

1 Local Emergency Planning Committee Association

2 Business Meeting Agenda

3 April 7, 2017

4
5 ATTENDEES

6 Bea Adler

Michelle Brown

7 Scott Brown

Sandy Dixon

8 Doug Flemming, Fairbanks

Abner Hoage, Ketchikan Gateway LEPCA Co-Chair

9 Linda Van Houten

Steve Jones, Bristol Bay

10 Jack Maker

Doug McCloskey

11 Chris Noel, Denali Borough

Michael Paschall

12 Heather Seemann

Kevin Spillers

13 Brian Templin, Southern Southeast

Laura Theisen

14 Tom Vaden

Scott Walden

15
16 CALL TO ORDER

17 LEPCA Co-Chair Abner Hoage called the meeting to
18 order at 8:01 a.m.

19 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: It's 8:01, and I'll call to
20 order this meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee
21 Association.

22 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

23 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: If everyone could rise and join
24 me in the pledge of allegiance.

25 (Pledge of Allegiance)

1 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you very much.

2 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

3 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Moving on to welcome and
4 introductions, as I do see some new faces in the room, around
5 the table, at least ones that I'm not familiar with. And thank
6 you to Dave Miller and Brian Templin for roping me into this
7 position at the last meeting. I really appreciate it. I'm
8 pretty sure I was promised I wouldn't have to do this for
9 several meetings, and they all leave. So here we are.

10 So we're going to start off by briefly going
11 around the table. State your name and which LEPC you're
12 representing, so we can make sure that we have it in the
13 minutes, as well as to help me recall everyone's names. And I
14 apologize if I mess it up later. So we are going to start on
15 my right.

16 INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

17 Participants signed in.

18 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, everyone.

19 Again, as you speak, please remember to turn on
20 the microphones and state your name again, so that we have that
21 recorded and we can get good minutes from our meeting.

22 ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CO-CHAIR

23 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Administrative Announcements.
24 Jack was able to close out the remaining money that we had in
25 the LEPCA account. And there's donuts at the back of the room,

1 that Kelly picked up for us this morning. There's probably not
2 a lot, because I think we had \$32. But, you know, it's
3 something. You can't complain too much, because you got
4 something. So that's the only administrative announcement I
5 have at this point.

6 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2016, MEETING MINUTES

7 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: So we'll move on into the
8 agenda with approval of the October 21st meeting minutes. And
9 can I get a motion for that?

10 MR. MAKER: Jack Maker, Kodiak. Move to approve
11 the -- what was the date?

12 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: October 21st, 2016.

13 MR. MAKER: October 21st, 2016, minutes.

14 MR. TEMPLIN: Brian Templin, second.

15 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Then moved and seconded.

16 Is there any discussion?

17 Did we have a copy of those minutes? I didn't
18 see them. Okay.

19 No discussion?

20 (No audible response).

21 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Is there anyone opposed to
22 accepting those minutes?

23 (No audible response).

24 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Seeing no opposition, it passes
25 unanimously.

1 APPROVAL OF, AND CHANGES TO, THE AGENDA

2 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Moving on to Item III, Approval
3 of, and Changes to, the Agenda. Are there any proposed changes
4 to the agenda from the floor?

5 Well, before I do that, could I have a motion to
6 approve the agenda?

7 MR. VADEN: Motion to approve it.

8 MS. DIXON: Dixon, second.

9 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you.

10 Would anyone like to make any changes? I don't
11 know of any. Anyone opposed to approving the agenda as it was
12 submitted?

13 (No audible response).

14 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Seeing none, the agenda is
15 approved.

16 OLD BUSINESS

17 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: That brings us to Old Business,
18 and we have nothing listed under Old Business.

19 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION/PRESENTATIONS

20 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Move on to
21 Correspondence/Communication/Presentations, beginning with
22 Public Comments.

23 PUBLIC COMMENTS

24 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Do we have anyone signed up for
25 public comment? Take just a second to check the list.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We do not.

2 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Very good.

3 SERC FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

4 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Brings us to SERC Finance
5 Committee Update. I have some notes on that. SERC Finance did
6 meet on April 7th, and at that meeting they approved the new
7 LEPC classification system. That did alter the funding level
8 for some of the LEPCs. The discussion of that meeting is that
9 this is a trial year for that. There was quite a bit of
10 discussion as to whether we're actually in the right place that
11 we need to be, as far as the metrics, but this will give the
12 division a tool to use to help classify the LEPCs with some
13 actual criteria, measurable criteria that they can put to that,
14 so there's a reasoning behind why they move someone up or down
15 or assign them in a certain level within the structure. As far
16 as that goes, I think it's a great tool, but I do think we may
17 have some work to do on what those -- what that matrix looks
18 like going forward. I'm not sure that we've hit it quite
19 right, but there will be time for more discussion on that.

20 SERC Finance will be meeting telephonically in
21 May or June, to address next year's funding. That will be the
22 first time that this new share system is used, that was
23 approved at the October meeting.

24 And SFY 18 applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on
25 Friday, May 26th, 2017. And all of LEPCs will be notified by

1 e-mail once the application period is over. (Indiscernible)
2 over here.

3 So that's all I have for the SERC Finance
4 Committee Update.

5 HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

6 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: That brings us to Homeland
7 Security and Emergency Management. And I've got on here
8 Mr. Sutton up first. Is that correct?

9 MR. SUTTON: I believe so.

10 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Good morning, sir.

11 MR. SUTTON: Good morning.

12 STRATEGIC PLANS AND LEADERSHIP

13 MR. SUTTON: For the record, my name is Mike
14 Sutton, and I'm the Deputy Director of the Division of Homeland
15 Security and Emergency Management.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to
17 talk to you while bringing you up to speed on the things that
18 have been happening since the last LEPCA meeting. Seems like
19 the time has flown by.

20 So I would like to thank all of you for the time
21 and energies that you all spent dedicating your efforts to
22 local emergency management planning.

23 The LEPC serves an important function in
24 emergency management planning and preparedness in Alaska. In
25 addition to the SARA Title III and the Community Right-to-Know

1 things it can all work on, the LEPCs have grown into an
2 all-hazard-oriented planning committees. In many communities
3 you're the only voice for emergency management planning and
4 preparedness, and it is very important to us.

5 As the division turns our attention to
6 increasing emergency management capacity and capabilities out
7 in bush Alaska, the LEPC is one of the most effective tools
8 that we have for turning that goal into reality. We know that
9 LEPCs are not identical, but reflect the communities' unique
10 attributes.

11 So how do we help communities in rural Alaska
12 that do not yet have the benefit of an LEPC established?
13 DHS&EM feels this effort may be best guided by the experts in
14 this area, so looking to partner with the LEPCA and find out
15 how we can continue to expand your work around rural Alaska.

16 The operational need for improving all-hazards
17 planning and preparedness in rural Alaska is being currently
18 bounded by the fiscal realities in Juneau. I don't want to
19 politicize the meeting, but the legislature is still awaiting
20 cuts to the general funds in order to reduce everyone's
21 spending, and that may affect LEPCs.

22 On other subjects, starting with local and
23 ending in some issues that -- of national interest, for
24 Operations Section we had back-to-back hurricane-force storms
25 hit the West Coast of Alaska in late December and early January

1 of this year. And it's a testimony to the tough constitution
2 of Alaskans and the resilience of Alaskan communities that only
3 two of the hardest hit communities requested assistance from
4 the state. The Governor declared a disaster in the communities
5 of Gambell and Savoonga, and our disaster assistance teams
6 traveled to those communities in order to ascertain the damage
7 to public facilities and family homes and property.

8 Over 110 families applied through the family
9 Individual Assistance Program, and there are four project
10 worksheets currently being developed for repairs to all the
11 infrastructure.

12 It never ceases to amaze me the types of phone
13 calls that we receive down in the State Emergency Operations
14 Center on a weekly basis. We continue, though, to ask all
15 communities to call us with whatever hazards and
16 (indiscernible) they face. We do want to be the one-stop shop
17 for getting state resources energized and how to assist your
18 community. We may not be the ones with the expertise and
19 resources to solve the issue, but we don't want communities to
20 have to comb through the phone book before they can find
21 somebody that's able and willing to help. And in that vein,
22 the number is 1 (800) -- and you all probably know this -- 1
23 (800) 478-2337. So call.

24 For Preparedness Section, Jeff Lafferty is going
25 to talk about the Rural Resilience Workshop that we just held

1 out in Bethel. A great success. Communities from the
2 surrounding area traveled into that hub community, and we
3 talked about preparedness, who's in charge, and overall
4 preparedness issues. It was the first event implementing
5 DHS&EM's ongoing network to improve risk management in rural
6 Alaska. We are planning to systematically reach out to every
7 region in Alaska, to better understand the unique hazards and
8 emergency management challenges faced by those communities and
9 families, and work together to provide solutions to these
10 problems.

11 Our next Rural Resiliency Workshop is scheduled
12 for Kotzebue in the late fall.

13 And the Planning Section. The state of Alaska
14 is partnering with the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho
15 to ask for federal assistance in filling some capability gaps
16 we discovered during that last catastrophic earthquake exercise
17 at Alaska Shield 2014. There were issues involving --
18 transportation feasibility study is the plan that we envisioned
19 in the Alaska Response Annex. Is that actually viable?
20 Does -- is that going to work? And in June 2018, there will be
21 a study conducted by U.S. Transportation Command that will
22 validate a logistics plan to move all those federal resources
23 up here to Alaska, and we look forward to being involved in
24 that.

25 Movement control is another issue that emerged

1 as we went through the exercise and the planners built the
2 plan. How do we -- with limited capability to receive goods
3 and services in Alaska through a very constrained supply chain,
4 how do we get what we need, exactly when we need it, to the
5 point that needs it and nothing more? Every C-17 or C-130 or
6 helicopter that flies something in is bringing something, but
7 there's also something that is not on that aircraft, that could
8 be. So how do we pick and choose, flow the right things at the
9 right time? It's a movement control and it's fairly new to
10 FEMA and they're working through that at headquarters.

11 Joint Staging, Reception and Onward Integration.
12 The idea that when you come to Alaska in the wintertime for a
13 catastrophic exercise -- or, a catastrophic event, you've got
14 to be prepared to do it on your own, to be self-sufficient, and
15 have all of your team members and your equipment ready to
16 survive, instead of ultimately become victims, and to be able
17 to operate in that cold environment that we're used to up here.

18 We as Alaskans see that happening in the
19 Lower 48. Don't necessarily care where that happens, but
20 before they come up here, we need to make sure that all teams
21 that come up to help, whether they be medical or joint search
22 and rescue or private sector linemen here to repair downed
23 power lines, that they all need to be ready to work and operate
24 here in Alaska.

25 And finally, Patient Movement and Tracking.

1 It's always a difficult issue. And the Division of -- or,
2 Department of Health and Social Services, working with federal
3 entities, are trying to solve that issue, as well.

4 One of the other things we brought up that's
5 incorporated, and we are trying to bake into all four of those
6 cakes, is working with the private sector, since they're key to
7 getting our communities and the state back up on its feet. We
8 are really happy to work private sector needs requirements into
9 that small, constrained pipeline and get them up here also,
10 along with federal responders.

11 So those are some of the things we are working
12 on, Mr. Chair, and barring any questions, that's all I have.

13 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you very much. Again,
14 the division always has done great work. It's nice -- I see on
15 a regular basis the flexibility that your different sections
16 have. They make an effort to assist the communities with
17 whatever their needs may be, even when it's sometimes out of
18 the normal. So I appreciate that on a personal level, as well
19 as part of this group.

20 So are there any questions for Deputy Director
21 Sutton?

22 (No audible response).

23 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you very much, sir.

24 OPERATIONS

25 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Next on the agenda is

1 Operations. Mr. Bryan Fisher.

2 MR. FISHER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

3 (PA audio feedback interruption)

4 MR. FISHER: I'll move over here. How about
5 that?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There we go.

7 MR. FISHER: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Good
8 morning, members of the LEPCA.

9 Bryan Fisher. I'm the chief of Operations for
10 State Homeland Security and Emergency Management. I'm also the
11 number three person in the whole division. So I think we
12 talked about this last year, but we did a little bit of a
13 reorganization, so the Disaster Assistance Section, the
14 Planning Section, and then the -- the Operations Section all
15 come under me right now. So there is a -- we're constantly
16 changing. I've been telling people all week this week, if we
17 had five working days where somebody wasn't either getting a
18 promotion or moving on to another agency or taking a lateral in
19 our division, I'd be pretty happy.

20 So when Jeff and Kim come up, they're going to
21 introduce either new staff or staff that are in new positions.
22 Particularly in the Planning Section, we've had lots of folks
23 moving around, moving up, moving back, going sideways. Good
24 for us, but it's a -- it's a constantly changing thing. I
25 think I've said in the past years, we should give you an

1 organization chart from our division with a time stamp, not a
2 date stamp. Changes quite a bit.

3 As Deputy Director Sutton mentioned, we had --
4 we did have two disaster declarations since last we met: The
5 first was with the storms in the Bering Sea; the biggest impact
6 was on St. Lawrence Island, in Gambell and Savoonga. We do
7 want to thank all of you, particularly Mr. Vaden in Nome, for
8 your help in giving us some situational awareness when those
9 storms were coming in. It really helps us decide how far
10 forward we need to move. You know, an iPhone picture is worth
11 a thousand words, if we could see what those storms were doing
12 along the coast. So that's very helpful.

13 Just a couple of weeks ago -- and it's been --
14 there's been a news story about it almost every night, at least
15 on the Anchorage stations -- the Governor declared a disaster,
16 a state disaster, for the opioid epidemic in the state. Fairly
17 unusual, but the statutes do allow for that, if the
18 Commissioner of Health and Social Services and our Chief
19 Medical Officer, Dr. Butler, think that there's a threat of an
20 epidemic, where the -- the immediate threat of an epidemic or
21 there is an epidemic, that they can certify that to the
22 Governor and he can declare a disaster.

23 So we worked with the folks at the Department of
24 Law and Health and Social Services to put that together for
25 them. Really, the reason that they asked for that, that the

1 Chief Medical Officer asked for that, was he doesn't have
2 the -- he didn't have the ability to issue a statewide medical
3 directive, if you will, to allow the administration of
4 naloxone. Most people know it as Narcan. And as they're
5 working on legislation to change the statutes to allow some
6 broader powers for the Department of Health and Social
7 Services, they needed a way to do that now. This declaration
8 had nothing do with money, with state general fund dollars.
9 There was no money asked for from the State Disaster Relief
10 Fund. But it allowed them to waive some regulations or put in
11 some initial immediate orders to get the -- that Narcan -- or,
12 the naloxone, out to the communities to have it where it needs
13 to be based, if an opioid overdose.

14 So Department of Health and Social Services is
15 doing that. They've started up an Incident Management Team run
16 by the Chief Medical Officer and most of the Preparedness staff
17 in the Health Department, and they're working on that. There's
18 a whole bunch of facets. The declaration is on the Governor's
19 website, and they're issuing situation reports weekly. If
20 you're interested in those, we can put you in touch with the
21 folks over in Health that are doing that.

22 Fairly, fairly unique one, but we were -- we
23 were slightly involved, from the Operations Section, in
24 crafting the declarations, since that's what we do.

25 Outside of that, we're on the cusp, as always.

1 Had our spring meeting here on preparing to do our River Watch
2 Program -- that's our Aerial Surveillance Program -- with
3 partners in the communities along the river systems and the
4 National Weather Service, where we go out and fly low and slow,
5 primarily the Yukon and Kuskokwim River and any others that
6 might be threatened.

7 We haven't done our prognostication yet.
8 There's a bunch of factors that tell us whether it's going to
9 be a good or a bad year for breakup, and it's the amount of
10 snow in the basins, how thick the -- how thick the rivers
11 froze. A number of other things, the most important being how
12 fast it warms up in the state.

13 So if we have a nice gradual warmup to spring
14 and summer, we usually don't have a problem at all. There's
15 some minor flooding, and that's it. But if it goes from winter
16 temperatures to summer temperatures overnight, that's almost
17 always guaranteed we're going to have some level of ice jam
18 flooding on the major river systems.

19 So we are preparing to do that. We usually
20 launch that program the first week in May, towards the end of
21 the first week in May. Again, it depends on when the
22 temperatures warm up. But our staff will be out doing that.
23 And then we'll stand up the State EOC, if we need to, if
24 there's any catastrophic flooding.

25 In fact, just on a -- so that's what I had for

1 Operations. But with your permission, sir, just a couple of
2 other things.

3 I'm an ex officio member of the SERC Finance
4 Committee, so I represent our division with SERC Finance. And
5 it's important to us that you provide us written feedback on
6 what you think about the new share system and the new -- the
7 new mechanism for assessment.

8 I had some great conversations with Fairbanks
9 yesterday on how we came to the numbers that we did and what
10 tier the Fairbanks LEPC into.

11 So, like Abner said, it's a trial period for
12 this. There's certainly room to adjust this as we go on. And
13 I encourage you to put those things in writing, get them to our
14 staff, so we have those documented so we can go through. One
15 of the reasons we wanted to get this on paper is so now you
16 have something to come back and provide us feedback to.

17 As part of the Resiliency Workshop that we did
18 in Bethel, going back even a year or so before that, when
19 DEC-SPAR closed their Bethel office when Bethel Bob retired, we
20 have received a lot of feedback from both the City of Bethel
21 and communities in the Lower Kuskokwim Local Emergency Planning
22 District, the LEPD, and the Kuspuk LEPD, about the potential
23 for Donlin Gold Mine. The Corps had an Environmental Impact
24 Statement that was out for review and comment. And both our
25 division and DEC had received lots of feedback and concern

1 about all the bad stuff that's going to be transshipped through
2 Bethel and up the river systems, up to Donlin, if that -- if
3 all of that gets approved.

4 So between us and DEC-SPAR, we are exploring the
5 potential for looking to see if a Local Emergency Planning
6 Committee wants to be formed in the area. So there is a
7 district; there's a district; it's the Lower Kuskokwim
8 District. We've talked to the City of Bethel. There are many
9 options that could come to play here. We just don't know yet.
10 I just wanted to make an announcement about it here. We should
11 have more information for the next meeting in the fall. But
12 they could go the route like Nome did. They have an LEPC for
13 the city, really; it's not the entire Bering Strait LEPC. The
14 LEPC in the area doesn't cover the whole threat area for
15 shipping these hazardous materials. And EHS, there's a couple
16 that are involved there. It's all the unorganized borough, so
17 it's a little complicated on where we go. But I can tell you
18 that we, the division, and DEC-SPAR are very interested in
19 trying to help them have that voice. And, you know, we feel
20 that an LEPC is probably the way to do that if they're worried
21 about hazardous materials coming through their area. So more
22 to follow on that.

23 We're doing a bunch of research, trying to
24 figure out who could be -- who could run that, who could manage
25 that, if they're interested; and if so, we'll get a letter from

1 them, asking for support for that. And we would bring it to
2 the -- to you folks before the next meeting, before we went to
3 the SERC Finance Committee or anything.

4 The final thing I have is, while you were
5 here -- most of you were here at the Preparedness Conference --
6 this week, we also held a -- sponsored by the Alaska State
7 Troopers and Department of Defense, an Alaska Search and Rescue
8 Leaders Conference, Leadership Conference. It was a really
9 great meeting. I was down there most of the time.

10 There are a lot of issues in the search and
11 rescue community. I may have some folks come to the next
12 meeting. If you guys are interested in hearing about the
13 Alaska SAR-IMT, it's a multiagency, multijurisdiction Incident
14 Management Team specializing in search and rescue. That team
15 is made up of members from volunteer search and rescue
16 organizations, like the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group, the
17 SEADOGS. There are folks here in Anchorage, in Fairbanks, in
18 southeast and some out west that are part of that team, that
19 could be called to come in and assist your communities if
20 there's a large search and rescue operation. They're super
21 smart SAR guys, and they're qualified ICS. They come as a
22 whole Incident Management Team.

23 The other big topic that we talked about -- and
24 there's quite a bit of concern on behalf of the Alaska RCC,
25 which is the Air Force one here in Anchorage, and then the

1 Juneau RCC with the Coast Guard -- is the amount of medevacs
2 that the rescue folks are conducting for our communities
3 throughout the state. If there's life/limb/eyesight issue and
4 the air ambulance services cannot fly, usually due to weather
5 or it's nighttime, over -- for many, many years they hit the
6 easy button and called the Rescue Coordination Center, who then
7 makes the call whether it's worth it, or too risky or not, to
8 go launch a rescue aircraft to go do patient transport, a
9 regular air ambulance, or medevac services. And there are lots
10 of issues with that. It's the number one case that the Juneau
11 RCC does in a year is medevac, not SAR. It's not really their
12 job; they're not an air ambulance company, either the Air Force
13 or the Coast Guard or the Alaska Army Guard.

14 So a lot of conversations with the Health
15 Department on that. They're looking at ways to work with your
16 local clinics and the hospitals around the state, the few
17 Level 4 trauma centers and then the receiving hospitals in
18 Anchorage here, on trying to work that issue and get some
19 education out there, that you really can't just always hit the
20 easy button for that. So there will be more to come on that,
21 and you guys should be hearing that over your -- at least your
22 hospitals and clinics, should be hearing more about that as
23 Health -- the Health Department and the Alaska RCC and the
24 Juneau RCC puts some back sheets together, some forms that
25 might help the hospital staff work that on the RCC side.

