009**. Location was still not determined. Cheryl Fentres-Burton noted that the county plans to have many more HazMobile events this year. Possibly we could have an event in the Channel area and HazMobile in the Crosby area on same date.

 - Compliance and Emergency Notification System – Spaid – **2008 Tier 2's are due March 1**. Motion was made by Shelby Startz, 2nd by Dean Artero to **require only electronic submissions to NC LEPC and all NC LEPC fire departments for all future years Tier 2's**. Motion was carried by a voice vote. Squyres noted that there were a lot of LEPC electronic tools at the recent LEPC conference. EPA now has MARPLOT (a new update to CAMEO) which should be a much more powerful tool for on location responders.

- Drills and Training / Chief's Council Report – Chief Battise noted there was no official drill in 2008 but that Hurricane Ike more than qualified as our drill activity. Battise noted the next Chief's Council meeting will be held sometime in March. Battise will provide meeting date, time and location at our next meeting.
- Transportation – Anorga - No report. It was noted that with the election of a new sheriff in November county LEPC's should be getting more attention from our Deputy Sheriff member Anorga. But it was also noted that David Wade's time with LEPCs will be much more limited.

IV. CAPLE and HAD-CAP Reports

- CAPLE – Jim Strouhal reported on the 1/15/09 meeting – Big news was that Lyondell Bassell had filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11. Lyondell did report an excellent 0.33 TIR for 2008, and also reported they had 19 environmental events for the year. A concern was expressed at the CAPLE meeting regarding the Tex-Trude fire. The next CAPLE meeting (2/19) will feature a discussion about road development near those plants. Members noted the RR crossing just south of Highway 90 is a concern as well as the RR tracks that cross near Tex-Trude where there is no crossing at all.
- HAD-CAP – Spaid reported on recent HAD CAP meeting. Most of the sites on Haden Road are struggling with the downturn in the economy recently. Some are running at reduced rates or with reduced operating hours. The project to upgrade the roads and the RR crossing is once again slated to start within weeks.

V. Agencies

- Harris County: Jacque D'Arbonne noted that the Tex-Trude fire had raised concerns with complaints about the smoke as far away as Deer Park and LaPorte. Also runoff of the firewater was an issue due to pH from foam addition. The county wanted to know whom to contact to activate First Call. Squyres responded by saying the county could contact any responding North Channel area Fire Chief or the NC LEPC itself (Squyres or Spaid) to get access to First Call.
- The County noted they have made arrangements that facilities can provide the Poison Control phone number rather than their own site's phone number to direct callers for medical advice when there is a gas release.
- East Houston Medical Center: Hospital had an open house on Dec. 30 to note its re-opening post-Hurricane Ike.

VI. Old Business - none

VII. New Business –

- Spaid and Squyres discussed the need for an LEPC site visitation program. This idea occurred when Spaid and Squyres were driving in the area near Tex-Trude and noted a number of facilities that could house hazardous chemicals but had not been submitting Tier 2's. The idea is to visit sites within a given area to obtain ER contact info, inform facility management of LEPC activities and benefits of participation and to facilitate relationships between plant officials and local emergency responders. Some discussion ensued and membership agreed with a voice vote that we should pursue this program.
- Squyres related that the application for a grant under the American Fire Act has been approved. The ~ \$1 million grant will allow all fire departments within NC LEPC area to purchase the new "800" radios on an 80/20 match basis. One expense not included in the grant is for an audit which will cost about \$3-4K. Strouhal made a motion to include this amount in our budget. 2nd by Spaid. Motion was carried by a voice vote.

VIII. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at about 12:50.

**NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 9, 2009 AT GPISD ADMIN BUILDING
14705 WOOD FOREST STARTING AT 11:30 WITH LUNCH.**