1 And pending any questions, that's all I have,
2 sir. Thank you.

3 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you very much for the
4 update.

5 Any questions for Bryan?

6 (No audible response).

7 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: As a group, are we interested
8 in hearing more about the Alaska SAR-IMT, maybe at our next
9 meeting?

10 I saw heads nodding, as the -- so it looks like
11 there's some interest. So we would love to have that come back
12 as an item for a presentation.

13 MR. FISHER: You bet. We'll make that happen,
14 sir. Thank you.

15 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Great. Thank you.

16 MR. VADEN: Bryan, I really wanted to thank your
17 department for Karl Edwards. During the -- those two storms
18 that were back to back at the end of -- during the New Year's
19 holiday, Bryan was in constant contact with all the villages in
20 our region, back and forth, touching base, just more or less,
21 like, you know, we can't evacuate anybody right now; the winds
22 are blowing crazy. But, you know, keeping in touch and telling
23 everybody where they were, updating up and down the line. And
24 also really, you know, emphasizing -- he's like, maybe you
25 should get a SCERP going. And -- but I really appreciate the

1 effort he put into that during the holidays.

2 MR. FISHER: Thank you very much, sir. That's
3 what we do. We couldn't do it without folks like you,
4 Mr. Vaden, and all of you around there; you're our eyes and
5 ears out there. My staff is all the way down here. So thank
6 you for that.

7 I'm sorry. One more note for staffwise in the
8 Operations Section. I think I only have one here today, and
9 that's Greg Eubank. Greg is our communications technician. He
10 does all of our radio programming. He works with our folks in
11 the amateur radio world. And so I wanted to introduce him. I
12 lost Amanda Loach. She was in the Operations Section for the
13 last few years. She was our Liaison Officer for the EOC. She
14 did all of our inter-agency coordination for that. Proud to
15 say she got a promotion, so she's working somewhere else. I
16 think Kim might talk about that. So we have a vacancy right
17 now in the Operations Section. We're -- it's in the
18 recruitment process. We're going to do interviews in a couple
19 weeks for that particular position. But outside of that, the
20 Ops folks are the same. It's Karl and Kerry and Claude and
21 Mark and those folks.

22 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Other comments or questions for
23 Bryan? Last chance.

24 (No audible response).

25 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Very good. Thank you, sir.

1 PREPAREDNESS

2 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: That brings us to Preparedness.
3 Mr. Lafferty.

4 MR. LAFFERTY: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
5 committee members.

6 Jeff Lafferty, program manager for preparedness
7 for the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

8 It's been a good year for the Preparedness
9 Section. We've done a lot of things in each one of the
10 subsections within Preparedness: Exercise, Outreach; Training.

11 Today, unfortunately, I've only got one member
12 of my staff here: Michelle Torres, who coordinated this
13 conference, she's our Outreach Coordinator. Michelle's done a
14 fantastic job. I'm going to also speak more to some of the
15 things she's helped organize and coordinate and carry out in
16 the past year.

17 Additionally, I'd like to go ahead and mention
18 that I do have a robust staff now within the Preparedness
19 Section. Michelle came over from Plans. Also, I had Jared
20 Woody, who now works in Exercise; he came over from Plans, as
21 well. Everybody seems to be coming over our way. But we're
22 very grateful for that.

23 I will make note, most of you should already
24 know, Kathy Cavyell, who's the state's Lead Exercise Planner,
25 she'll be retiring next -- at the end of next March, I do

1 believe, so that's a big gap that will occur in Exercise.
2 However, we are planning ahead, because we know we have Alaska
3 Shield 2019 that will be occurring in that April of that -- of
4 the -- of the named year. So we have plans to go ahead and
5 have someone in place that will be able to help develop that
6 exercise, to make sure it carries out well when it does occur.

7 So I'll speak to Outreach first. One of the big
8 things that we -- we did a lot of things in Outreach. One of
9 the big things I'm very happy that we got to start was a CERT
10 program that was held at the Alaska Military Youth Academy.
11 And Dr. Jones, the Deputy Director there, had been in touch
12 with our leadership, asking if we could somehow incorporate
13 some kind of emergency management training into their
14 curriculum. CERT was the first thing that popped to mind.
15 Michelle, as the CERT instructor, in the month of -- this past
16 December, she went over and she instructed, I believe it was,
17 about 30 cadets in CERT.

18 Now, this is not designed for these young folk
19 to go back to their communities and actually be, you know,
20 directly involved in any kind of emergency event; however, it
21 gives them a knowledge of what's out there. One of the things
22 we were trying to do is, you know, help the folks over at AMYA,
23 you know, show these kids that there's other things out there;
24 there are career paths that they can follow, that are related
25 to emergency management; whether that's in the emergency

1 management field specific, fire, police. Because Michelle
2 brought in various speakers from different emergency response
3 groups to talk to these kids.

4 We think it was a resounding success, because
5 they want us to do it again. Michelle is in the process of
6 setting that up. As I said, the first time we did it at AMYA,
7 30 cadets. This next iteration, we are going to have about a
8 hundred cadets participating. That's how excited and
9 successful we were over at AMYA. So the Director and the
10 Deputy Director want us to come back and do this again.

11 Knowing that Michelle is the CERT instructor,
12 our goal is not to have her continually teach this; our goal is
13 to develop other CERT instructors, not only from our agency but
14 other agencies that could come in and do this. We want to have
15 this as a continuing program. We want to see it blossom. At
16 the same time, we want to create other CERT instructors to go
17 ahead and carry this program perhaps to other places in the
18 state.

19 Bryan and Mr. Sutton alluded to this already:
20 The Bethel Rural Resiliency Workshop. We did that back in
21 February. My section, Preparedness, we coordinated this first
22 iteration of the workshop. This second one -- and Kim will
23 speak more to this when she comes up to talk about Plans --
24 from here on out, Plans will take the lead in the Rural
25 Resiliency Workshops, while Preparedness will maintain control

1 of the conferences that are held every spring.

2 Great success, again. It was not the easiest
3 thing in the world to put on, this being the first one. We've
4 had a lot of lessons learned, but we feel it's a good success.
5 We had 23 attendees. This is not counting folks from agencies
6 that came to talk to the attendees, but we had 23 attendees
7 from 17 communities or regional entities within the Y-K Delta
8 region. We basically talked about -- we gave them an overview
9 of the ICS system. We spoke to them about the -- how to
10 develop SCERPs, the importance of SCERPs. Other agencies, such
11 as Health, Red Cross, National Guard, gave presentations on
12 what it is they do and what they can provide to communities in
13 an emergency event. We actually sat down and helped those
14 communities develop cursory SCERPs. The last day of the
15 workshop is devoted to doing a Tabletop Exercise, or a guided
16 discussion on how to exercise -- on how to exercise those
17 SCERPs. So it gave those communities an idea of what it is
18 they need to do, what -- why a SCERP is important to them, why
19 leadership is important to them in an emergency event, and we
20 walked through how a SCERP works. And, again, we feel it was a
21 success. The feedback we got from the participants was all
22 positive. They were very happy we came. And the best thing
23 is, they want to know more. That's always something that's
24 very good to hear.

25 Upcoming events in Outreach. The earthquake

1 simulator. And Bryan had mentioned we've had some changes and
2 shakeups within the division and reorganization. Up until
3 recently, the earthquake simulator fell under Preparedness.
4 That now falls under Plans, under Dan Belanger, who runs the
5 Tsunami and Earthquake Program over there. But we still work
6 closely with Dan in the (indiscernible) earthquake simulator.
7 And I can tell you we organized a trip, and we are calling it
8 Interior Tour with the earthquake simulator in May. We'll be
9 headed up to Healy, then up to Fairbanks, then over to North
10 Pole. It's about three days we'll be spending up there. We've
11 got six events planned within those three days. It's a very
12 busy schedule. But for those folks that are up in that neck of
13 the woods, you'll be seeing us there in May.

14 As far as training goes, Eva Edwards, who
15 unfortunately couldn't be here this week due to a family
16 emergency back in her hometown, has been a very busy person.
17 One of the biggest things is -- many of you know, that
18 participated yesterday -- we have our Multiyear Training and
19 Exercise Plan, MYTEP, which we revised. And we held our TEPW,
20 the workshop for the Training Plan, yesterday, so we've got a
21 lot of revisions to add to that.

22 I can tell you one of our major goals is to go
23 ahead and start building a cadre of regional instructors for
24 many different things, specifically for position-specific
25 trainings.

1 As budgets shrink, both on our -- the state's
2 side and on the federal side, it becomes more and more
3 difficult to bring instructors from the outside, or even move
4 instructors across the state, that are within the state, to go
5 instruct these courses.

6 So our long-term goal -- and this would be the
7 MYTEP, as the -- you'll see that when it's finally produced and
8 distributed -- our goal over the next three years is to
9 develop, start developing, this cadre of instructors, regional
10 instructors. That way we can cut down on travel costs, if
11 you've got some person within a community or a region, that
12 knows the culture in that region, that's capable of delivering
13 training.

14 I can tell you, one of the upcoming ones, we're
15 doing a Planning Section Chief Training right here in
16 Anchorage. That's going to be at the end of June, and that
17 will be followed up with a train the trainer course for that
18 same Planning Section Chief at the end of July, the beginning
19 of August.

20 We've got Logistics Sections Chief scheduled
21 towards the end of September, but at this time we're looking
22 for instructors. We've got instructors set up for the previous
23 two, but it looks like we may have to contract out for
24 Logistics Sections Chief Training. But that's -- if that's
25 what we have to do, that's what we have to do to get the

1 training delivered.

2 This concerns Exercise. Kathy Cavyell, she
3 couldn't be here today, unfortunately. Her group has been
4 busy, as well. One of the things that occurred last year was
5 the Arctic Chinook Exercise, which was in conjunction with the
6 Coast Guard and with DOD. That, the scenario there, for those
7 of you that don't know, was the cruise ship evacuation up in
8 the region of Kotzebue and Nome. Our division specifically
9 took the lead in helping Nome develop their portion of the
10 exercise, which was a Tabletop. Kotzebue did something a bit
11 more robust, and they worked in conjunction with Health. But
12 that was a good success, as well. The community learned a lot
13 from that. I think the higher agencies that were running
14 this -- DOD, Coast Guard -- they learned some lessons, as well.

15 This is something that Coast Guard, I think,
16 will continue with. We just found out a few weeks ago that
17 they're trying to do the same thing, this same year. They're
18 going to do a large-scale exercise later in the summer. But as
19 a pre-cursor to that, they want to do a Tabletop in St. Paul,
20 which is going to be -- occur at the beginning of May, to go
21 ahead and test a mass rescue operation there. So we've been
22 involved in that. We are sending a representative out. We are
23 going to -- if they need any assistance, we'll be able to
24 provide that to St. Paul.

25 What do we have coming up? We do have a lot of

1 exercises coming up. I can tell you right now, we re- -- just
2 back at the beginning of -- just a few weeks ago, we went ahead
3 and went to Delta Junction and assisted them in a TTX. Kathy
4 went up there to help them work out an (indiscernible) to help
5 them talk through some issues. And then we actually did the
6 TTX, which was part of the council meeting. A lot of folks
7 attended that. We were very pleased with the number of people
8 that showed up. We had 31 attendees, but we were only
9 expecting 15 to 20. We had a great representation from
10 Troopers, the local community, Red Cross. DOD had
11 representatives there. And this was all about -- it was a --
12 it was a bit of a haz-mat operation, as well. But it was a bus
13 crash, basically; and what would you do with a lot of
14 casualties within your community, take care of them, get them
15 evacuated. So that was Delta Junction.

16 Also -- and this was mentioned the last time we
17 came together, and I sort of alluded to this already -- the
18 Alaska Shield series has gone from a biannual exercise -- I
19 don't think that's the right phrase -- going from every two
20 years to every three years. So we are doing that in '19. We
21 did that for the specific purpose of giving the Exercise
22 Section the opportunity to work with local communities to help
23 them develop local exercises that test their plans. And that's
24 what we've been able to do this past year. Not only have we
25 worked with Delta Junction, with Nome, with some other

1 communities, but what we've got upcoming is, we have Denali
2 Commission Grant. We were tasked with helping three
3 communities -- Kivalina, Shaktoolik, and Shishmaref -- develop
4 some emergency plans for their communities. Also, to do TTXs,
5 Tabletop Exercises, for those three communities. So those are
6 upcoming. Very good working with those small communities,
7 helping them go ahead and plan ahead and be able to understand
8 what their plans do and how to effect them.

9 Other things upcoming, we have a Mat-Su
10 Talkeetna exercise coming up toward the end of this month.
11 We've got something called the ORCA full-scale exercise, which
12 is being -- it's being done by the 103rd CST, and it's an
13 Alaska haz-mat team, so it should be done right here. AFD,
14 Anchorage Fire, has the lead on that one. We have a -- we have
15 lots of small things that are going to be occurring over the
16 course of this coming year, so all my sections are extremely
17 busy, ranging from Outreach, Training, and Exercise.

18 So we feel we've done a good job, and we want to
19 continue doing that good job.

20 At this time that's all I have to report. If
21 there are any questions, I'd pleased to take them and try to
22 answer them.

23 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you very much.

24 And do we have any questions for Mr. Lafferty?

25 MR. JONES: Maybe it's not a question for you,

1 but maybe you can help me find the answer. But as you
2 mentioned about SCERPs, we've got SCERPs for all our little
3 communities in our borough. And I was looking at the state
4 site and whether it shows up there. How often does that get
5 updated? Because they're not on there.

6 MR. LAFFERTY: Your question is, how often does
7 the information on our website update as concerns -- as SCERPs?

8 MR. JONES: Yeah. You know, the list? There's
9 the list of all the communities that have their SCERPs.

10 MR. LAFFERTY: In truth, I can't answer that
11 question. Perhaps Kim would be able to speak more to that.
12 But I can tell you right now, we've had a couple of issues with
13 updating our website. There's some issues. And this is not
14 related specifically to within our division. There's just IT
15 issues throughout the state, with some firewalls.

16 MR. FISHER: Bryan Fisher. To answer that, like
17 Jeff just said, a couple things: We're short a webmaster for
18 our department, the Military and Veterans' Affairs Department,
19 so some of the -- some of the normal -- some of the normal
20 updates for our website, like a list, adding the list of
21 communities that have completed SCERPs, we're not getting it
22 done, because we don't have a webmaster right now. And there
23 are some other -- there are some other issues that Jeff alluded
24 to. Our statewide preparedness calendar, everything he just
25 briefed is there, every training that we're -- we know about.

1 And we're always doing all the exercises that we're conducting
2 or participating in.

3 But there's some issues with the way that that
4 shows up on my browsers. Doesn't work on Internet Explorer
5 right now. It's a webmaster thing. We're eagerly waiting for
6 our admin folks to hire a webmaster so we can fix some of those
7 things. But it will be updated as soon as we have a webmaster,
8 and they will actually -- can actually do that.

9 MR. JONES: Thank you. I figured it was an IT
10 thing.

11 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: All right. Thank you.

12 Any other questions?

13 (No audible response).

14 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Very good. Congratulations on
15 filling up your staff, even if it was at the expense of the
16 other sections. But you've got very good people, so.

17 MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 PLANNING

19 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: All right. That brings us to
20 Planning. Ms. Weibl.

21 MS. WEIBL: Good morning. Thank you,

22 Association and members.

23 I'm Kim Weibl. So I'm the Program Manager for
24 Planning, which is a change from the last meeting. And as
25 we've heard from some of the other members, there has been a

1 lot of staff change. So I will identify those kind of as I go
2 through.

3 So in our general planning, we have a new State
4 Lead Planner; that's Kevin Reeve. I'll have you stand. So you
5 guys will be working with them on general planning things.

6 The State EOP in 2018 will have a new Homeland
7 Security Annex, so we are working on that. And to kind of
8 answer your SCERP question a little bit more, I do have that
9 identified as one of the changes that I'm going to be sending
10 in, so you should see that list of SCERP things update. I
11 realize there's quite a few things on the website that aren't
12 correct right now. And as far as the Small Community Emergency
13 Response Plan, since we met last, we have three new plans and
14 we've had two that are updates, because we update them every
15 year. So for a total of 69 across the state. Then we have 45
16 communities that are actively working on Small Community Plans.
17 So that's quite a few.

18 So for the LEPC, kind of mentioned a minute ago,
19 we did visit Delta, Greely, and there was the haz-mat component
20 with that. So that's kind of a tie between the LEPC and the
21 HMEP grant, which is Hazardous Materials Environmental
22 Preparedness (sic). We have another one, kind of tentatively
23 scheduled, with Unalaska. So we are excited to get back to
24 work with Unalaska, to see if we can bring that same type of
25 training back to Unalaska.

1 The LEPC and the EMPG applications, as kind of
2 stated earlier this morning, we'll see those opportunities come
3 probably in the next few weeks through e-mails, so that you can
4 start to apply for those.

5 And going to the Threat and Hazard
6 Identification and Risk Assessment and the State Preparedness
7 Report, that goes along with the Alaska Assessment, which some
8 of the communities here, if you are an EMPG or Homeland
9 Security Grant Community, you're completing the Alaska
10 Assessment. So thank all of you who completed that in 2016.
11 We're using that information for the federal requirement that
12 we have for THIRA/SPR. So we completed that in December of
13 '16, and we have a visit from FEMA Region 10 coming at the end
14 of this month, to tell us how we did as a state, which will
15 give us an opportunity to update the THIRA/SPR in the following
16 year. So with the new grants coming out for EMPG and Homeland
17 Security, if you're one of those communities, you will see that
18 Alaska Assessment requirement kind of, again, to update that
19 Alaska Assessment.

20 So as you know, we have a new Resiliency Team.
21 Amanda Loach is the Lead for the Resiliency Team. I don't
22 believe she's here. I have not seen her. We also have Alex
23 Fonteyn in that. And we have one empty seat that we are hoping
24 to fill soon.

25 So I'm going to back up just a minute, because I

1 didn't introduce the new EMPG or LEPC coordinator, and that's
2 Kelly Isham. So you guys probably have been working a little
3 bit with him. He's been in that position, I think, for about
4 30 days, so you guys will be working with him, trying to
5 transition all of the stuff that Woody was doing, Tier II EMPG
6 and LEPC, to Kelly. So he will be your contact now.

7 So the Resiliency. Within Resiliency we have
8 APIP, or Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection.
9 Alex is kind of the lead for that. There are currently 285
10 members, over 93 organizations. And active participation in
11 meetings is about 50 each time. We're trying to increase that.
12 Deputy Director Sutton kind of talked about the public
13 partnership that we have, and we are trying to increase the
14 sectors that we have, bring some people in from Transportation,
15 that aren't there now, so that we can kind of grow our
16 capability with that group.

17 We do have monthly meetings, so May is the last
18 meeting of the year. In the last season, from October -- or,
19 September to May, we've had presentations on RRAP, or Regional
20 Resiliency Assessment Program, that came from Tom Wilder. We
21 also had some Tsunami Warning and Weather-Ready Program
22 discussions from Jeff Osiensky. And we also toured the Blood
23 Bank. And I think that the members enjoyed that, because they
24 actually get to see what is actually happening in the Blood
25 Bank. The tour was appreciated by members.

1 So future things that we have with APIP, there's
2 quite a few trainings. If you guys are interested, we can --
3 we can get the information out to you. In June there's a
4 QuakeSmart program training; there's also a Cybersecurity
5 Training. In September we have a Continuity/Devolution
6 Planning Workshop. And in September, a Water & Wastewater
7 Utility Disaster Training. I believe that's with the
8 Municipality of Anchorage. So that's some good opportunities,
9 that we're kind of pushing that information through APIP. But
10 if you guys are interested, you know, we can certainly get you
11 that information, as well.

12 So Deputy Director Sutton, Bryan, and Jeff have
13 kind of spoke about the Rural Resiliency Workshop in Bethel.
14 We are in the early planning with Kotzebue and the Northwest
15 Arctic borough for the next workshop. It will be --
16 tentatively we have it set for the first week in October. We
17 are working with them now to identify what kind of training the
18 communities in the borough would like, and then that will kind
19 of determine the agencies that are involved. So we are in
20 early coordination with that.

21 I'm going to move to Mitigation. We have a new
22 State Hazard Mitigation Officer, not a new person in the
23 division, but a new duty. His name is Brent Nichols. A lot of
24 you probably know Brent. So he is the lead in our Mitigation
25 Section. We also have several new people in Mitigation. A

1 gentleman by the name of Rick Dembroski is running the
2 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Section. And he has two current
3 projects right now under PDM: One in Skookum Creek for the
4 Alaska Railroad project; and then the 2016 application for PDM
5 is in review right now. In General Planning or Local Hazard
6 Mitigation Planning, we also have a new planner. His name is
7 George Grady. So lots of new people in the Planning Section
8 overall, and a lot of people new in Mitigation. So George is
9 currently working 17 new local mitigation plans throughout the
10 state and 28 updates, so that's a lot of ongoing work.

11 Additionally, we sent correspondence to 34
12 communities recently that have expired plans or plans that will
13 expire in 2017, encouraging them to either update their plan or
14 plan to update the plan if it's not already expired.

15 The State Hazard Mitigation Plan will be worked
16 on; the beginning work of that is happening now. The
17 promulgation will be in 2018, so we'll have a new State Hazard
18 Mitigation Plan. And George will be working on that, as well.

19 We have kind of a vacant position right now in
20 Mitigation with Brent moving to the Hazard Mitigation Officer.
21 That leaves the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program position not
22 really empty, because he is still doing that work, but we will
23 be hiring somebody to fill his position.

24 A couple projects that he's been working on:
25 One, with Angoon. It's -- extensions have been secured for

1 state and federal funding to allow front stabilization to go
2 forward. And then -- there are several, but I'll just give you
3 the next one -- is Newtok. They have a -- they have submitted
4 an application for a buyout rather than relocation of homes in
5 Mertarvik. So we are working that with the Denali Commission
6 and with the community actively.

7 So the last kind of section in Mitigation is Dan
8 Belanger. As stated earlier, he is the Tsunami/Earthquake
9 Program Manager. Lots of things going on in that program. He
10 is conducting a workshop in Homer, April 12th to the 14th.
11 There's another workshop in Anchorage, May 9 through 12. And
12 communities, we are certifying Cordova -- or, a recertification
13 for Cordova, during Salmon Fest in July. And Whittier's
14 planned kind of a certification in conjunction with that
15 Cordova trip, so they'll be doing both of those at the same
16 time.

17 Something for you guys to remember, we have lots
18 of new Outreach things that we've been producing. We will be
19 having some -- what look like fun; hopefully, useful to you
20 guys and to the communities -- playing cards that we are
21 expecting to be delivered soon. And they will be earthquake
22 tsunami playing cards, so they're kind of a fun card but a
23 teaching thing on them, as well. So that has been a
24 development for the last few months, where they should be
25 delivered to the division soon, and we'll get some of those out

1 to you guys and you can use them during your outreach events.

2 So barring any questions -- that's a lot of
3 information -- but if you have questions, we have to take
4 them.

5 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you for the update.

6 Any questions for Kim?

7 I see one down there.

8 MR. PASCHALL: Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely.
9 Is there a list of all of the material you have (indiscernible)
10 available somewhere? In other words, if I've got an event and
11 I want to look through what material you have. Because my
12 experience has been in the past, (indiscernible).

13 MS. WEIBL: Yeah. I don't know that we have a
14 list inventory.

15 MR. FISHER: Good morning. Bryan Fisher again.

16 So that is one of the taskings that I had given
17 to the Division, is to build a catalogue of all of the
18 materials we have, regardless of what the program is, whether
19 it's Jeff's folks in Outreach or Dan for the Tsunami,
20 Earthquake, and Volcano stuff. So one of their taskings for
21 this calendar year, at least, is to go back, catalogue, make
22 that available electronically, get it on our website when we
23 have a webmaster, and -- so you know what we have.

24 The second step to that is, I've asked all of
25 the sections to look at -- and probably working quite a bit

1 with the Municipality of Anchorage, thanks to Kevin -- is
2 looking at making some of our Preparedness material available
3 in other languages, so doing some translation stuff with a lot
4 of the things that we have produced internally. We don't have
5 that. A lot of the -- some of the Red Cross stuff and some of
6 the things in Anchorage, there is a lot of multilingual
7 Preparedness information out there. So that's my task to our
8 staff, as well. We don't have a lot of it from our agency, the
9 things that we produce. So there will be a catalogue coming,
10 of all of the things that we'll have available and we're going
11 to be working on, trying to do some multilingual brochures and
12 pamphlets (indiscernible).

13 MS. WEIBL: Thank you.

14 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Very good.

15 Other questions?

16 MR. MAKER: Jeff Maker, Kodiak.

17 Just one other thing. If you have any of that
18 material, that's in a printable format and that could be made
19 available as a download, too, that would be really helpful.
20 Save you guys a lot of money for sending me out a one-pager or
21 something that I can print off at the borough.

22 So thank you.

23 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: All right. Last chance for
24 questions for Kim.

25 (No audible response.)

1 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: All right. I don't see any
2 more.

3 Thank you, Kim.

4 MS. WEIBL: Thank you.

5 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: So we've been sitting here for
6 about an hour. We're at a good breaking point. We're going to
7 take about 15 minutes. Be back in your seats -- be back in
8 your seats by 9:15.

9 (A recess was taken.)

10 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: We'll get started here, if
11 everyone could make their way to their seats, please.

12 All right. Thank you, everyone, for coming
13 back. We'll call the meeting back to order.

14 LEPC VERBAL STATUS REPORTS

15 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: And we are on Item VI, LEPC
16 Verbal Status Reports. And I'm going to start over here on my
17 left with Scott Walden.

18 MR. WALDEN: Thank you.

19 KENAI PENINSULA LEPC - Scott Walden

20 MR. WALDEN: The LEPC continues to be very
21 active, and they have reviewed their desire for public
22 outreach. So you will hear about us out in the community a
23 whole lot more and probably coordinating for some of these
24 efforts that Kim was talking about just a little bit ago.

25 There's been various plan updates that we have

1 talked to the LEPC about, that are going to be into the
2 revision cycle this coming year. They'll be very active
3 throughout that process.

4 There are some new annexes being developed, that
5 they have suggested, and there is a small list of those that
6 we'll be working on together.

7 We have participated in some visits with DHS.
8 Kelly Isham has been down to the Peninsula, into some small
9 communities, talking about some emergency operation planning
10 and some other issues. He's done a great job, and the
11 communities enjoy having him show up. Nobody's afraid that
12 they have done something wrong. He does a great job of talking
13 with them, and they -- we've really enjoyed having those
14 meetings and moving forward on our emergency plans and meshing
15 them together over there.

16 We've, of course, been notified of a few events
17 in Cook Inlet lately, that are being dealt with by others.
18 We've had very much a small role in all of those notifications
19 that are sent to the stakeholders and have been keeping an eye
20 on those events since they've occurred. You've seen those in
21 the news.

22 There is a Marine Firefighting Training Program
23 that will be coming up here very soon. Both Chief Tucker of
24 Kenai and Chief Painter of Homer will be sending out notices
25 related to that. And that's a direct result of the Cook Inlet

1 Harbor Safety Committee working group on improving safety and
2 resources in Cook Inlet for the oil industry and other people
3 that do shipping. So that's a good opportunity for us to have
4 locally, even though everybody really does enjoy traveling to
5 Valdez and other places for that training, as well.

6 TEEX has asked us to participate and to sponsor
7 an Emergency EOC Cybersecurity Program between July and
8 December. We're still trying to see where that might fit on
9 the schedule. I was delayed in traffic yesterday and didn't
10 get to attend the scheduling part. So I'll maybe try to tail
11 that in on something that's already on the calendar, make it
12 another option of training available.

13 Our Emergency Medical Services working group out
14 of the borough, that was part of the assembly's Health Care
15 Task Force, has continued its work under the Mayor's office and
16 has just developed a possibility of a service area that will
17 provide emergency services initial response along the highway
18 corridor. Right now that's really unserved, because we had
19 a -- the service area system, it's very specific in their
20 boundaries when they're voted into place.

21 And the highway corridor is one of those things
22 that is just so heavily traveled in a community of tourism that
23 really doesn't have dedicated emergency services along the
24 corridors. We depend on the graciousness of communities, small
25 communities, to provide that service, and they are not part of

1 our service areas and have no tax base to operate under. So
2 you will be hearing more of the development of that in the very
3 near future. Hopefully, within the next few weeks there will
4 be a house bill that allows our local community to develop that
5 type of a service area. There are no voters in it. It depends
6 on existing funding that comes in through payment in lieu of
7 taxes and other things. So it's a good opportunity for us to
8 be able to minimize loss of life and help with property damages
9 along that unserved corridor.

10 Our office has postponed a lot things that we
11 had planned during this last quarter, the office of the LEPC.
12 We intended to have some ICS classes. We were going to do some
13 CERT Train-the-Trainer, as well as some in-the-school training
14 for graduating seniors.

15 I had one vacancy that developed in November.
16 Dan Nelson of my office, who was the Project Manager for most
17 of these things, went elsewhere for a good opportunity in
18 emergency management in the Lower 48. He has since -- since
19 I've been advertising this, he was one of the people that
20 actually applied for and they offered him that position back.
21 It's been improved to more of an administrative position, but
22 it will involve all of those same responsibilities, and he will
23 be back beginning May 1st. So we're going to try to cure that
24 backlog with training and get those all back on the schedule
25 and move it along and get the -- as much as we can into the

1 schools. Probably not this spring, but next fall, for semester
2 level -- a semester of classes that would help the senior class
3 have a good basic understanding of what a CERT Program is, have
4 that certification so when they go to college, they have that
5 on their resume and then they can participate as an
6 (indiscernible) on campus, assistance with citizen's response.

7 So that's our report. Thank you.

8 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, Scott.

9 And next we have -- I believe it was Heather.

10 Correct?

11 MS. SEEMANN: Yes. Heather Seemann, North Slope
12 Borough.

13 NORTH SLOPE LEPC - Heather Seemann

14 We've had, I believe, three meetings, one
15 unofficial, because we did not have a quorum at that particular
16 meeting, but then the two others. Some changes that have
17 occurred up there: We do have a new Vice Chair. It's Richard
18 Hennessy. He's been here earlier this week; he was unable to
19 be here today, unfortunately. And he is the Emergency Manager
20 and Trauma Coordinator from Samuelson Simmonds Memorial
21 Hospital up in Barrow, which is, as many of you, I'm sure,
22 know, is Utqiagvik. But I'm going to be referring to it as
23 borough -- Barrow today, since most days I can pronounce that
24 much more clearly. We do have a pending vacancy for our LEPC
25 secretary, and so we hopefully will be getting that resolved

1 here in the next few months.

2 Recently at our March meeting, which was our
3 last meeting, we did have a visit from the 103rd CST, which I'm
4 sure everybody else has gotten their e-mail with that request
5 on it. So they did travel up to Barrow, and they gave the
6 presentation, which was well received. Next week we expect a
7 visit from the Coast Guard to have some initial meetings
8 regarding the oil spill exercise that they have planned for
9 late summer of this year.

10 We have a lot of training in the works, most of
11 which, if you were at the afternoon Training and Exercise
12 Session, you heard Richard talk about as far as the ICS 300 and
13 400, and a variety of other classes that we will be hosting in
14 Barrow in preparation for our full-scale exercise. Operational
15 has moved up; that's scheduled to occur in early December of
16 this year. One of the training sessions that is coming up
17 fairly soon is for our Family Assistance Centers, just because
18 that's something that we really do need and that we have been
19 working hard to get so that we can make sure that we have
20 people that are up in our community that can set them up and
21 run them when necessary.

22 This past summer we had -- is it summer? I get
23 my seasons mixed up since it's always winter up there.

24 It was January of this year, I believe; we had
25 Kivgiq, which is a fairly special event. Typically does not

1 happen every year, but the North Slope Barrow -- borough mayor
2 did decide to go ahead and host a Kivgiq this year, where we
3 had a lot of incoming visitors from all of our villages for
4 this celebration. And so one of the things that we did, as the
5 LEPC, is that we discussed special event planning and how it
6 can be managed using our EOC at the appropriate level and also
7 just as contingency planning and -- and mitigation preparedness
8 for anything that might happen.

9 It was kind of hit or miss. Unfortunately, we
10 do not have an after-action report for that, but I will say
11 that the high school principal enthusiastically embraced the
12 program and definitely is interested in looking into doing
13 something more formalized in the future. Because just the
14 structure was very helpful, even if we couldn't get the rest of
15 the community to really buy into it. It did certainly lend
16 itself to a lot more organization.

17 We're in the process of reviewing and revising
18 our bylaws. In January, we did have the winter storm and
19 subsequent diesel fuel spill out in Kaktovik. That was
20 somewhere between four and 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The
21 North Slope Borough mayor and the assembly did declare it a
22 local disaster, and we're in the process of cleaning that up
23 and recovering from that incident. As far as the community,
24 they are doing very well, and everyone that had damage related
25 to that storm is in the process of having all of that repaired.

1 And our Public Works Department is working closely with Alaska
2 DEC in getting the fuel spill resolved.

3 This past November, Nuiqsut had a training that
4 was hosted by ConocoPhillips, and presented by Wild Well, in
5 preparation for their Putu 1 exploration well that was supposed
6 to be done sometime in the winter season; however, due to some
7 administrative issues, Putu 1 was canceled. They did not do
8 the drilling. But they certainly did support the village and
9 the training was very well received and it was a very good
10 training. And we would definitely recommend it to anybody who
11 has the opportunity to host it in their communities.

12 The Barrow City Council in December did
13 officially adopt North Slope Borough Local All-Hazard
14 Mitigation Plan. And so that's one down, seven to go. And so
15 we'll be making visits to the other seven -- well, the other
16 six villages -- and then Point Lay, to talk to their tribal
17 council's and city council, to adopt our All-Hazard Mitigation
18 Plan.

19 We're in the process of working with Kim down in
20 Anchorage for updating our EOP, and so we're just starting that
21 process; and fingers crossed on that.

22 I am still working on encouraging interest and
23 enthusiasm with our villages on developing SCERPs. It's kind
24 of a slow process. I've kind of come up with a -- what I've
25 termed my emergency management hopeful list. And anybody who

1 happens to make the mistake of showing any interest in
2 emergency management whatsoever, it's put on my hopeful list.
3 And it's kind of amazing, but there are people out there. I
4 have a law enforcement officer in the Village of Point Hope who
5 just finished the FEMA Professional Series and is planning to
6 attend the National Emergency Management Basic Academy in the
7 fall, and he's doing this all on his own without any outside --
8 and so he certainly is on my hopeful list.

9 And then I had a couple of residents, one from
10 Atqusuk and one from Point Hope, that called in to listen to
11 our last LEPC meeting in March, which it was just kind of one
12 of those things that they saw the announcement go out and
13 didn't have anything else better to do that day, so they called
14 in. And so they're now on the hopeful list. And I'm hoping to
15 get them to show some more interest, and that way we can start
16 bringing in some of our outlying villages that we don't really
17 have any representation for, at least formally.

18 This summer we are still working with ARIES,
19 which is the Applied Research in Environmental Sciences group,
20 and Anne Garland. And we are planning on hosting a summer
21 camp. We didn't get a lot of participation the last few years,
22 from what I understand, and so I've gone ahead and then started
23 looking into presenting the CERT program for at least the
24 high-school-age students. And it would certainly be set
25 something different for the elementary and middle school

1 students.

2 This year I'm not going to be able to have
3 everything that I need to be able to host the formal CERT
4 class, so we're going to kind of call it an unofficial but
5 includes all of the components, but it's not going to be one
6 that you get a certificate at the end. But I'm hoping for the
7 2018 summer camp that we will be able to offer an actual CERT
8 course. And I've targeted the local Girl Scout troop up there,
9 just because it would be a group, a cohesive group, for
10 participation. And one of the -- one of the things that I'm
11 going to present is that there are quite a number of badges
12 that can be earned with doing the things in the CERT class. So
13 it's like, not only do you get this, but you can get more
14 badges, too. And so I'm hoping to be able to sell it to them
15 that way and have -- have buy-in.

16 And then some of the other things that we're
17 doing with Anne and ARIES is the Coastal Erosion and Berm
18 studies, and working with the planned webinars with our
19 emergency (indiscernible) management counterparts in Canada,
20 Greenland, and possibly Russia, for information sharing, and
21 some of that Arctic issues that we're seeing, not just here in
22 Alaska, but around the world.

23 And then the last thing that I have is that I
24 just recently found out that Barrow will be hosting the 2018
25 Inuit Circumpolar Council's General Assembly in July of 2018.

1 And it was quite a while ago; it was the first time that I was
2 up there. In 2006, I remember, that we hosted the Circumpolar
3 Council. This is a big deal, and there are a lot -- we thought
4 Kivgiq was big, with a thousand people coming in. This is, we
5 double our population for about a week, with different groups
6 from all over the world. And so this is something that our
7 LEPC is going to need to start planning for yesterday. And so
8 we'll keep you posted on how that goes.

9 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thanks, Heather. Sounds like
10 you're staying pretty busy, so good luck with all that.

11 Move on to Jack.

12 KODIAK ISLAND LEPC - Jack Maker

13 MR. MAKER: Jack Maker, Kodiak.

14 Our LEPC hasn't necessarily been too active
15 lately. Staff -- city and borough staff have kind of picked up
16 the slack. We've had -- our last three meeting attempts were
17 canceled due to lack of quorum. And when I -- it isn't a lack
18 of people showing up for meetings. We've still have 20, 25
19 people show up at a meeting. But I don't have the voting
20 members for a quorum. And the issue is too many primary
21 members without alternates. So I'm revamping of our roster
22 right now. Rather than have two elected officials, both are
23 mayors, one's going to be the primary, one's going to be the
24 alternate. Same with our city fire chief, our borough fire
25 chief, that type of thing. Just double up those positions and

1 try to get alternates for those that I can't double up. And
2 that will cure it right there. Because I'm always, like, one
3 or two away, and it's really frustrating. So we will be
4 resolving that through changes to the rosters and more
5 alternates.

6 I do have a little bit of an elected official
7 issue right now, and I'll kind of leave it at that. We're
8 intending to handle that through training. And the director
9 has promised me that he will come up and set them straight, if
10 nothing else. So we'll be working on that.

11 We've had a lot of city and borough staff
12 turnovers, including both managers. The outgoing managers both
13 had Incident Commander Training. Both Finance Directors, one
14 of those had Finance Section Chief Training. And our Community
15 Development Director, our Code Enforcement Officer left, and
16 had a turnover. He was our other Planning Section Chief. So
17 basically we're down to two with IC training, Incident
18 Commander Training, and that's our Fire Chief and Police Chief,
19 that won't typically be in that position in the IMT. One
20 Planning Section Chief, one Logistics Section Chief, and I do
21 have a Situation Unit Leader, that they're all trained in those
22 levels. That's it for our entire IMT.

23 You know, we were complaining about not having
24 depth before; we're kind of looking at -- you know, we have to
25 draw whoever we can in, if we do have an incident. And, you

1 know, we're relying on some people with no training; some with
2 one, two, seven, eight; and a few with three and four. So
3 we're really working on -- we're going to have an ICS 300/400
4 course. Although, I'm going to have to look at that when we
5 get back, because we are teaching the course and we have about
6 five Coast Guard personnel that are coming into that course.
7 And now our course does not satisfy their requirements, so we
8 might be scrambling to get a few more people qualified so that
9 we can hold those courses. And I'll be looking at getting
10 people up to speed on prerequisites for certain Section Chief
11 Training. I do have somebody that's ready for PIO training,
12 and she's going to be great.

13 And also due to that, due to not having the
14 trained people, we really need to step up our Incident
15 Management Team exercises, be they Tabletops or guided
16 discussions. And I'll be working with DHS&EM on getting some
17 templates for some exercises, and working more closely with our
18 Fire Chief. We're a city, separate city, home-rule city within
19 a second-class borough, and it gets really messed up. Our
20 stuff is spread all over. So our Fire Chief really handles all
21 the training, and I am going to have to get more involved,
22 because he is stretched thin, although I am, too. But we can
23 work together a little better on that, I think.

24 As far as one of the things that's happened
25 recently, is the Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys

1 has completed new tsunami mapping of the entire borough and the
2 entire island. Since our original: If you're above 100 feet,
3 you're safe, tsunami-ready community, all our signs around the
4 place for years and years and years. Well, they've collected a
5 lot more data with what's happened in Japan, the Philippines,
6 and whatnot, and they have compiled all that data, along with
7 from the '64 event. And they have included hydrology and all
8 these other things that weren't included in that hundred-foot
9 mindset that we have in Kodiak. And there are certain areas
10 where it's more than a hundred feet. In one of the areas, it
11 actually goes up past our current city fire station to the old
12 library, where they were going to build a new fire station. So
13 these are in their draft state right now. They should be
14 adopted by the end of the year.

15 So we're going to have to reevaluate the -- our
16 evacuation map. We're going to have to look at -- you know,
17 from a hazard mitigation standpoint, it certainly isn't smart
18 to put your new fire station within your inundation zone. So
19 it's going to take a lot of effort from staff. And it's going
20 to take a lot of outreach to break that "Oh, I'm 100-foot; I'm
21 safe" mindset. It's going to be a big change for Kodiak. The
22 real good thing that came out of this is -- is I have tsunami
23 inundation maps for our five outlying villages that are off the
24 road system. We've didn't have that before. Including our --
25 not villages, they're kind of villages; they're on the road

1 system: Chiniak, Pasagshak, and all our bays. And, you know,
2 we'll be able to get that information out and get tsunami
3 inundation maps for Womens Bay updated. We're also in the
4 process of replacing our library in Chiniak. That was burnt
5 down in the fire in 2015. And that will also be designed as
6 our tsunami shelter for the Chiniak community, which is about
7 30 miles out the road system.

8 We're gearing up for our Crab Fest Outreach
9 booth, which seems to be a little more successful every year.
10 Not as successful as when we had the earthquake simulator
11 there, naturally. But the key we found is interactivity: What
12 can we do to get the kids in there? I'll say Red Cross sends
13 over some pretty attractive volunteers that seem to gather up
14 that twenty-something-year-old male crowd, which is something
15 we -- we have -- actually, last year was amazing.

16 But we borrowed -- was it Fairbanks' or Mat-Su's
17 disaster trivia game, the Applico game, and that was a start.
18 That got the kids in there, got them interested, seeing the
19 videos we had. We have expanded that. I've ordered the
20 Applico board. I've ordered the new tent, after our tent
21 disaster last year, which I won't go into again, as well as a
22 big spinning wheel, three-foot, high-quality spinning wheel,
23 the Wheel of Misfortune trivia game. So we'll have two things
24 running there, as well as I've got a box of materials that were
25 out there, outreach materials. I do that every year. I've got

1 a pretty good supply, but I'm always looking for new things.
2 So that's what we're gearing up for now. And I will have a
3 meeting, one way or another, to get that done.

4 As far as Small Community Emergency Response
5 Plans, I think three of our outlying -- our five outlying
6 villages have those, and I'm working with a fourth right now,
7 and have provided all them -- them their information to Port
8 Lions. They should be in contact very shortly. Gave them a
9 copy of Old Harbors as an example, and it was exactly what they
10 were looking for. That's a great format. Sometimes I wish we
11 could use it for all of Kodiak, because it's so much simpler.

12 And that is about all that I can think of off
13 the top of my head right now. Thank you.

14 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thanks, Jack.

15 Move on to Kevin.

16 ANCHORAGE LEPC - Kevin Spillers

17 MR. SPILLERS: Kevin Spillers, Anchorage.

18 Just briefly here. Julie Harvey, formerly of
19 the Homeland Security and Emergency Management, is my Outreach
20 and Education person in Public Information. She does a lot of
21 the -- puts together material we use for public information and
22 education. FEMA has a catalogue, if you will, if you're
23 looking to shop for stuff. They've got a good catalogue, and
24 we use a lot of their stuff.

25 The other thing we've do is we scour the

1 country, looking for what other people have done, and we rip it
2 off. And what we've found out is, some people aren't okay with
3 that. So what I would caution is that if you're going to use
4 somebody's stuff, contact them and let them know you're going
5 to do that. And we do that. We take stuff that looks good,
6 and then we modify it and we want to modify it to meet our
7 needs.

8 A recent example here is New York City Emergency
9 Management has some cool stuff, and we wanted to use it. And
10 so Julie was smart enough to contact them, and, yeah, they have
11 a legal agreement. And so we did; we got a copy of their legal
12 agreement and washed it through our Legal Department, and it
13 works. And so now we can modify their stuff, and there are
14 some provisions for that. Feel free, if you want to use any of
15 our stuff, go ahead. I mean, there is no pride of authorship
16 with us.

17 But I would recommend, give Julie a call first,
18 because we may have ripped it off from someone else and
19 modified it. And then if you take it and do it and use it,
20 there's a risk there. So give us a call. Feel free to use it.
21 And kind of -- that's the way we look at it, is if we can help
22 you as a group here, as the LEPCAs, if there's any stuff I
23 have, you want to use, feel free to do it. Let us know, and we
24 can tell you, you know, if it's -- give you our take on how
25 good it is or isn't, or other stuff we may have used, on how

1 good it is or isn't.

2 This is kind of a year of lessons learned for
3 us. If you're getting ready to write a COOP plan, an EOP, or
4 some sort of an SOP for your EOC, if you're interested, I can
5 give you some lessons learned on that. Particularly in writing
6 plans, one of the things, big lessons learned is, particularly
7 if you're going to use contractors, is your plan has to be
8 exercisable. So as you write a section in your plan, before
9 you carve it in stone, say, okay, now how am I going to test or
10 evaluate this? And if you struggle to do that, then that may
11 change the way you approach it, in terms of formatting and some
12 of your content, and may drive you in another direction.
13 Because if you can't do that easily, then when it comes to
14 pulling it off the shelf and using it, it becomes "use-less."

15 And that's what we found working with some of
16 our different entities in the city, utilities and things like
17 that. Had great plans written by contractors, but that's what
18 they do. Contractor has written plans for other places, and
19 they just pull it off, plop it in there. And if you don't
20 understand what that is or how to test it, I don't think you're
21 going to get what you need. So if you want some lessons
22 learned on that, let me know.

23 We wrote -- we've do most of our stuff in-house.
24 We have used contractors. We're generally happy with what we
25 got from them, but it's got our thumbprint on it, our stamp.

1 We do most of the stuff, or in-house.

2 The federal guidelines out there, too, if you
3 want some lessons learned on using the federal guidelines, the
4 planning guidelines, let me know. I'll be glad to talk to you
5 about that. They have -- they're written at the aca- -- from
6 an academic point of view, as if you were going to teach a
7 class, and not an operational point of view. That's neither
8 good nor bad; it's just you got to know that.

9 So if you're trying to use a template, what
10 you're going to come up with may or may not be useful to you,
11 so you may want to modify that. And they'll tell you that in
12 there, but there are some steps I can -- I think I can help you
13 save -- save you some steps if you're going to go through this
14 elaborate process of identifying Mission Essential Functions
15 and things like that. It's good information, and you need to
16 be familiar with how the feds say to do it. But, you know, you
17 need to be able to tailor it down, so I've got some lessons
18 learned on that.

19 I'll pass this around. Julie's put this
20 together. It's an example of one of our outreach products.
21 This will go in the newspaper, the Anchorage Daily News. It's
22 a spadea, they call it. There's a back and a front. And
23 there's four -- you look at this, it's, well, four pages; well,
24 it's a back and a front for the front part of the paper, and a
25 back and a front for the back part.

1 This is the fire season coming up, so we have --
2 our focus is on pre-fire season here.

3 So I'll pass that around. Once again, feel free
4 to use it, or any stuff like that you have.

5 In terms of planning or other kinds of planning
6 or working with agencies, I attended the -- part of that SAR
7 conference with Bryan. It was -- it was really interesting.
8 Yeah, there were some really interesting parts there. Once
9 again, it looks good on paper, but can you actually pull this
10 off if you're -- if you have to go do something? The
11 conference was primarily for the tactical-level kind of guys
12 that actually go out and pull people out of the water and those
13 sorts of things. And some of their insights and lessons were
14 pretty interesting, so I think it would be great to have them
15 come in and talk to you about that.

16 DJ, Dexter Jargene (ph), he's now, I believe, on
17 active duty, National Guard. We talked with him last week. In
18 his organization, they've got a -- let me see, I got it here.
19 It's a -- organize militia support to civil authorities. And
20 what this is, is, it's a brief. And it's a -- basically, a
21 menu of missions they can do. In other words, if you have an
22 incident and you need support for a particular capability,
23 they've got this list of capabilities, and they brief it. So
24 we're going to sit down with them next week and walk through
25 wildfire: Here's what we can do for you for a wildfire.

1 And the idea here is to see if there are any
2 seams, capability seams or gaps that we might have, that they
3 can either fill or develop that capability to help us fill. So
4 I can give you some feedback on that. So we're pretty excited
5 about doing that. It was a very well put together program, as
6 you look at it, so we're looking forward to going through that
7 with them over time.

8 That's all I have right now. Thanks.

9 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, Kevin.

10 Move on to Sandy.

11 PETERSBURG LEPC - Sandy Dixon

12 MS. DIXON: Sandy Dixon, Petersburg LEPC.

13 We've been trying to recruit for a couple of
14 open seats, so we've had conversation with some potential new
15 committee members to fill those vacancies. Right now their
16 organizations aren't that excited about letting them leave to
17 attend the meetings or participate with activities, so we're
18 working on that. Attended an oil spill response presentation
19 and participated in a response demonstration. And that was a
20 Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program through DEC.

21 We've been working on our Emergency Operation
22 Plan still, trying to convert it from a Disaster Response Plan
23 to an Emergency Operation Plan. We brought Al Stevens in from
24 Sitka, who was instrumental in their plan writing. We have
25 obtained a few plans from some other people, trying to figure

1 out their template and what would work best for Petersburg. So
2 we're still struggling with that. As a result of that, we've
3 met with officials, including a borough assembly member, Public
4 Works Director, Power & Light employee, Public Health nurse,
5 Petersburg Medical Center Emergency Preparedness Coordinator,
6 Department of Transportation, the Airport Manager in
7 Petersburg, U.S. Forest Service District Ranger, Fire Chief,
8 the Fire Marshal, all regarding updates to the EOP and trying
9 to outline emergency situations that we may encounter in
10 Petersburg. What roles they would play, what role they expect
11 us to play for them. We've worked with a mapping technician
12 for local maps to incorporate into the EOP. So I think
13 eventually it's just going to be putting it all together and
14 making it a usable plan; and then, like Kevin talked about,
15 something that we can exercise and test.

16 We've received Emergency Operation Plans from
17 the local hospital, the schools, and the Public Health Center.
18 We have received letters of agreement from -- or, entered into
19 letters of agreement from DOT, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Forest
20 Service, Petersburg Medical Center, Temsco Helicopters, and
21 Pacific Wing for use of their communication systems in the
22 event of an emergency.

23 Attended a school -- Petersburg School District
24 crisis response meeting. We've participated in the Harbor
25 Security Tabletop Exercise. And then we've done some

1 preparedness information distribution at a community breakfast,
2 sponsored by Petersburg fisheries and two of the grocery
3 stores, in order to benefit the fire department. So it was a
4 great opportunity to distribute preparedness materials.

5 We advertised for Tier II information and have
6 been collecting that, as many of you have, I'm sure. And we
7 tested the CodeRED system and monitored local radio station in
8 anticipation of receiving an Emergency Alert System
9 notification for the statewide "Chill, It's a Drill" exercise.

10 That's all.

11 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, Sandy.

12 Move on to Steve.

13 BRISTOL BAY LEPC - Steve Jones

14 MR. JONES: Steve Jones, Bristol Bay LEPC.

15 Well, since our last meeting we, at the borough,
16 have updated our EOP. And we have also created a Haz-Mat
17 Committee to kind of review hazards in their community.
18 Because even though we do get some Tier II reporting, we know
19 it's not completely everything that's in the community. So
20 there is some mechanism to try and encourage more participation
21 in Tier II's.

22 And then we've met our membership goal, but we
23 still keep trying to reach out to entities that we feel have
24 more to offer, such as Park Service and Fish & Wildlife. And
25 we need to replace our Trooper position, because they kind of

1 rotate, you know, pretty often, so. Anyway, so that's on that
2 level.

3 And we've started doing an inventory of our
4 response equipment in the area. And as far as preparedness,
5 we've been focusing on school safety and doing some activities
6 with the school district. Because they -- they're pretty
7 excited about it right now, so we want to keep them involved.

8 And then on the Outreach, we've been continuing
9 to be present in all the winter festivities, our Fishtivals, or
10 those type of community events, where we can be seen by more
11 people.

12 I've even tried to get our LEPC to get us one of
13 them mascots. What's FEMA? The -- what is it? A cougar? Or
14 something.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Everybody asks us for
16 that.

17 MR. JONES: And then other activities, we have a
18 local Civil Air Patrol -- wing? I guess, yeah -- that we've
19 been contacting to try and get them, you know, more involved
20 with the LEPC side of doing things jointly.

21 And then we also have a Southwest Alaska
22 Vocational Center that does training, so we'd like to develop
23 more training, even in ICS Series stuff, that they could offer,
24 that even our local emergency people could just get the
25 training there. In fact, Kelly's dad does the HAZWOPER

1 training out there several times a year. Isham, yeah.

2 And let's see. We just had a training with DOT
3 on a plane crash, just a small -- well, small to the big
4 cities, but it -- the 32-passenger. It should -- just to show
5 ourselves how -- how massive even just that small of an
6 aircraft would be for our communities. That was eye-opening
7 for some of our responders. And we made it so that we didn't
8 let any of our responders know ahead of time, except we just
9 gave them a week. We said, "Sometime this week, there's going
10 to be training." And so we toned it out like a regular
11 emergency, to see who actually would come. And sure enough,
12 there was only five or seven people that showed up. So we had
13 to deal with what we had, so that was exciting.

14 And then the borough is working on developing
15 the GIS mapping system. And this is going to be a really big
16 project for us: Implementing an addressing system.

17 And the -- what's this say right here?

18 Oh. And with that, obviously, is the wish list
19 that we'd have computers on our emergency apparatus that can
20 access the database on those GIS mapping, at least for the
21 hazardous materials, at locations that we respond to.

22 And that's -- oh, and another positive thing is
23 that we see a lot more buy-in from our -- the borough
24 policymakers, because they've actually paid to send out three
25 people to this conference this week. And there's a couple of

1 them here. And so just -- so seeing that they were interested
2 in helping to pay for other people to come out to the
3 conference shows us that they're -- everybody's starting to
4 work together.

5 So that's all I have.

6 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you very much for the
7 information.

8 And Michelle.

9 JUNEAU LEPC - Michelle Brown

10 MS. BROWN: Michelle Brown, from the City and
11 Borough of Juneau LEPC.

12 For years -- for years we have had the alternate
13 position for each position, so we have 11 primary seats and 11
14 alternate seats. And our bylaws recommend that both seats come
15 because each person has a different specialty, even though it
16 still lives, they have different things that they have
17 experienced and can bring to the table. So they can't always
18 all make it, but we do have a robust group that always comes.

19 And also from the community seats that rotate
20 often, people that rotate often through their job, employer,
21 organization, they come. And basically when they rotate, their
22 organization has a design that even though they're not a seat,
23 they still have a position to just come. So it's -- helps us
24 have a real full room and a diverse population, special
25 interests. So that's really helped us a lot.

1 In CERT, we learned the importance of having
2 additional leadership and trainers, because our main organizer,
3 who's been really good in growing it over the last few years,
4 has married and had a baby; and all of the dramas of life came
5 into that. And so it's really pushed back the CERT Program
6 from being quite as active as it was. And so we're starting to
7 build new Train-the-Trainers and things like new trainers
8 through the Train-the-Trainer Program. So that's starting to
9 come back around, and that is good because the community really
10 enjoys that.

11 Recently the LEPC was part of an organized
12 training of ICS, because we ask our LEPC members to be ICS
13 intelligent. And in order to do the 300, you need to do 100,
14 200, 700, 800. They're the prequals for it. And they all have
15 jobs, and they all have desks that they sit in. And it's
16 really hard to try and stick to it with the programs on the
17 computer. And some people, like me, I have no Internet
18 capabilities, nor can I get them at my house. So for me to do
19 those things would be after work or at the library or something
20 like that.

21 So what we did is we did four different
22 offerings that taught all of those four courses and got a lot
23 of people involved and prequalified. So that when we did our
24 one, 300 course, we had a full room, which is a lot better a
25 300 course with a lot more input from people in different

1 arenas. So that worked for us very well.

2 We did have to ask them to bring computers to
3 the rooms, because those are computerized courses, so that they
4 could all get their certification. But we whipped through that
5 100, 200, 700, 800, so that they could all do that 300 when it
6 came. And it worked really well.

7 Earlier -- well, later last year, we partnered
8 with Public Health to offer a flu shot to the public. It also
9 fulfilled their POD exercise requirement, so they're a great
10 partner for that kind of thing. And it got our community flu
11 shots done. So we did some advertising for them. And also our
12 LEPC members were there to help guide people through the
13 process.

14 During the process we had someone kind of
15 panicky about getting shots stand up and go down and bump their
16 head on the table. But we had to call CCF/R, our fire station,
17 to come out. And so we got kind of a double exercise out of
18 that. But we learned that we were prepared; that the things
19 that we have in our plan to do that POD really did work; and
20 that we were able to keep the flow going, not have anybody
21 panic. We knew we had to stage somebody outside. So that --
22 that was -- ended up being really a good test of that.

23 We are in the middle of our All-Hazard Plan
24 redo, update. And the LEPC is heavily involved in that. We
25 took thumb drives and made copies of it and assigned it to the

1 group. Everybody is reviewing it. But there's some people
2 that are reviewing special parts of it and some people that are
3 reviewing all of it. But that way, they can put their ideas on
4 the thumb drive, give us back the thumb drive. And then we can
5 take it and copy it into the -- into the new one, tweak it as
6 needed. So that is in the process of being done.

7 Our mayor has made it a priority to try and help
8 some of the people that live on the streets no longer live on
9 the sidewalks. We're a rainforest. And in downtown Juneau,
10 there's overhangs for all of the businesses up and down the
11 street. And during the wintertime, those areas get populated
12 by our homeless population heavily. And it becomes
13 uncomfortable and unsanitary for the general public to be able
14 to walk those sidewalks. You end up going out in the street to
15 go around these little clusters of people and stuff like that.

16 And so that caused some split in our community
17 with people who are, "Mean, bad city, kicking people, you know,
18 that don't have a home anyway," you know; and then the other
19 people saying, you know, "Oh, good, cleaning up the streets and
20 trying to help." And we're caught in the middle of this,
21 trying to do that. So we are developing, and the LEPC is
22 helping with this, a warming center concept, which is new to
23 our community. Anchorage has an active one here; Fairbanks has
24 an active one there.

25 So we had a soft opening, where we had

1 volunteers from the Red Cross -- and it doesn't fit into their
2 priority, so they had to be volunteers not associated with the
3 Red Cross, that are -- were trained in shelter. So anyway, we
4 helped, and then members of the LEPC also helped. And the
5 Salvation Army stood up and said, "We will allow our facility
6 to be the place, and we'll have it staffed with at least one
7 person." It worked pretty well, but we had a lot of lessons
8 learned in that. To even have it open one time during the
9 year, for five days, was more than the staff at the -- that is
10 there could handle. So we need to get a few people trained to
11 be staff at those, because they need to be open more often than
12 just five days. But we're getting there.

13 We have an upcoming preparedness event for 2017.
14 That will be in September. It's in the throes right now of
15 being planned. And one thing we found with the earthquake
16 simulator is that if you get something new, interesting, and
17 very hands-on, people will come. They want to do things that
18 they enjoy; that they laugh through; that, you know, they can
19 participate together with their family. And so we're trying to
20 work in that kind of an idea.

21 And then this comes from a conversation that I
22 heard down there about exercising your plan if you have an
23 outside contractor. Super important. And so when we have an
24 outside contractor to help -- we don't always do it -- but when
25 we have an outside contractor to build a plan, or even when

1 it's internal, and we're asking for funding for that project,
2 as we go out to procurement, we build in the requirement that
3 there be anywhere from one exercise at the end, depending on
4 how complex it is, to four exercises throughout. Write into
5 the funding for it so that the exercises are part of the
6 procurement right from the very beginning. And that has helped
7 us have a much -- much more valid plans when they're finished.

8 And partners. Partners are so great. We've got
9 Coast Guard, Red Cross, the school districts. One that was
10 hard to get for us was tribal buy-in. And at one point, we
11 finally got invited to do a table at one of their events, which
12 we gladly took up. After that, they asked us to speak. Now
13 they ask us to speak and do tables at different events. And
14 now they're actually interested in helping us with our
15 mitigation plans and things like that. So it was kind of a
16 back-door route, but it really has worked. So don't give up on
17 your tribal entities.

18 That's all.

19 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, Michelle.

20 Before we move on to Doug, I just want to
21 mention, we're getting close to an hour that we've been going
22 here. We are time-constrained, because there is the SERC
23 meeting this afternoon, and I intend to be done by noon,
24 because I'm not going to skip lunch. So we're going to keep
25 going around the table.

1 People at the table and in the audience, if you
2 need to get up and use the bathroom, please, you know, step out
3 and just coming right back. But we're going to keep moving
4 through. And then if the members at the table, just try to --
5 I don't want to cut off your conversation, because we get such
6 good information out of this, but please keep that in mind as
7 you go along. We do have about an hour of new business
8 presentations coming up, after we get through comments.

9 So we'll go on to Doug.

10 Thank you.

11 WRANGELL LEPC - Doug McCloskey

12 MR. McCLOSKEY: Doug McCloskey, City and Borough
13 of Wrangell LEPC.

14 I'll try and keep it short. We have -- Jamie
15 Roberts is the manager, and she's accomplished the Tier II
16 business and site map updates for the year. She continues to
17 work with all of the different agencies that have emergency
18 plans, to try and coordinate them somewhat. Because what we're
19 finding is, is everybody in town is using the same resources.
20 And quite frequently they're all going to be busy doing
21 something else. So it's -- we're trying to get some
22 coordination involved to that.

23 Getting real close to getting our CERT finished.
24 We expect to have that sometime early May, late May, something
25 like that, be completed.

1 We had CodeRED notification for a few years.
2 That's kind of fallen by the wayside due to the cost and
3 whatnot involved with it, so we're trying to figure out another
4 communitywide system for mass notifications.

5 The City of Wrangell has developed a marine
6 repair facility. And one of the issues that's becoming real
7 apparent is there's a big difference between emergency response
8 to a large boat sitting on dry land versus one in the water, so
9 that's creating some issues, as far as fire and other emergency
10 response. So we're working through that and trying to come up
11 with a -- some training and plan for dealing with those issues.

12 The LEPC, we're short members. Lost another one
13 here just recently due to her retirement, but she's working on
14 that. And she's also putting together -- we call them totes,
15 but basically a box with all of the required or needed supplies
16 for each ICS position for an emergency, so you have enough
17 stuff to get going.

18 And currently reviewing the Wrangell Mitigation
19 Plan.

20 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Very good. Thank you, Doug.

21 We'll move to Chris.

22 DENALI LEPC - Chris Noel

23 MR. NOEL: Chris Noel, Denali LEPC.

24 So there's a few highlights from our last year
25 up the highway there. We are -- and it's really interesting

1 hearing from all the communities, because there are so many
2 common themes amongst everybody here.

3 So a highlight is, we're rolling out our mass
4 notification system, coming up later this summer, with the
5 start of the new fiscal year. So we'll see how that goes, but
6 we're all looking forward to that; the fire departments
7 especially.

8 We're beginning to update our All-Hazards Plan,
9 starting with the Resources Section. And we've actually -- the
10 lead on that is a member -- she's not a member, a full member
11 of the LEPC, but she's affiliated with the Civil Air Patrol.
12 We don't have an active chapter, but she's kind of taking the
13 lead on that, so that's capitalizing on the -- those volunteer
14 hours.

15 We've recently had a volunteer fire department
16 reach out. They're interested in holding a Tabletop Exercise.
17 It's likely going to be related to mass casualty. So I'm
18 interested to talk to Delta and maybe the Planning Team and get
19 some information on what that Tabletop might look like.

20 We're continuing to develop relationships with
21 Park Service. And we appreciate them sending one of our
22 members down, who's in the audience right now. So we
23 appreciate that, that working relationship.

24 Thanks to the Division for sending the
25 earthquake simulator up the road. We're looking forward to

1 having that there in Healy.

2 One idea: Our mayor is very supportive of our
3 LEPC. And one way we help entice people to come to the
4 meetings is we provide pizza to our -- our quarterly evening
5 meetings, so. And the acronyms kind of work out, so you might
6 try that if you're having trouble.

7 That's all I got.

8 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thanks, Chris. I think food
9 always brings people to meetings. So that's why we had donuts,
10 thanks to Kelly picking those up this morning.

11 Well, I don't like to go last, so out of order
12 I'm going to continue around the table -- or in order, I'm
13 going to continue around the table and do my report now, and
14 then we'll just continue on down this way.

15 KETCHIKAN LEPC - Abner Hoage

16 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: So the Ketchikan LEPC. Abner
17 Hoage, Ketchikan LEPC.

18 I'm the Program Manager. We just had elections
19 back late last year. And Steve Rydeen, who's in the audience
20 back there -- wave, Steve -- he's our LEPC Chair. Look real
21 close at him. That's what happens when you don't show up to
22 the election meeting.

23 So I also wanted to briefly introduce Corey
24 Padron. Wave your hand, Corey. Corey is the VPSO or has been
25 the VPSO in Saxman, but he recently put together a program with

1 the VPSOs, where he is going to be running a program for all of
2 the VPSOs in Southeast under EMPG Grant. He's working on
3 getting them all trained in CERT. They're going to be much
4 more active in emergency management-type activities. And so if
5 you happen to be in one of those areas where he might have
6 VPSOs, he's probably looking for ways that he can help employ
7 them in those communities and to work with your LEPCs and get
8 things done, that you're trying to get done. So I think he
9 probably has some cards with him. If he does, I'll ask him to
10 put them out on the table. And if you -- if you have -- if
11 you're from those communities or have communities close to you
12 that are in your LEPC, where Southeast Alaska would have VPSOs,
13 and Corey is looking for work, emergency managementwise, to --
14 to employ them.

15 Since the last meeting, we were recognized as
16 WeatherReady. If you've done TsunamiReady, the WeatherReady is
17 really a pretty easy application to finish and get recognized
18 for that, as well. We finally finished our Mitigation Plan and
19 got that adopted by all of our communities, so that's good
20 news. We had Jim Brechtel from the Forest Service come out and
21 did some presentations on tsunami hazards in our area and that
22 sort of thing, which was -- those were great presentations. We
23 conducted an active shooter exercise at the Coast Guard base.

24 Just found out last week that the university has
25 completed their tsunami inundation mapping for Ketchikan, and

1 we have them scheduled to come out for our May meeting of the
2 LEPC. The second week of May they're going to come out and
3 present that, and then going to go over to Craig, as well. So
4 that will be good. Be interesting to see, like, Kodiak, where
5 that line ends up being, because we've also always used the
6 100-foot line. And so I don't know if we're going to be below
7 that or above that, but we'll find out.

8 There is a lady who works for the University of
9 Alaska Southeast, and I don't have the name with me. If anyone
10 is interested, I can share that -- or, I will share that. But
11 she's put together a couple presentations related to economic
12 impact of tsunamis. And bartering in communities as a method
13 of helping through the recovery process. She's got two videos
14 that she's posted. It's not on YouTube, but it's a
15 similar-type thing. Again, she did it through the University
16 of Southeast. And I'll share that information via e-mail and
17 get it sent out. Interesting presentations about the economic
18 impact that we may see if we -- if something happens down south
19 related to earthquakes and tsunamis.

20 We had the live code test for the Tsunami
21 Warning System in the state recently, and down in our area we
22 had some issues with that. The EAS system didn't activate for
23 us, so none of the weather radios in our area went off. The TV
24 and radio stations never activated. All of our other systems
25 worked; the NAWAS going and dispatch went off. Dispatch got a

1 call from the SEOC direct-dialer system. I got a phone call
2 from that system. We were able to activate and we did activate
3 our sirens with a test warning as part of that, but the TV and
4 radio and all that never went off. And it appears to be
5 related to a FIPS Code issue, and our LP-1 is working on that.

6 So the other big thing we have we're working on
7 this year is we're going to be rewriting our EOP. We've got a
8 couple new annexes we plan to add to that.

9 So that's all I have.

10 And we'll move on to Scott.

11 ALEUTIAN/PRIBILOF ISLANDS LEPC - Scott Brown

12 MR. BROWN: Scott Brown, Aleutians, Pribilof
13 Island LEPC.

14 We haven't had any major catastrophes or
15 emergencies in our community. We have had Bogoslof going off,
16 leaving trace amounts of ash in our area. Mostly disrupting
17 flights has been the biggest impact to our community. We're
18 keeping an eye on that.

19 Like some of the other LEPCs, we're having a
20 little bit of a turnover, people retiring, moving on to
21 different positions, so we've been doing active recruiting. We
22 still have a few seats left open. We were able to fill a
23 couple of them. We're getting the community at large more
24 interested in LEPC.

25 We did have a -- working with Jared Woody and

1 the 103rd, we had a two-day training session. And one of it,
2 the first day was -- or, the first part of the first day was
3 for the LEPC, kind of a roles and responsibility. And then the
4 103rd was going to do a briefing on their assets and
5 capabilities and assistance that they could give to the
6 community, and the need -- they were going to do that with the
7 LEPC, as well as our elected officials. And the second part of
8 that was going to be a Tabletop Exercise, in wrapping up our
9 EOC, and including our industry in that Tabletop Exercise. We
10 had to delay that, so we're going to work with Kelly as soon as
11 we get back. And hopefully in June, we'll be able to
12 reactivate that and invite everybody back up to the community
13 and do that Tabletop and -- and training for the LEPC.

14 Last time I was here, we talked a little bit
15 about some things that we'd learned from Alaska Shield and
16 needed to do some work on. One of those was kind of giving our
17 EOC a new facelift. We pretty much completed that. I think
18 we've got a little bit more work to do on the library, but
19 Chief Shockley's here and she's taken the lead on that and it
20 looks really good in there. Everybody's got positions and got
21 maps on the wall, and IPO has their own space to work. The
22 other part of that was we learned at -- at Shields we had some
23 comm issues with communications. Since then, we've implemented
24 a new kind of a radio program that all the radios between
25 different departments now are -- all have matching frequencies.

1 And all the EOC now have radios in their patrol cars -- or, in
2 their vehicles.

3 We, too, participated in the Tsunami Test. And
4 I believe all of our tsunami sirens worked. We have seven of
5 them in our community. We were having some issues; seemed like
6 one was always down with some ice issues and some freezing. We
7 brought a technician out, so he's got them all up and running.
8 And we came up with some plans to rectify that problem, with
9 putting some heaters in there, and we believe that that will
10 fix the problem of those motors freezing up.

11 And finally, we have completed our Right-to-Know
12 II Tier. We've gotten all of our community participation, and
13 we've gotten all that information back, so we're caught up for
14 the year.

15 And that's all I have.

16 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, Scott.

17 And moving on to Bea.

18 MAT-SU LEPC - Bea Adler

19 MS. ADLER: Bea Adler, Mat-Su Borough.

20 In our planning activities, we've assisted the
21 Chickaloon Native Village doing their Pre-Disaster Mitigation
22 Planning and a community survey. We conducted our annual
23 review of Mat-Su Regional Medical Center's Hazard Vulnerability
24 Assessment Matrix, something we work on with them every year.
25 Our Plans Work Group is working on updating the Borough's

1 Emergency Operations Plan. And we've discussed purchasing
2 planning software, looking at web-based templates for COOP and
3 EOPs that we can use to help the cities within the Borough and
4 any businesses or non-profits that come to us, looking for
5 assistance in COOP and emergency planning.

6 Our Points of Distribution Plan is being
7 reviewed. We got a CDC grant to help us do that. The Borough
8 emergency manager attended POD training in Alabama for two
9 weeks, and then worked with emergency management staff to set
10 up a flu shot POD clinic at the Hale Borealis Conference here
11 in Anchorage. We helped operate a flu shot POD clinic at
12 Station 61, open to the public. So we're able to push a lot of
13 flu shots out that way to the general public and to Borough
14 staff, as well as our regular availability of shots to our
15 responders.

16 Working with Southcentral Foundation, Knik
17 Tribal Council, and Chickaloon Tribal Council, they each
18 conducted closed PODs for their staff and clients. And we're
19 working on obtaining Conexes so that we can have POD supplies
20 available in the outlying communities throughout the Borough.

21 With the CERT Program, I'm really excited to
22 hear how many communities are coming back online with the CERT
23 Program. We all had a real drop there when FEMA ended specific
24 training for Community Emergency Outreach programs around the
25 country. And few local jurisdictions picked that up. The

1 Mat-Su Borough was one of those that did not pick that up, and
2 now I'm getting calls from the school district and from other
3 communities looking for advice. People are going to FEMA to
4 take their new round of training on how to organize your
5 community for being a CERT-trained community. And I'm very
6 gratified with that.

7 In the Mat-Su, the Willow Community Organization
8 known as WACO -- it's the Willow Community Council -- has taken
9 the lead, and they come to our LEPC meeting. And we are
10 working closely with them and with the Mat-Su Borough Emergency
11 Management Department to strengthen capability in delivering
12 CERT training once again. So congratulations to all the
13 communities around the State who have recognized how valuable
14 it is to have a team of citizens. For me, it's school staff
15 that's my focus. I like to see that. And I'm talking with
16 them now about how we can make that happen.

17 Continuing Education Credits can be made
18 available to your teachers who need that as enticement to get
19 them to take the CERT training. The University of Alaska
20 Southeast is the way to make that happen. So put that in the
21 back of your mind.

22 I'm wondering if anyone here has been involved
23 with the National Association of SARA Title III Program
24 Officials, otherwise known as NASTTPO; it's their acronym. Our
25 emergency manager has looked into going to one of their

1 meetings and getting involved with them, so we would be
2 interested to know if any of you have any experience with that
3 group, if you could let us know.

4 And finally, we did produce an emergency
5 preparedness calendar. We've been doing that most years for
6 the last several years. And our Outreach Committee has begun
7 planning for the 2017 Emergency Preparedness Expo, to be held
8 on September 30th. This is going to be, I think, our 11th one.

9 We moved from Mat-Su College, which we outgrew
10 several years ago, to the Curtis Menard Sports Complex, which
11 can accommodate thousands. And we did a pretty good job of
12 filling it last year. So thanks to assistance from the City of
13 Wasilla and AARP Alaska, we're able to make that free to
14 exhibitors, vendors, and the general public. And so that's
15 going to be a nice big bash. And thanks to DHS&EM for agreeing
16 to bring the quake simulator out.

17 That's it.

18 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, Bea.

19 We will move on to Laura.

20 COPPER RIVER LEPC - Laura Thiesen

21 MS. THIESEN: So we have been able to actually
22 fill a board member position. It was not an easy task, but we
23 twisted a few arms and got somebody to actually take a position
24 on our board. We have been -- we placed an article in the
25 Copper River Record regarding updating our Hazard Mitigation

1 Plan and established a Hazard Mitigation Committee, so we have
2 been working on that and continue to work on that.

3 We offered a Responder Ready Class for our
4 community, and we had more than 15 people in attendance, which
5 we thought was a success.

6 The Mat-Su Red Cross came and did the Pillowcase
7 Project, presented it at Kenny Lake School; Glennallen School;
8 and Upstream Learning, which is our home school. And so we had
9 a number of children complete that.

10 Our Tier II reports were received, and our
11 coordinator has been attending the Youth Environmental Summit
12 meetings. They've asked us to participate in that in June,
13 which we plan to do.

14 So, ongoing, we're working on our Hazard
15 Mitigation Update Plan. We continue to have a social media
16 presence. And we are trying to encourage ICS training with
17 members of the clinic and the Native organization there. We
18 have had good community attendance at our meetings, and we're
19 continuing to see new people, but we continue to do outreach
20 with different agencies that are not participating in the LEPC,
21 because we know that it's all about relationships.

22 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you very much, Laura.

23 Move on to Linda.

24 NORTHERN SOUTHEAST LEPC - Linda Van Houten

25 MS. VAN HOUTEN: Well, for the first change --

1 (amplifier feedback).

2 The first change for us is, at the Northern
3 Southeast LEPC, our LEPC voted a few months ago to become the
4 Skagway LEPC, and I believe that's going in front of the SERC
5 at the meeting later today. So we have been mostly focusing on
6 Skagway. So in some ways it won't be too much of a change for
7 us, because the district was so large, and with such a small
8 budget, it was really hard for us to do very much, other than
9 to contact people a couple of times a year. So anyway, so
10 that's the -- the group voted to just focus on Skagway.

11 Another change is we have a new public safety
12 building. The fire and police will now be co-located, and
13 they're moving into that this month. And there will also be a
14 new location for our EOC.

15 And in terms of what we've been doing the last
16 several months, we did a lot of Tier II Outreach since I've
17 been on staff. And when I first started with the LEPC in
18 Skagway, we had one company that was filing Tier II reports.
19 And this year we had four. We still have a long ways to go,
20 but we plan on doing more outreach for that.

21 We continue to work on our Emergency Operations
22 Plan. We have a work group that's been meeting for a couple of
23 years. We seem to be a community that has the distinction of
24 having both a SCERP and an EOP, and there's a lot of discussion
25 in terms of how to make our EOP look more like our SCERP, and

1 how to have a SCERP have more -- get more information. So
2 anyway, I hope we can get some technical assistance with that,
3 because it's -- we have a lot of different view points. But we
4 do have some good participation.

5 The American Red Cross, it held a shelter
6 training course in Skagway on March 27th, and there were ten
7 people that attended. And our -- and this was at our rec
8 center, which is our primary shelter. And the rec center
9 director is very excited in having them come back to do a more
10 involved Exercise Workshop next year.

11 And the Coast Guard. Coast Guard Sector Juneau
12 is holding a mass -- a Mass Rescue Operation Plan Workshop for
13 us on May 15th. And that is Annex A of our Skagway EOP. And
14 so we're hoping to have -- hope to have good participation in
15 that.

16 Thank you.

17 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, Linda.

18 Doug.

19 FAIRBANKS LEPC - Doug Fleming

20 MR. FLEMING: Doug Fleming, Fairbanks LEPC.

21 I do have to say our LEPC has been active.
22 Reports from the last meeting, our VIPs are now offering mini
23 CERT courses, as opposed to the full course, for people that
24 don't have time to come to a full CERT course. The thinking, I
25 think, behind that is, is, you know, some training is better

1 than absolutely no training. And so there are just some people
2 that like -- would like to have some of that training but just
3 can't find the time to come to the full course.

4 Our Fairbanks North Star Borough has met. Team
5 reported 17 responses in 2016 at the last meeting. There's
6 also some planning starting up for the Preparedness Expo,
7 hopefully coming up this fall, probably looking at September,
8 which I believe is still Emergency Preparedness Month. Trying
9 to have some type of expo set up for that.

10 I won't dwell on this long. I do have to bring
11 up that a large part of our meeting, though, was consumed with
12 the LEPC funding. And so to just briefly cap on that, we agree
13 that we want to fund, as everyone does, the smaller
14 communities. And we don't necessarily think the money was so
15 much of an issue as where Fairbanks was categorized. We did
16 lose some funding due to that categorization. But we feel that
17 we were -- have similar hazards to other like places throughout
18 the State and that we were kind of set at a lower category than
19 we probably should have been. I know population wasn't the
20 focus on that, but we are the second largest city and just
21 under the third largest population density, I guess. And so if
22 Anchorage or Mat-Su was affected, we are still going to be
23 greatly affected when it comes to supplies and what's going to
24 happen. You know, whatever happens down here is going to
25 affect us up there, too, as the population base.

1 And we did type up a letter, I believe. I'm
2 getting confirmed that that actually was not sent out. And so
3 when I go back, that will be a continued process. And I
4 realize that this year is a test year for that. And so I'm
5 just bringing that up as we go on. We will probably continue
6 to contest where we are at in the category of that.

7 We did have -- TCC had a conference, had their
8 annual conference, and followed up by Doyon. Of course, that
9 always brings a lot of extra population into our city. Nothing
10 drastic happened, but numbers do go up when it comes to clinics
11 and hospitals and things like that.

12 From the city perspective, there's new
13 administration, and so they're working with that
14 administration, getting them up to speed on EOP and COOP plans.
15 And as they're going through that, they're also doing updates
16 on both the EOP and the COOP plans along with that process.

17 There will be a new Assistant Fire Chief for the
18 city. Should be starting work sometime in July. So that will
19 help relieve some of the responsibilities that need to be
20 divvied up there.

21 Public education is being pushed out through the
22 city for older adults. The focus is on fire safety and
23 emergency preparedness. And City Fire has been going around to
24 different the locations where older adults live, like Raven's
25 Landing and Golden Towers and Southwest -- South

1 (indiscernible) Miner and so on and so forth. Giving those
2 education -- educational classes.

3 I do want to mention at this time that between
4 our last meeting and now, Chief Warren Cummings did pass away.
5 They had a ceremony for him, that was up there. I know that a
6 lot of you knew him, and he had spent a lot of time integrated
7 in the State and in our community and did a lot of great things
8 for emergency preparedness up there.

9 At the Borough level, there's some POI
10 training -- PIO. Sorry. PIO training scheduled for April.
11 There's also a Threat, Hazard, and Risk Assessment Training
12 going to happen in April, with the follow-up of those people
13 going back and doing that THIRA assessment for the community.

14 Still continuing ongoing working with vulnerable
15 populations out there and how when the Big One happens, we can
16 respond to those populations, whether they be on oxygen or just
17 can't get up and take care of themselves or have home health
18 care or whatever it is out there. Still looking at ways to
19 track them and care for them; and how is that going to look,
20 again, if something drastic happens up there?

21 Triennial Airport Exercises scheduled in August.
22 Still waiting for the full community planning to start with
23 that. I know they've done some pre-planning with some
24 Tabletops and some police-only type of stuff out there, getting
25 ready for that.

1 CBRN training, hopefully, will happen this fall
2 also in November. Hoping to sponsor -- having that sponsored
3 through the Borough but having the class actually at the
4 hospital and using our haz-mat facilities there.

5 Also want to exercise Public Health POD for
6 pandemic vaccinations again this fall. Did that last fall.
7 And this time, instead of just having one site, where we
8 actually give the free flu shots out. But we're practicing
9 that pandemic, we want to try to do multiple sites, maybe North
10 Pole and Fairbanks and possibly do some closed PODs bringing in
11 the hospital, too, and kind of see how that -- how that would
12 all work if it was happening for real.

13 There's also -- the Borough is also reviewing
14 the Trans-Atlantic Pipeline Response Plan, reviewing evacuation
15 checklists, and keeping their emergency response
16 (indiscernible) stuff is constantly being updated.

17 Lastly, I will be resigning. This is a normal
18 rotation for us, so this will be my last LEPCA. We'll have
19 elections at our next EPC meeting in May. I do want to
20 publicly say that I thank the opportunity to my community for
21 allowing me to be able to do this. And I always -- I've
22 enjoyed coming down here and getting experience from all of you
23 down here from the State and other communities. Being able to
24 take that back to my community and my workplace is -- I will
25 continue to be the emergency manager for Fairbanks Memorial

1 Hospital with that.

2 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thanks.

3 Moving on to Brian.

4 MR. TEMPLIN: Thanks, Abner.

5 SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST LEPC - Brian Templin

6 MR. TEMPLIN: So just a few things that we're
7 working on down on Prince of Wales and in Craig. This year we,
8 both, were part of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
9 list. Our plan is -- had expired, and so we're working on
10 updating that. We had the opportunity this year, since we're
11 also working on the update to our city's Comprehensive Plan, to
12 do more integration of the hazard mitigation planning into the
13 overall comprehensive planning process. So it's been at least
14 well received by the public and the Planning Commission, and
15 those sections still have to go to the city council, so we'll
16 see if there's more feedback there. But that's been a pretty
17 good experience. And FEMA's got some pretty good documentation
18 that kind of helps with that very process of integrating local
19 hazard mitigation planning into the comprehensive planning
20 process.

21 Abner mentioned already that Corey and the VPSO
22 Program, through Tlingit Haida Central Council, is taking on a
23 larger, much larger emergency management role in VPSO
24 communities. We have three VPSO communities on Prince of Wales
25 Island, so we'll be seeing a lot more activity from those

1 communities, and particularly from those VPSOs, as far as
2 participation with the LEPC and the emergency management
3 process on Prince of Wales.

4 The Craig School District has taken their
5 emergency planning responsibilities and run with them. They
6 completed their first major school Emergency Operations Plan
7 last year and immediately moved into a cycle of Exercise. And
8 they're already working on the rewrite, or update of their
9 school plan. So the LEPC has been very engaged with the school
10 district. Two or three of the LEPC members are part of the
11 district's Crisis Planning Team and participate in that process
12 with them.

13 And then finally, again, as Abner mentioned, for
14 Ketchikan, in May we'll have -- we'll be having some folks from
15 the University of Alaska Fairbanks coming down to bring new
16 digital tsunami inundation mapping for the Craig area, as well.

17 So that's all I have got.

18 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, Brian.

19 Move on to Tom.

20 NOME LEPC - Tom Vaden

21 MR. VADEN: Tom Vaden from Nome. We've done two
22 search and rescues, one search and recovery, and one search.
23 We use IC when we're doing that. The biggest search we did, it
24 involved close to 3,000 manhours: Coast Guard; CAP; private
25 airplanes. We had some problems with self-dispatch. We were

1 looking for a guy named Joseph Balderas. He was last seen
2 Friday night in a bar in Nome. His truck was found Monday.
3 Five different search dogs couldn't come up with any scent. We
4 searched almost a week, in June and July, then we went back in
5 October and flew helicopters about 20 feet off the ground in a
6 grid search. We're picking up fox bones, four-by-four pieces
7 of tarp. And after a significant search in October, we asked
8 the Troopers just to open a criminal investigation, because
9 he's not there.

10 We've had three fall sea storms. You know, one
11 was the 29th of October. It was not declared a disaster. Lots
12 of ice got pushed up on shore. I don't think DOT has gone down
13 to look at the road past 20 miles or so out of Nome, so that
14 might be pending. And then we had sea storms in January, two
15 back to back. And we had a big ivu, which is a huge pile of
16 ice, came onshore, but it didn't seem to do any particular
17 property damage, and the seawalls pretty much held.

18 Another incident we had at Diomedes, a little
19 village that's in -- on an island three miles from Russia in
20 the Bering Strait lost power for five days in January. No one
21 knew. And so while it's not in the Nome LEPC, a lot of times
22 small communities rely on assistance from Nome for things.

23 And so finally the TelAlaska guy went, "Oh, you
24 know, Diomedes been without power for five days." We're like,
25 "You know, it would be really good to tell somebody." And it's

1 20 below. They have satellite phones, but the problem with a
2 lot of these smaller communities is there's not a set format
3 for schooling up satellite phones. And there's -- and, quite
4 frankly, there's probably not money to, you know, spend \$200 or
5 \$250 now, to renew your iridium every six months, and it's just
6 maybe not on the horizon to do that. But it could be awkward
7 for other entities in the State when someone goes like -- you
8 know.

9 Again, Karl -- Karl with DMVA was very, very
10 active with that. And they ended up getting a power person out
11 there to help them work, and a helicopter out there to do that
12 kind of stuff and move people in and out and -- but it's -- we
13 just don't want people being left.

14 Mimi Farley, who left -- left us, which is a
15 huge loss. And Sajee's (ph) taking over. He's trying to get
16 in. We've had a lot of ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 classes.
17 And we tend to do them as a blended class. Because while
18 everybody says they use the common language, if you're from a
19 small community, that language is not anywhere near common.
20 But seeming to, you know, talk to people and ask them if you've
21 had -- you know, just take a little bit of time and make it
22 more of a blended class. Go online and then come back and
23 we'll answer a lot of questions. And "this is how it works"
24 type stuff seems to work.

25 Our Tier II did well. We got back, I think, 38

1 responses. And we got a lot of negative responses back, too,
2 which is -- you know, no, that -- that works for us, you know,
3 because if we're putting crews into some place we're going.

4 The LEPC is recruiting new members and other
5 ones are leaving and so it's an ongoing process. And, you
6 know, in a small community, I've found that it works really
7 well to go personally invite somebody.

8 We did an Exercise in December, an active
9 shooter. There was a lot of -- three law enforcement agencies
10 were involved and several local entities. And learned a lot
11 from the FBI, AST. And they went through it several times,
12 because we had time. And so I thought that was -- that was
13 pretty good.

14 The Public Health Disaster or Public Health
15 Emergency that's been addressed as a disaster with the State,
16 it is -- I personally think we're going to see a lot more
17 longer -- longer-affecting things. Quite frankly, there --
18 we've a significant amount of drugs in our communities, from
19 kratom, which is legal, and there's a lot of stuff you just
20 buy off the Internet, to heroin and opioids. And I see this
21 as -- quite frankly, it's affecting the amount of hunters that
22 are going out hunting.

23 You know, if you have a community -- and I'm not
24 going to mention names -- that actually have five or six people
25 that are not stoned all the time in the entire community, then

1 that starts affecting the food-gathering ability of the
2 communities. And I think down the road, that's going to start
3 affecting how the communities are fed.

4 Because if you're looking at -- some of the
5 communities now are going, like -- you know, the airlines are
6 going, "We're not going to send an airplane to this community,
7 because it's not full." Because it's a matter of economics
8 now. Because as they're reducing the budgets and they're
9 reducing the amount of money for flights, through federal
10 grants or State funding because of the budget, then all of a
11 sudden people are going, like, "You know, we're not -- we're
12 going to wait a day or two before we send an airplane out
13 here." And that's going to start affecting how food gets to
14 the communities.

15 And I know -- I know it's on -- probably on your
16 guys' horizon, but I just wanted to say that.

17 And that's all I have to say.

18 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you, Tom.

19 And Michael.

20 DELTA-GREELY LEPC - Michael Paschall

21 MR. PASCHALL: Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely.

22 Fairly quickly: First, I heard a couple things
23 about membership. And we went through the same thing, a
24 restructuring, to make sure. And if you'd actually go back and
25 look at the federal documents, there's only supposed to be one

1 person in each category and everyone else is an alternate. And
2 we went through all that. And also made a -- kind of a
3 presentation on that -- if somebody wants it, I'll be happy to
4 share it with you -- that actually went through the creation
5 of the LEPCs and the (inaudible) and the process and what the
6 State says, trying to make -- take all the multiple hundreds of
7 pages and condense it down to at least less than a hundred, on
8 what the LEPCs are and how they came about and how they became
9 all-hazard and what some of the requirements are, and some of
10 those things, if somebody is interested in it.

11 We did two exercises since last fall. We did an
12 Active-Shooter-in-the-School Exercise involving not only the
13 Troopers, but also our fire departments and EMS personnel, so
14 it was multiagency. Was a fairly small exercise, but at least
15 an opportunity to get together.

16 And then as already mentioned, we just did an
17 MVA Exercise involving a bus and a hazardous chemical
18 situation, which we can't transport those two chemicals
19 together. It's a joke from the thing. But it was good. It
20 was a good -- I wasn't able to attend, but it was a good
21 opportunity for some people in the community, that haven't
22 become engaged, to maybe become engaged. And I think that was
23 the real purpose in setting it up, was to get them to
24 understand at some of the various levels that they need to
25 be -- have some involvement in these activities. So we're

1 hoping that's going to be a stepping point to do some more
2 things.

3 Finally, we -- I don't know how much the rest of
4 you have kept up with this. I know Cordova is very well
5 informed on it. But we need to significantly look at 911
6 issues and become involved both with the State as well as with
7 the federal government. We've had numerous 911 issues, and
8 they're primarily related to cell phone carriers. And I don't
9 know -- do you all know that there was a nationwide outage
10 about two weeks ago? I don't know if you're aware of that.

11 But it's kind of an interesting scenario,
12 because our person called the supervisor at the dispatch center
13 in Fairbanks who was at home and said, "Hey, our cellular 911
14 is not working." And she goes, "Yeah, I just saw something on
15 the national news and wondered if we were having a problem."
16 So the Delta Junction's 911 cell phone went out when the rest
17 of the country went out. But we're like the only ones in
18 Alaska that went out.

19 But we've had multiple problems. For the
20 longest period of time, apparently all our cellular 911 calls
21 were going to Cordova. It's happened to Valdez and several --
22 so it's a big problem. And I'm going to say flat out, the
23 response from the State, and not necessarily our agency, but
24 particularly the 911 coordinator for the State, was, as far as
25 I'm concerned, abysmal; it was just terrible in terms of they

1 didn't step up, as the 911 coordinator in Public Safety, and
2 address the issue. We went for about three weeks without
3 cellular 911 service, or either it was going to Cordova. And
4 that's just, to me, inappropriate considering that we're all
5 paying for that service, you know, through the surcharges. And
6 I think that's something that all of you need to look at and
7 talk to your people handling your PSAPs.

8 And it was simple as a company in Colorado got
9 hold of -- or somehow the database of towers being directed to
10 what PSAP was incorrect. And they upgraded the towers. And
11 when they did, they somehow pulled in the wrong data. And the
12 response from AT&T and from the company that contracts with
13 them was ridiculous, in terms of just not responding, and
14 saying, "Well, there's -- there is no problem," or, "The
15 database, we're following the database." Well, we know the
16 database is wrong, okay? And the process to go through to get
17 it corrected -- I mean, even I got a copy of the database.
18 Clearly the database is wrong. It says Delta Junction, and it
19 says PSAP's Cordova. Okay. Interestingly enough, it wasn't
20 actually going to the PSAP; it was going to an office line, so
21 that's even more of a question.

22 But it's been a -- you might want to -- you
23 might want to be monitoring what's going on with your system
24 there and keep up with it. And I'm encouraging your department
25 to become more involved in this, with Public Safety, because I

1 think it's a huge issue. And if you go and start actually
2 researching it, it's a much bigger issue.

3 But ours went out -- I don't know -- we were out
4 again a couple of weeks ago for, like, a day and a half. And
5 we finally got the ability to actually call the engineers in
6 Anchorage and through -- somehow we made a connection with
7 them, and so they actually listened to us. And we actually can
8 sometimes get something fixed. But anyway.

9 That's all I got.

10 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thanks, Michael.

11 Let's see. So on the agenda, it shows up Public
12 Comments again, but we've done public comments.

13 I suppose, just in case: Any public comments?

14 (No audible response.)

15 Very good.

16 That's going to bring us to New Business. And
17 we've three presentations coming up here. I don't know if the
18 first one has any setup that they need, but I need to take a
19 short break. I have 10:52 a.m. on my time. We'll be back in
20 at 11:00. Please be back in your seats so that we can stay on
21 track to be finished on time.

22 (A recess was taken.)

23 NEW BUSINESS

24 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: All right. We'll go ahead and
25 get started. So we have Heidi and Lanny here, and they're

1 going to talk about Access and Functional Needs. And I will
2 turn it over to them and go from there.

3 MS. MOMMSEN: Hi, my name is Lanny Mommsen. I'm
4 with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special
5 Education.

6 MS. FROST: And I'm Heidi Frost. I'm with the
7 Statewide Independent Living Council. Both of our agencies are
8 federally mandated disability agencies that work with the State
9 of Alaska. The Statewide Independent Living Council is a
10 13-member, governor-appointed board, but we're a nonprofit.
11 And the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special
12 Education is a federally mandated DD Board. They have 28
13 members, and they are part of Department of Health and Social
14 Services.

15 So we're here to talk to you about functional
16 and access needs. And there's a variety of people who can fall
17 into functional and access needs: People who speak English as
18 a second language; people who are homeless; low income;
19 minorities, based on racial, ethnic, religious backgrounds;
20 house-bound; children; elders; people without vehicles; people
21 who are institutionalized. But who we're here to talk about
22 specifically are people with disabilities.

23 MS. MOMMSEN: Which in Alaska makes up almost 23
24 percent of the State's population. So that's almost one in
25 four.

1 MS. FROST: Right.

2 And 21 percent of the disability population in
3 the nation live below the poverty level. And people with
4 disabilities are in every of those other categories we talked
5 about. They are low income. They are institutionalized. They
6 are English -- people who speak English as a second language.
7 So they kind of -- they are us, I guess is what I'm trying to
8 say.

9 Who makes up the population listed, you know,
10 that we talked about? Specifically, we're talking about people
11 whose disability rises to the level that they qualify under the
12 Americans with Disabilities Act. And so they have to have a
13 functional impairment in one or more areas. So they're people
14 who use a wheelchair, a cane, crutches, or a walker. They have
15 difficulty performing one or more activities of daily living,
16 such as hearing, seeing, walking, talking, breathing, grasping
17 things, climbing stairs.

18 They have difficulties with one or more
19 activities of daily living, which are bathing, hygiene, getting
20 dressed, getting out of bed, getting out of a chair. They have
21 difficulties with one or more --

22 MS. MOMMSEN: -- instrumental activities of --

23 MS. FROST: Thank you.

24 MS. MOMMSEN: -- living, which are things like
25 keeping track of money, preparing your meals, making sure your

1 medications are taken correctly and at the right time.

2 Have one or more specified conditions, like a
3 learning disability and other developmental disability,
4 Alzheimer's, or another type of mental or emotional condition.

5 MS. FROST: Or they have a condition that limits
6 their ability to work around the house or outside of the house.
7 And if they're between the ages of 16 and 67, the condition may
8 make it difficult or impossible for them to find work outside
9 of the home. And often they receive federal benefits based on
10 their inability to work.

11 So the most common ones in the United States are
12 mobility issues, cognitive issues, independent living -- and
13 those are the things we were talking about, being able to take
14 care of yourself -- vision, and self-care.

15 MS. MOMMSEN: And for the disabilities in
16 Alaska, the most common ones in Alaska, 19 percent have an
17 inability to walk or difficulty walking; 12 percent, arthritis;
18 12 percent; deafness or hard of hearing; ten percent learning
19 disability; nine percent blindness or vision loss; eight
20 percent circulatory or respiratory -- respiratory problems; and
21 30 percent, other. So that makes up a lot of our population.

22 MS. FROST: And the reason why we bring all this
23 up is to give you kind of a good idea of who we're talking
24 about and what the different issues are. I think so often when
25 people think of a person with a disability, they think of a

1 person in a wheelchair or a person with intellectual
2 disability, mental retardation. And I guess what we're saying
3 is, the scope and depth and breadth of how many people -- or,
4 the types of disabilities are out there are endless.

5 Disasters in Alaska with people with
6 disabilities, disasters can increase anyone's vulnerabilities,
7 but that's even more true for people with disabilities.
8 Research suggests that home preparation is less likely to
9 happen among people with disabilities. And they're less likely
10 to evacuate their homes and will more likely need more help to
11 get out of their home when they to do evacuate. This could be
12 because they -- they have -- the reason why they don't want to
13 leave their house is -- could be a variety of reasons.

14 One is because they've their house set up: They
15 can get around the house; it's accessible to them. And there's
16 a great fear of the unknown. Of, will it be accessible? Will
17 I have the things I need? Will I have to explain myself again?
18 So it could be that they just have everything in their house.

19 It could be that they're house-bound and that
20 there is a physical or a mental reason why they're not leaving
21 their house.

22 I know that up in Barrow, we did public
23 testimony there, and there were several people who, because of
24 the physical construction of their house and the fact that they
25 used a wheelchair, they couldn't leave their house unless

1 someone physically picked them up and took them outside. So
2 there are those types of reasons.

3 And there's other reasons: One --

4 MS. MOMMSEN: Lack of transportation. Like if
5 you -- suppose also in Barrow --

6 Sorry. You had the same example.

7 You know, in the winter and if you're in a
8 wheelchair, if you don't have a wheelchair-accessible vehicle,
9 you're not going to be able to move around as well. So they
10 might be staying in their house.

11 MS. FROST: And the last one that I wanted to
12 bring up was that there's the -- oftentimes, people with
13 disabilities are very isolated. And the only interaction with
14 the community at large that they may have is through paid
15 staff. So they might not know; they might not get the alert;
16 they might not find out about what's going on.

17 MS. MOMMSEN: So there was a study done in 2013,
18 and it found that only 53.9 percent of people with disabilities
19 reported having supplies to shelter in place for five to seven
20 days. And only about 31 percent reported having a go kit, so
21 containing supplies to take with them during an evacuation.
22 And less than 20 percent, 18 percent of people with
23 disabilities, had a written emergency plan that details what
24 they need, who to contact, and where to go during an emergency.
25 So there's a big disparity.

1 MS. FROST: And yet, that same report also said
2 that 77 percent reported that they -- that having a plan would
3 make them feel safer; and that 92 percent feel vulnerable to a
4 disaster. So why don't they make those kits and plans?

5 Well, we found out that only 46 percent of
6 Americans, regardless of whether they have a disability or not,
7 have a plan. And because of -- for people with disabilities,
8 limited finances might make it more difficult to have a -- to
9 make a plan. The idea of making a plan and then not being able
10 to get the necessary items for that plan. They might also have
11 a false sense of security that the people who care for them may
12 take care of this for them. And there could be a limited
13 understanding of why they need a plan. So those are just a few
14 of the reasons that were brought out in this report.

15 So -- oh. I'll wait.

16 MS. MOMMSEN: Oh. Right.

17 MS. FROST: I'm sorry.

18 MS. MOMMSEN: No -- (indiscernible).

19 MS. FROST: Sorry. I wrote more stuff, and I
20 didn't tell Lanny that I did that.

21 Luckily in Alaska, we've been working on this
22 issue for a while. And it's nice that we -- and Lanny and I
23 both looked around the room and went, "Oh, we know people
24 here." So that's a good thing, because that means that the
25 word is getting out and that vulnerable populations are being

1 taken into account.

2 And so we recognize two things during all of
3 this work that we've done: One is that people with functional
4 and access needs are aware of the need for a plan and know
5 about -- I'm sorry. That we recognize that we need to do two
6 things: One is, ensure that people with functional and access
7 needs are aware that they need a plan and know how to get the
8 resources to create a plan; and the other part is, to ensure
9 that emergency management folks integrate the needs and the --
10 the needs of people with disabilities, and the response to
11 those needs, include it into the main body of your plan. I
12 know that oftentimes in the past, functional and access needs
13 have been an appendix or addendum.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Annex, annex.

15 MS. FROST: But what we're suggesting is that
16 they be integrated into the main body of the plan.

17 Now we're there.

18 MS. MOMMSEN: Okay. So in the last few years,
19 starting with a grant from the CDC, my office and the SILC have
20 been working with the Alaska Division of Public Health to start
21 educating individuals with disabilities about ways to increase
22 preparedness. I don't know how many people have seen any of
23 these Get Ready toolkits -- I'm seeing some nods, so I'm glad
24 to hear that -- as well as the ones for families. So we'll
25 pass those around. And we also have -- those exist now online,

1 and they're able to be downloaded, in case you want to send any
2 of those resources out to your populations. We also have some
3 other materials that might be relevant to your populations, as
4 well.

5 But we've been doing presentations on the Get
6 Ready toolkits, and the Children and Youth Special Health Care
7 Needs. We've been offering those free to any individual or
8 agency that asks for them. We're running sort of low on some
9 of those supplies, but they're now available online. We also
10 had SKIP kits, which were starter kits for emergency
11 preparedness for people. We've been working with Emergency
12 Management on the -- or, here in the municipality, statewide,
13 as well.

14 Heidi, over to you.

15 MS. FROST: Oh. And --

16 MS. MOMMSEN: I'm sorry.

17 MS. FROST: -- we've also ensured that
18 emergencies in Alaska and outside were highlighted and reviewed
19 for preparedness in social media. So one of the best ways we
20 have found to connect with folks, regardless of whether they
21 have a disability or not, is social media. And the Gov's
22 Council on Disabilities and Special Ed and the Statewide
23 Independent Living Council are both really working on that
24 aspect, to try and make sure that people with disabilities
25 recognize how -- how easy it is to start making a plan and how

1 easy it is to get involved. So we work on highlighting the
2 need to have a plan and be prepared, in social media.

3 We also worked with Emergency Management folks
4 at the local level to increase awareness about disability
5 issues. We've worked with Emergency Management folks at the
6 State and local level to create a COOP plan specific to
7 nonprofit agencies that provide services for people with
8 disabilities. We've done presentations on those at conferences
9 that are specific to agencies that work with people with
10 disabilities.

11 (Ms. Frost and Ms. Mommsen confer.)

12 MS. MOMMSEN: And we had a little bit more, but
13 we're going to go on to some questions that we have for you.

14 What would you like us to tell disability
15 service providers?

16 MS. FROST: What information do you guys want us
17 to tell our community? How can -- do you want folks to sit on
18 your LEPC? Do you want them to be involved in your training
19 exercises? Do you want folks -- how do you want to engage the
20 disability community? Because we can help you.

21 Bea?

22 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Turn your mic on, Bea.

23 MS. ADLER: Bea Adler, Mat-Su Borough.

24 Over the past several years, we've been, at
25 Mat-Su, very engaged in talking with people at Public Health

1 and other organizations that provide services to people with
2 functional needs. And trying to bring them in, we're finding
3 that the care providers -- we organized some meetings
4 face-to-face with the thinking that if they know each other
5 ahead of time, they can do COOP planning; they can identify the
6 gaps and how they can help each other fill those gaps. And
7 with changing personnel and people seeing it not as a priority,
8 it sort of fell by the wayside.

9 So if there's any way, perhaps using the LEPC --
10 because that was the primary driver when we started. Our chair
11 was a Public Health nurse at that time, and they're the ones
12 who get down in the trenches and make things happen. So
13 thinking about a way to bring those care providers together to
14 do that kind of gap planning ahead of time might be something
15 that would be (indiscernible).

16 MS. FROST: And there are some meetings -- thank
17 you for that.

18 There are some meetings that happen in your
19 local communities, that care coordinators come together and
20 talk to each other about local issues. And certainly they love
21 guest speakers. So contact us, and we'll help you get in
22 contact with the local agencies.

23 MS. MOMMSEN: Yeah. And then I think you
24 mentioned this really briefly, but for, like, your exercises
25 and your planning, do you want individuals with -- or, do you

1 want help trying to recruit individuals with disabilities to
2 attend some of those, who have real-life examples of what may
3 come up during an emergency? That was just another question
4 out there.

5 But we're good at social media. We have long
6 listservs.

7 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Okay. Scott, I saw you start
8 to raise your hand. And then, if anybody else wants to speak,
9 just kind of hold your hand up, and I'll get to you.

10 MR. WALDEN: The answer to your question on, do
11 we want that demographic? Absolutely. I think that every city
12 and every emergency manager in the State would appreciate the
13 assistance, because it does change how we approach certain
14 things.

15 MS. MOMMSEN: Perfect.

16 MR. WALDEN: As far as --

17 MS. MOMMSEN: We've got our cards up here for
18 you.

19 MR. WALDEN: As far as what I would hope could
20 be taken back to the groups that fall into this demographic is
21 that when we talk about these plans to have -- to have a plan,
22 those are individual responsibilities.

23 MS. MOMMSEN: Right.

24 MR. WALDEN: And when you come to the Office of
25 Emergency Management or come to an LEPC, they're not going to

1 provide an individual plan for an individual. And the reason I
2 bring this up is that that has been mentioned to me in
3 workshops in our area, that Emergency Management doesn't seem
4 to care enough about individuals in this demographic, because
5 we won't do those things.

6 And when they explain, I am the emergency
7 manager and I've never said that, but we also have an annex for
8 that purpose. And we welcome year-round, whether there's a
9 revision process going or not, look at the appropriate annex
10 that affects you, whether it's this one or another. And if you
11 see something that needs to be changed, I would encourage
12 everyone to contact my office, for example, in the Kenai
13 Peninsula, and say that -- I know that our title is wrong on
14 our annex right now, and it's in the process of being changed.
15 But if you see something that needs changing, you don't have to
16 wait to do that. You don't have to wait for an LEPC. You're
17 welcome to call the Emergency Management offices and ask for
18 those things to be corrected.

19 So I think it's great that you're so proactive
20 and represent the demographic well. Thank you.

21 MS. FROST: Thank you.

22 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thanks, Scott.

23 And I see Michelle.

24 MS. BROWN: I agree, we want participation. And
25 in Exercises that we have had participation of people that

1 have, you know, different disabilities, it has enhanced the
2 Exercise, and we have grown to better understand needs that we
3 can support.

4 When we speak to groups that have disabilities,
5 we encourage them to make sure that they have backups to their
6 care, their primary care, three-deep, so that they -- I mean,
7 that's what we're recommending, so that -- and that those
8 people have at some point followed their caregiver through a
9 day so that they understand really how to facilitate their
10 needs. So those are two points that we try -- and I'd like --
11 again, like you said, it is up to them, because they know their
12 special needs. And our first responders will be inundated.
13 And they will need to have a plan in place and people that can
14 help them with that.

15 And then also, we want -- we created a seat on
16 our LEPC for vulnerable populations, and that's been very good.
17 Currently we have the alternate seat in that position
18 available. We had a person retire. And not only that, because
19 we don't care if they're on the seated positions. Everyone's
20 voice counts in our LEPC. So if they come to our meetings --
21 it's such a diverse population. We can't possibly have
22 everybody represented with two -- two little seats. So if they
23 come and bring the information back to their groups and their
24 population, they'll learn a lot from us; we'll learn a lot from
25 them. They should understand that.

1 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: So I think the big-picture
2 answer to your question is that all the LEPCs and the people
3 here are involved in planning for the types of contingencies
4 that you're referring to, and we all want to address access and
5 functional needs in our plans. Maybe if you get with Kelly,
6 Kelly can provide you a point-of-contact list for all of the
7 LEPCs. We all do the planning. And then you can share that
8 information with your -- the people who are members of your --
9 of your group. And then that way, they can get in contact with
10 the LEPC that's appropriate for them, as opposed to each one,
11 you know, trying to give that specific answer.

12 Your other option is your emergency managers in
13 those communities. But we're all happy to have that input.
14 LEPC meetings are open public meetings. We advertise those.
15 Although, you know, without knowing where to look for it, it
16 can be difficult to get. So Kelly is a central point within
17 the State for coordinating those LEPCs, and he can give you all
18 that detailed contact information.

19 MS. FROST: I do want to make sure that you
20 recognize that we in no way encourage people to rely on
21 Emergency Management for their plans.

22 (Microphone interference.)

23 MS. FROST: That's why we've got to go to the
24 SKIP plan, the SKIP planning toolkits. We are working hard to
25 make sure that different agencies, especially the service

1 providers, recognize that they -- that they need to be
2 responsible for themselves and for their -- the people they
3 care for.

4 I believe it was Julie that was one of the first
5 people who reminded us that -- that the -- an agency is
6 responsible for their people. And that if they are in an
7 institution where people live, residentially live, that they
8 have to be responsible for getting them ready and protecting
9 them and getting them to shelter if there's an emergency. That
10 one of our mantras is that don't expect somebody to come pick
11 you up. You're going to be responsible to get yourself to a
12 shelter. But what we are encouraging is that the shelter is
13 accessible and accessible to people with cognition issues,
14 accessible to people with sensory issues, accessible to people
15 in those areas. Now -- and that (indiscernible), full
16 (indiscernible) and -- and participate together.

17 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: And I think the answer is
18 significant in the eyes, as we went around the room and did our
19 comments. And many of these LEPCs are in the process of
20 updating their EOPs or their annexes, and so your timing is
21 pretty good, as far as getting us all to consider including
22 that within our LEPC. So I highly encourage that you get in
23 contact with each of the LEPCs, or have -- have someone that
24 can represent those needs getting (indiscernible). And --

25 MS. MOMMSEN: (Indiscernible - simultaneous

1 speech).

2 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: (Indiscernible - simultaneous
3 speech) our cards, too.

4 MS. MOMMSEN: (Indiscernible) our business
5 cards.

6 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Absolutely.

7 MS. MOMMSEN: That is one of our resources. And
8 we'll also contact Kelly and get --

9 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Go both directions.

10 MS. MOMMSEN: (Indiscernible - simultaneous
11 speech).

12 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: And we'll get the most --

13 MS. MOMMSEN: (Indiscernible - simultaneous
14 speech). And then, yeah. You guys are having exercises coming
15 on, so we could try recruit -- I definitely know of people in
16 some areas, more than others, but we still have good data to
17 begin the (indiscernible), so we can't obviously -- but we'll
18 try to (indiscernible).

19 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Very good.

20 Any other questions?

21 MS. ADLER: Bea Adler, Mat-Su.

22 I just want to throw something out. There's
23 been a lot of conversation here about the CERT Program, the
24 Community Emergency Response Team. (Indiscernible) needed to
25 develop a curriculum for CERT called CERT For All Abilities,

1 (indiscernible). And I took the training, Train-the-Trainer,
2 down in Seattle, so we were (indiscernible). It takes the
3 standard CERT training and says, okay, how do we
4 (indiscernible) or a wheelchair or have other non-cognitive
5 issues. And so I highly recommend that.

6 MS. FROST: Thank you. That would be excellent.

7 I think there's one more.

8 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Yes.

9 Laura.

10 MS. THIESEN: Laura Thiesen, Copper River LEPC.

11 My other job is the social worker at the
12 Crossroad Medical Center. And as a social worker, I basically
13 appreciate it when you're talking about this. But I'd really
14 like to encourage (indiscernible) for our folks from out in
15 Mat-Su. And I really would like to see in the treatment plan
16 that that's being addressed so that they know where to go and
17 what to do. Because it does come down to the individuals who
18 (indiscernible).

19 MS. MOMMSEN: Thank you.

20 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you both very much for
21 your time.

22 Next up we have Volunteer Recruitment and
23 Retention with Kelley McGuirk.

24 VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION - Kelley McGuirk, ARC

25 MS. MCGUIRK: All right. Hey, everyone. Kelley

1 McGuirk, Regional Disaster Officer, American Red Cross of
2 Alaska. And with me is my Volunteer partner, Dave Williams, so
3 (indiscernible).

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Actually, this is mimicking a bit
5 of what we are doing. I am her volunteer partner. One of us
6 is in Alaska all the time. And if there's a disaster in Alaska
7 and Kelley's not here, then I'm running the response. If she's
8 here, she runs the response. She's paid; I'm not paid. And
9 what we're doing is we are looking at and we are thinking about
10 is, and we're going to be bringing up is, is, who's there when
11 you're not there? And in a normal response, we found, at least
12 at Red Cross, that there's a good chance that 30 percent of the
13 people you need are not going to be available to respond, and I
14 need to respond. And it's important to have volunteers who are
15 trained and who do have responsibilities, real jobs, in a
16 disaster.

17 And with that, we'll get into this replay. This
18 is a -- we consider a disaster a single-family fire. That's
19 where we've been since July of this year. To (indiscernible)
20 quickly, we have opened about 250 cases, and we have helped
21 about 780 people around the state, including Savoonga and
22 getting out there to the -- taking their disasters along the
23 coast.

24 Recruitment. Daytime, you know what positions
25 you need to be filled. Create a needs assessment for your

1 organization; assume every position needs a backup. Disasters
2 don't wait for everyone to be available. They don't announce
3 themselves. But I have a strict -- take and look at what are
4 the skills and qualities you're going to need. A lot of this
5 may be -- I really think we're looking at CERT, and what do you
6 have that -- but this would be like a -- the CERT on steroids.
7 Who's going to be actually moving up into the emergency
8 management -- management positions if you're not there?

9 Once you know the positions to be filled, what
10 type of person will do well in that position? What are you
11 looking for? What are the qualities? Research your community.
12 We have church groups that are willing to work with you. A lot
13 of this -- if you don't have a VOAD or COAD, you should have
14 one of those. Those are Voluntary or Community Organizations
15 Active in Disaster. What little piece of that disaster are
16 they going to take care of? Red Cross does the sheltering.
17 Salvation Army does a lot of the feeding. We'll pick up
18 feeding when they don't. We each have the reach in the
19 disaster.

20 Where can other folks be? Colleges, tech
21 schools. School districts, by default -- I haven't seen it in
22 writing anywhere, but people throughout most of the state of
23 Alaska, if there's a disaster, the school is the shelter. And
24 there isn't a Red Cross volunteer there, but there will be
25 (indiscernible) shelter (indiscernible). They need training.

1 They need to be cleared. Their (indiscernible) set up,
2 (indiscernible) working with them. They are volunteering
3 themselves. It may be short-term volunteers.

4 And let me quote one little caveat on using
5 schools. In the disaster, you want to get the community back
6 to normal as quickly as possible. You set up a shelter in a
7 school, well, it's one of the best ways to get the community
8 back to normal: Get the kids back to school. It's a
9 computation. Work it out. I -- there's no (indiscernible).

10 I have found that (indiscernible) this summer, I
11 ended up doing Southcentral Alaska and didn't have enough
12 volunteers on the Kenai. And I went to senior centers and
13 discovered that there are a lot of people available who are
14 sharp, looking for stuff to do, maybe having lunch at the
15 senior center. And it's a good place to drop in and meet some
16 people who may be a little more aged, but certainly could do a
17 lot of the work that will need to be done.

18 Try to avoid people -- (indiscernible) was
19 supposed to help me once, and I had to go through and put the
20 (indiscernible) on the end of that. Try to avoid people who
21 are needed elsewhere in the disaster response. Don't look
22 towards people who are duly working in Public Works. Don't
23 look at people -- don't look at your school teachers to go out
24 and be standing on a road, saying, "This is inaccessible."
25 Those people are going to be needed in the disaster itself.

1 MS. MCGUIRK: And we have had some experiences
2 where we're opening shelters and feeling fairly confident in
3 communities that we know that we have trained a lot of shelter
4 workers just to learn later that they are CERT volunteers first
5 and not Red Cross volunteers. And then they had other duties
6 to move traffic and, you know, all the other duties that come
7 along with what they are doing.

8 So just really clarifying where people -- you
9 know, making sure you're not getting the city manager added to
10 your volunteers, but they -- making sure that it's really clear
11 who is working for who at what point in the disaster, as well.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: And that's a -- it's not up
13 there, but I'll go back to the COAD and VOAD idea. What other
14 groups do you have that can fill those little niches in a
15 disaster and work through them?

16 Create long-lasting relationships with other
17 organizations. This is how you recruit them. Identify where
18 potential volunteers are. Set up presentations, you go out to
19 that. And then always have a point of contact that they can
20 talk to you, who's going to work the following years. Who's
21 that one person you can break through the door? And the best
22 recruiting situation is a natural disaster.

23 Case in point, I'll quote two of them, major
24 ones, in Anchorage, as far as the numbers of recruiting people.
25 9/11 and the -- the Hurricane --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

2 MR. WILLIAMS: -- Katrina. Thank you.

3 Katrina, (indiscernible) 50 percent of the Red
4 Cross volunteers (indiscernible). That's where you rake them
5 in. But that is your best -- I mean, it's kind of
6 (indiscernible), but you hope for -- when your volunteers start
7 going down (indiscernible). The easiest volunteers to recruit
8 are disaster volunteers. The hardest volunteers to keep are
9 disaster volunteers. Disasters don't happen to each one of
10 your communities every single year. And you don't -- you do a
11 lot of training and talking, but slowly they are going to move
12 back.

13 Not all volunteers are people persons. We look
14 at -- and I look at a lot of what we do is case work; a lot of
15 what we do is working in shelters. (Indiscernible). When you
16 are a disaster volunteer, you're getting a lot of nice, warm
17 fuzzies. People thank you, and they mean it. We have people
18 who don't -- you may have people who don't work well with
19 people, but you do need people who can do your logistics, do
20 your data gathering, write their reports, who can do a whole
21 bunch of other stuff. They don't all have to be up-front.
22 (Indiscernible) the frontline.

23 I look -- in my years at Red Cross and in
24 disaster, disaster is a business, so you have to fill every
25 position you would expect to fill in a business, when you're

1 doing a disaster. Customer care is most important. So what
2 supports customer care? How do we gain them? The quickest way
3 to lose a volunteer is in the first couple days. They say they
4 want to volunteer. You bring them in, talk to them immediately
5 to try to have one person set up who's going to work with
6 volunteers. It's better that that person be a volunteer
7 themselves. It's very easy. They are coming in, and you've
8 got to -- your pay staff; you've got some stuff you're working
9 with. It's pretty important.

10 And what happens is, many staff -- and it's easy
11 to get wrapped up in work, and the volunteers questions and
12 concerns to be pushed off for a later conversation. Later
13 loses volunteers. And it's better to have somebody who's a
14 volunteer, or somebody you can call in, and work with that
15 person, or even (indiscernible), and do it as quickly as
16 possible.

17 During the outpouring portion of it, take time
18 to look at the goals and motivations. This goes back to the
19 very first thing of taking an assessment of what you need and
20 what positions could you possibly put volunteers into. This is
21 what you're trying to match up. Place the volunteer in a
22 position in line with those goals and motivations. And then
23 even as it's -- and start looking at career paths. It sounds
24 kind of silly in a little community, but how are we going to
25 bring somebody up and bring them into that management decision

1 that they are going to be needed later on? Explain to them how
2 they can grow within the organization.

3 Within Red Cross, it's pretty well-defined, if
4 you're just starting out, and they have a very good
5 organization and you want to go through. Training available
6 through your organization and here training available through
7 FEMA, (indiscernible) a lot of stuff. A lot of that is
8 available online.

9 Personal (indiscernible). As much face-to-face
10 training as possible. I've seen Red Cross go a little
11 overboard. The online people aren't talking to each other.
12 That group that's got to work together doesn't meet each other;
13 it doesn't experience each other. Online introductory or
14 followed up with a get-together, or vice versa, it works a
15 little better. (Indiscernible).

16 And then, finally, even if it's only an Excel
17 file, establish a database of some sort for tracking those
18 volunteers. One tab for the contact information, half of it;
19 one tab for availability; one tab for the training they have
20 had; and one tab for the activities they have done. So you're
21 actually following who they are, where they are, and you can
22 review it on a monthly basis.

23 Working directly with people whose lives are
24 affected by a disaster requires immediately personally
25 satisfied (indiscernible). And I -- I started out as a

1 teacher, working with kids, and I loved it, but I've ended up
2 in administration. Every time you do move back, you're moving
3 a step away from the very people you got involved to serve. So
4 don't be surprised if your volunteers don't want to move into
5 management. They want to stay in actually helping the people
6 (indiscernible).

7 And then, finally -- and this is just from --
8 volunteer recognition. And I'll go to -- I ran operations out
9 at Myrtle Beach a couple of years ago; their response to some
10 flooding in South Carolina. And I had emergency response gear
11 drivers that were getting up at five o'clock in the morning and
12 returning from their routes at three o'clock (indiscernible).
13 And (indiscernible) you don't know, you know, where do these
14 people come from? Why are they doing this? What's going
15 through their minds?

16 Thank them, and thank your volunteers constantly
17 at the time they do something. Banquets and all that are cool.
18 Keep in mind, those people are working, and they're often doing
19 things that we'd even run -- that we run from. Thank them.
20 That's what they are there for (indiscernible).

21 Thank you.

22 Questions?

23 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Anyone have questions for
24 Kelley or Dave?

25 (No audible response.)

1 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Doesn't look like we have any
2 questions.

3 Thank you so much for coming and presenting that
4 information. I think that finding and retaining volunteers
5 across the nation right now, it's a difficult area. And
6 (indiscernible) Red Cross with volunteer --

7 MR. WILLIAMS: We are available, if anybody
8 wants to get an idea of how a program is set up
9 (indiscernible).

10 MS. McGUIRK: And oftentimes in your guys'
11 areas, some people that come to the table to take the sort of
12 cross-trainings are people that we want to be engaged in any
13 (indiscernible). So the more coordination that we have
14 together, I think the better off we are, and to be
15 (indiscernible) really resilient and ready for things.

16 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you very much.

17 That brings us to McHugh Creek Fire,
18 (indiscernible) on the agenda. (Indiscernible).

19 2016 McHUGH FIRE - Tom Kurth/Norm McDonald/Dean Brown, DNR

20 MR. McDONALD: Good morning. (Indiscernible),
21 so (indiscernible). I apologize (indiscernible).

22 So (indiscernible) that (indiscernible)
23 directory. They've got shore numbers for the (indiscernible),
24 (indiscernible), our chief of fire. We've got a presentation
25 put together. My day job, I'm the Fire Management Officer with

1 the Division of Forestry. We have got a (indiscernible), so I
2 oversee the Anchorage and Mat-Su and Southwest areas. So if
3 you work or live in those areas, the Southwest would basically
4 (indiscernible) Bristol Bay. (Indiscernible) community
5 (indiscernible) myself (indiscernible), in that zone.

6 So we're -- basically, we get our authority
7 through the State statutes, which is all fire protection law,
8 fire protection on State, private, and municipal land. So
9 (indiscernible) before you go off to the municipalities and the
10 boroughs and (indiscernible) emergency services, operators out
11 there, fire departments, (indiscernible), EOCs. That's a big
12 part of my job, is the pre-planning work with those groups,
13 to -- how to (indiscernible) in the event they are involved in
14 fire.

15 The last meeting, the (indiscernible) fire
16 protection, and BLM has the responsibility for basic
17 (indiscernible) being done, and the State has (indiscernible)
18 Forest Service protection. (Indiscernible) before you move
19 into the actual fire, just so you're aware of how the
20 (indiscernible) and responsibilities.

21 To set it up, this is July of last year. 2016
22 was a slower-than-average year. We had 500,000 acres burn
23 (indiscernible), which is a fairly slow year. Average is
24 1.5 million. But I always like to say that 500,000 acres sets
25 up in your backyard, it's a big, big deal. I went to our fall

1 (indiscernible) slow season, and (indiscernible). Not so much.
2 Anchorage, we had the driest winter on record. (Indiscernible)
3 driest (indiscernible) on record. (Indiscernible) warmest
4 summer on record. So you're lining for, you know, a fire to be
5 had. And (indiscernible) worked in -- you have the same
6 conditions.

7 In July of this year, we had a pretty good
8 lightning storm that came through the southwest, so we were
9 dealing with 40 fires out in that country, along the Kuskokwim
10 River, (indiscernible). And then our counterparts at BLM were
11 dealing with some (indiscernible) fires up in (indiscernible)
12 zones and (indiscernible) zones. So our Alaska resources were
13 fairly tied up. We had people spread out. And to get people
14 back in place is (indiscernible). But that's the kind of
15 situation (indiscernible).

16 You're in McHugh, if you're not from Anchorage,
17 this area. This is (indiscernible). Up in Anchorage, it would
18 be to the west of the McHugh area. McHugh's a large range kind
19 of setting up a mountain. And then Cook Inlet is to the south.
20 And then to the right, you can see it's Rainbow Peak or Rainbow
21 Valley. There's another smaller community nestled in there.
22 This area is all (indiscernible), so it gets a lot of sun.
23 It's a dry-area forest (indiscernible). You have a lot of
24 (indiscernible) in there, but they're always (indiscernible)
25 attached. For the most part, they are small, three or four

1 acres, and some can get a big lawn to take care of, but it's
2 all (indiscernible) potential. There's a lot of beetle-kill,
3 dead fuel, it's close to Anchorage, so it's something that
4 we've been aware of for my entire career, (indiscernible).

5 And what I'll do is just run through the couple
6 days leading up to the transition with our Incident Management
7 Team and what was going through my mind. I think the important
8 thing for this group is, as we're going through this, we'll
9 hear some of the different (indiscernible) that pop up, that
10 you probably deal with, as well. And in the plans that are in
11 place for -- need to be in place to be able to deal with an
12 emerging incident like this.

13 This is -- and I want to (indiscernible) this.
14 It's kind of a good fire to review. It was -- you know,
15 (indiscernible) say a slow-moving event. It wasn't
16 (indiscernible) like Sockeye. It was an awesome area two years
17 ago. That went -- the first thing we did on that fire was
18 evacuations. There was no firefighting involved until people
19 were out of the way.

20 This was one where we actually had time to kind
21 of (indiscernible), (indiscernible), and pre-plan a little bit
22 and make a -- help coordinate efforts for (indiscernible). So
23 it is a good one to review, and that's this.

24 So this fire was reported by two (indiscernible)
25 duty officers. (Indiscernible) outside of Anchorage. High

1 visibility. We responded with a single engine, with an
2 Anchorage Fire Department single engine. Our folks had to hike
3 out to the fire. They got there about two o'clock in the
4 morning, and it was four to five acres. So, evening, there's
5 no (indiscernible). (Indiscernible), as I mentioned, and just
6 really tough access.

7 Here's kind of a poor photo of this. This is
8 from the -- the gentleman was standing on a ledge, looking down
9 into that area. You can see it's beetle-kill, lots of
10 dead-and-down. That's the place (indiscernible) won't put
11 firefighters at night.

12 Alaska spruce is our fastest-moving fire fuel.
13 This beetle-kill is probably our most dangerous, because you
14 have got the snags. It's difficult to cut. It's hard to
15 get -- you know, to move fast in there. It's very
16 (indiscernible) and very rugged.

17 Mid-shift, by ten o'clock in the morning, we had
18 our helicopters and aviation assets were on duty. The fire had
19 grown 25 acres overnight. We had our helicopter and a
20 (indiscernible) helicopter both respond. Smokejumpers out of
21 Fairbanks -- which is where they are based out of -- both
22 stayed there. Their (indiscernible) were ordered. And they
23 were available. And we had two (indiscernible) groups.

24 Our primary safety issue, besides the fuel types
25 and location of the fire, was just traffic control. You're

1 familiar with the Seward Highway. It's -- in July, it is
2 packed. It's tourists. It's (indiscernible), Red season,
3 going down to the Kenai River. So it's -- it is very busy.
4 And you see people stop (indiscernible) a 25-acre fire on the
5 hillside (indiscernible), traffic already backed up, and it was
6 our number one concern. So right away (indiscernible)
7 cooperate a group we work with, with the State Troopers to come
8 help with traffic control.

9 Again, this is July. In the summer in Alaska,
10 they are swamped, as well. So they had an officer out there
11 patrolling, patrolling the -- they were also getting called.
12 You know, they are (indiscernible), and they'll go down from --
13 from Anchorage down to the Kenai. So they are swamped.

14 By the end of the first shift, or 2100, this is
15 (indiscernible), the fire was about three acres. Fairly slow
16 moving. Those of you who were -- got familiar with the Sockeye
17 Fire, that went about 3 or 4,000 acres in the first shift. So
18 this is a fairly small, small fire at this point. It's nestled
19 in that valley. It's not getting a lot of sun or wind, though
20 we're just having trouble getting people through, just because
21 of the access.

22 We did have two additional helicopters that
23 showed up, so there was four total working on it.
24 (Indiscernible) people assigned were making the (indiscernible)
25 contact with the State parks and working with those folks on

1 how we're going to (indiscernible), closing the park down. So
2 a bunch of trails that run through there and were heavily used,
3 so we had to close down those trails to keep the public out of
4 that area. There was a lot of people that wanted to get
5 photos. You can imagine, you know, they (indiscernible).

6 One of the Hotshot crews from Fairbanks was
7 arriving that evening. And then our local Hotshots from
8 Pioneer Peak was (indiscernible), and coming that evening would
9 be (indiscernible) the next morning. And still beside the
10 fire, our primary concern at this time was traffic control.
11 You know, traffic is backed up. We hadn't closed anything down
12 on the highway at this point, but there's people
13 bumper-to-bumper, pulled over, taking pictures of the fire and
14 beluga whales. It was the issue we had (indiscernible).

15 Next shift, fire is still fairly small.
16 (Indiscernible) work being done. Support was holding pretty
17 well. (Indiscernible) was holding. Fire asphyxiators, so
18 it's, again, not moving fast. A fast-moving fire will go 4 or
19 5,000 acres a day, easily. This is just kind of holding in
20 that valley at this point.

21 We had both our crews on location, so we're
22 starting to get some people-power in there. Just under 80
23 people assigned. Still got the four helicopters working, which
24 is a really good tool at that location, (indiscernible) on the
25 Inlet.

1 We had another lookie-loo situation with the
2 helicopters and buckets and dropping water. People like to get
3 pictures of that. So that was our -- our issue we had.

4 The other safety concern, an issue that came up
5 this day was, this is country that (indiscernible), it's for
6 the most experienced and trained and fit firefighters. We have
7 our Hotshot crews, which we had both crews on. They were even
8 having to (indiscernible).

9 We had three heat-related illnesses that had to
10 be medevac'd off and sent to Anchorage for rehydration. It's
11 80 degrees, it's (indiscernible) country, and so we were having
12 some work-related medical conditions (indiscernible) in this
13 situation. So right now it's a matter of, we have a medic on
14 scene, that they are also worried about, you know, firefighter
15 safety. That was becoming an issue. We're aware of that.

16 So the next shift, of the 18th and 19th, is
17 where things got turned around for us. About midnight, which
18 is rare for the area, there was an offshore wind increase,
19 which -- which when we get those, that's like a north wind.
20 It's basically a cold front. That's a dry wind. Pretty much
21 anywhere in the state, as you get those cold fronts moving
22 through, that's when you're getting (indiscernible) winds and
23 dry conditions. And that's what happened that evening.

24 So about midnight, the crew -- the crews and the
25 firefighters were bedding that evening. The winds did

1 increase. The Trooper dispatch called and said they had fire
2 on the road. RIC and their firefighters got up from their
3 (indiscernible) and looked at it. It turned out the fire had
4 been pushed off down the hill, and (indiscernible) logs and
5 fire (indiscernible) down the Seward Highway. The railroad
6 tracks (indiscernible) that early morning had caught on fire,
7 so it was, again (indiscernible), the people involved, and all
8 the other -- Troopers. The Anchorage Fire Department was
9 notified, and a task force was sent out, (indiscernible) from
10 the Anchorage Police Department, and the railroad, forest,
11 state parks. So these cooperators and the (indiscernible)
12 really comes into play at that time. So (indiscernible)
13 relationships and creation, (indiscernible), is starting to pay
14 off at this point, because we had pretty good communication
15 with all the groups.

16 The other thing that happens, and anyplace in
17 the state, but especially if you get a Fairbanks or Kenai or
18 (indiscernible) through Anchorage, is the media. It became a
19 huge media event. We already had the triple event for us that
20 evening. It became another big part of our (indiscernible)
21 team, that we (indiscernible). With that information and the
22 road issue, at that point we made a decision or a
23 (indiscernible) two team (indiscernible), and that was the
24 right thing to do.

25 So there were -- the team that's available, and

1 it's the Alaska thing to do, (indiscernible). They were just
2 finishing (indiscernible) and were able to mobilize from Tok
3 down to Anchorage and take this over. It happened fairly
4 quick. So by the end of the next shift, we had our
5 (indiscernible) in Anchorage and were able to kind of
6 (indiscernible) there.

7 So, next morning, fire is, at this point, in
8 size (indiscernible) acres. Now I'm a little concerned because
9 we have a -- went from a (indiscernible) perimeter, which is
10 fairly small, to 600 acres at the perimeter, which is a lot of
11 fire spread out over, you know, a big area. And, again,
12 it's -- it's, at this point, flanking both sides of the Seward
13 Highway. One flank is working its way towards Anchorage, which
14 is the Potter subdivision; and then the right flank is working
15 its way towards the Rainbow Valley subdivision. So we had two
16 communities at risk.

17 We worked with (indiscernible) Fire Department
18 on setting up (indiscernible) plans and evacuation plans. We
19 were coordinating with the Anchorage EOC at this point. And
20 that's when we decided to set up our team (indiscernible) for
21 the Type 2 Team. As the neighborhood EOC, we felt that they
22 would get the most information that Anchorage could provide
23 them, as well as their (indiscernible), from my standpoint
24 (indiscernible).

25 Again -- so we had the traffic control; that was

1 an issue. The steep, rugged terrain, with the injuries and
2 mounting heat-related illnesses. And then the other one that
3 was coming up was -- at this point, was the poor rest. Some of
4 these folks had now worked close to 24 hours straight. We have
5 a policy -- it is just within safety standards -- to give
6 people at least eight hours a day off away from the fire, and
7 that hadn't happened that night. We were down to one crew and
8 trying to get the second crew some time off and much-needed
9 sleep.

10 Some of the (indiscernible) additional Hotshot
11 crews, when they get work, they are coming from Alaska, so we
12 (indiscernible) 48- to 72-hour (indiscernible), which in this
13 case, it was (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) ten. We -- they
14 were going to -- they gave up five, and it took about 72 hours
15 to get there from Pacific Northwest and northern California to
16 Alaska. That's fairly standard. (Indiscernible) like that.

17 At this point, we did order (indiscernible)
18 option with the Alaska National Guard. This is a tool we use,
19 the crew we use quite often. And they did quite an excellent
20 service for us. And we have worked a lot in the past, but it's
21 something we just need to continue, working that relationship,
22 as well as other assets that the National Guard has.

23 The last team showed up that evening, and we had
24 our inbriefing at one eighteen hundred. Kevin, the EOC
25 Director, was out of town. He had that planned. The year

1 before, we had the same issue with Mat-Su Borough. So if you
2 take a vacation, you can almost guarantee you'll have a fire.
3 So we did have our (indiscernible). The team planned a
4 transition to the next shift, which they did. And we were able
5 to -- again, that's where a lot of information takes place.

6 This team is coming from Alaska. They are
7 coming from all agencies, so they are not familiar with the
8 local groups, local contacts. And that's really what those
9 EOCs or your emergency groups can provide for the team that's
10 in for a fire, whomever it might be. Then the (indiscernible),
11 say, that team is up from California, Oregon, or anyplace in
12 the country. They have come to Alaska to help us, and they are
13 going to need that information that you and your organizations
14 can provide.

15 Some of the decision -- or, the reasons we made
16 that decision to go to the team, we talked about the steep,
17 steep terrain and heavy fog surrounding, heavily
18 (indiscernible) the corridor. The corridor (indiscernible)
19 down in Homer or Seward or Kenai. So that was impacted. So
20 that obviously has a lot of public concern, political concerns,
21 and not to mention the (indiscernible). That's a lot of daily
22 groceries and other supplies that we ship back and forth.

23 Initial tagged resources were exhausted. At
24 this point, the lines they put in the previous two days were
25 not (indiscernible), or go (indiscernible) and start over from

1 scratch. We're still experiencing high winds and the
2 drought-stricken fuels we had, again, (indiscernible).
3 (Indiscernible) last year. Anchorage was not (indiscernible).
4 And then on the (indiscernible) at this point, we had live
5 (indiscernible) coming in. And, you know, that is
6 (indiscernible). People want (indiscernible) quick. And at
7 that point, that's when the Incident Management Team, the
8 decision is to help break up that (indiscernible) for its
9 multiple uses.

10 This is just a progression map. You can see how
11 that works. So the team showed up at about the 21st, when they
12 took over the fire. And that's when we got (indiscernible)
13 emissions and the (indiscernible) up there. Good lesson
14 learned is that you want to the fire to stop growing and --
15 before it is an antique.

16 So that's just what the days looked like. I see
17 it, up -- the (indiscernible) guy with that yellow. It was a
18 big outside night. And the day, where things were really
19 pushing towards Rainbow, a lot of it starts going high winds in
20 communities.

21 And the final perimeter, Anchorage is again at
22 the northwest. And then where it goes to the -- that range to
23 the east, did not push there, but we -- you know, again, this
24 is a great opportunity to kind of test the plans we had in
25 place, but with Anchorage and South Anchorage. And -- and it

1 was actually a good -- really good lessons learned for us.

2 These are some of the takeaways I had.

3 I think the big one is, the previous two years
4 we had (indiscernible) turn over in the Anchorage Fire
5 Department. I can't remember how (indiscernible). We had some
6 of the administration figure out this. So we needed a decision
7 to use a Tabletop.

8 Kevin, you can speak up here and guide in that,
9 these Tabletop scenarios. And they are extremely basic,
10 clearly a (indiscernible) on a table. We did want -- the USC
11 kind of head staff, belonging to the Anchorage Fire Chief and
12 their (indiscernible) chiefs in the operations.

13 There's Anchorage Police involved. And then we
14 took that same scenario and brought it down to the
15 (indiscernible) level, and a huge step for the Anchorage Fire
16 Department, (indiscernible) chiefs. And I think, you know, we
17 have some issues we have to work through. We still will. And
18 I really feel doing those was (indiscernible) success we had.
19 We had good contacts. We knew each other's, by face, by name.
20 You know, our guys were high level, were familiar with the data
21 sheets. We had the communication plan in place. So a lot of
22 the things that can happen, that go along -- you know, you work
23 through on that Tabletop.

24 So it's something I just recommend. And it
25 doesn't have to be a fire. It could be a flood or earthquake

1 or whatever, but I hear you talking about (indiscernible), but
2 it's as simple as you could possibly do.

3 And the other thing I recommend (indiscernible),
4 the operators (indiscernible), so (indiscernible), from
5 everybody, from the emergency management down to the people who
6 are going to be running the shovel. And we kind of achieved
7 that with our training in the two years before that, and it
8 really paid off in this event.

9 Another lesson learned is the public meeting. I
10 think we were (indiscernible) public interest (indiscernible)
11 Anchorage. And I thought we were ready for it, (indiscernible)
12 never be really ready for that. (Indiscernible). A take-away
13 for anybody who's PIOs or (indiscernible), you can really help
14 out getting that message out, whether it is evacuation
15 information, or later on, how to do (indiscernible),
16 (indiscernible) information, getting PIOs (indiscernible).

17 Just another kind of lesson learned, and
18 something we're working on for this year, is how quickly we
19 could evacuate -- or, with road closures, how quickly we at the
20 DOT and State Troopers can be task-saturated. They have got
21 all this stuff going on, stuff of a week or ten days, wholly
22 close a road (indiscernible). DOT, the same situation. So,
23 again, that's something that the National Guard is working on.
24 They are called Mission Ready Packages. So basically it is a
25 security package, and they can be called and they can help out

1 with those longer term events (indiscernible) road closures.

2 Another take-away: This is -- we do this quite
3 often. I think for All-risk, it's really important, is we have
4 (indiscernible) meetings and then (indiscernible) meeting,
5 where all the (indiscernible) are involved. We don't do that,
6 (indiscernible). There's a lot of confusion, a lot of
7 questions that come up. But if you have the (indiscernible)
8 meetings in the season, and 22 stakeholders, cooperators,
9 involved. And we show up every morning at 11:00 and get a full
10 reading on the extent. Then we share information
11 (indiscernible) would be relative; we would share information
12 with then (indiscernible). And it is just really the way to
13 keep people on the same page. And some of these smaller
14 agencies that we don't necessarily think of (indiscernible), to
15 be involved in the system, and get that (indiscernible).

16 So knowing that that -- some other -- other --
17 well, I guess the one (indiscernible) passed on. This is a
18 great one. This is a (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) for
19 public meetings, a couple days late in the game, when it's --
20 it's (indiscernible), and it's called (indiscernible). It's
21 actually very easy. And you have a GIS (indiscernible) to
22 overlay; in our case, a (indiscernible), be it a fire or
23 earthquake, whatever, (indiscernible) Google, and use that.
24 You can use that to find out the basic -- it really helps you
25 (indiscernible) explain what's happening. You know, a

1 bird's-eye view of the situation.

2 That's pretty much it (indiscernible) what I
3 had. (Indiscernible) what went on last year. And if you have
4 any questions, I'll (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) I can
5 work with (indiscernible) Southwest (indiscernible).

6 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thanks, Norm. Thank you for
7 dropping in and giving us the presentation and overview
8 (indiscernible).

9 Dean, did you have something you wanted to add?

10 MS. BROWN: Yes.

11 First of all, Norm, good job. Not only am I
12 (indiscernible) presentation. And I wanted to give some credit
13 here, because you couldn't ask for better info (indiscernible).
14 And you may well see him if you ever have to have Type 2 Team
15 (indiscernible), because he is just one step away from becoming
16 a full qualified Incident Commander for one of the two Type 2
17 teams we have in the state. And that's quite an
18 accomplishment. So (indiscernible).

19 I wanted to just take a couple of minutes and
20 mention what we have got coming for this season. And of
21 course, bear in mind that Predictive Services involves weather
22 forecasts and things that we all know are very variable. They
23 (indiscernible) Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group. And
24 we did get our season prediction, which is, quote/unquote,
25 average, which, as Norm mentioned, may be 1.5 million acres.

1 So we know there are going to be fires, and as we say in the
2 fire business, we don't know where or when. But there are
3 different (indiscernible). We'll have a better idea a month
4 later into the season.

5 At this point, the late snow cover is definitely
6 an advantage to us; although, sometimes that can end up meaning
7 that you've got a lot of grass (indiscernible) fuels and
8 (indiscernible) fuels. And that can present its own problems,
9 which (indiscernible).

10 So (indiscernible). I wanted to mention that
11 Alaska has one Type 1 Team, in Alaska, a Type 1 Team, which is
12 one of 16. We work it out by team nationally now. And we've
13 got one, one Type 1 Team. We have two Type 2 Teams. We do not
14 have, really, any depth of people for the backup that we were
15 talking about, and that's always a problem. So we essentially
16 have just entered into a relationship with the Pacific
17 Northwest, hoping to be able to utilize some of their trained
18 personnel. But we're also looking for individuals, whether
19 they're local area, whether they can be (indiscernible), people
20 that we can train in for additional support staff, not actual
21 firefighters. And that's where your organizations can help a
22 great deal. And we also want to say, we recognize that the
23 LEPCs (indiscernible) and (indiscernible) all of first
24 responders, and that helps us tremendously (indiscernible).

25 So with that, Norm and I want to thank you for

1 inviting us. We basically do recognize and appreciate the
2 talks that you do statewide.

3 Thank you.

4 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Thank you. Any questions or
5 comments for Dean or Norm?

6 (No audible response.)

7 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: I don't see any.

8 Thank you, again, very much for coming and
9 presenting that. I think the lessons learned are probably the
10 biggest thing for this group, that we can take those away and
11 go back and look at where those apply in our communities. So
12 thank you very much for that. Thank you.

13 All right. That brings us to Members Closing
14 Comments.

15 MEMBERS CLOSING COMMENTS - OPEN FORUM

16 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: We'll go around the table
17 again. If you don't have anything, feel free to wave it on.
18 And we're going to start on this side this time with Mike.

19 MR. PASCHALL: Absolutely nothing.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thanks for their
21 comments.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I like that part.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do that again.

24 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: All right. So thank you,
25 everyone, for your participation. I think it was a good

1 meeting, and I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

2 (No audible response.)

3 CO-CHAIR HOAGE: Motion to adjourn by Tom.

4 Meeting is adjourned.

5 MEETING ADJOURNMENT

6 The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

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