

LEPC Association  
Friday, October 20, 2017

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Meeting Minutes

**ALASKA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEES (LEPC) ASSOCIATION**  
**Anchorage Hilton Hotel**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, October 20, 2017

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Scott Brown, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC  
Kevin Spillers, Anchorage LEPC  
Becky Sayo, Bristol Bay LEPC  
Laura Thiesen, Copper River LEPC  
Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC  
Kate Batten, Denali LEPC  
Tori Clylde, Fairbanks LEPC  
Tom Mattice, Juneau LEPC  
Abner Hoage, Ketchikan LEPC  
Scott Walden, Kenai Peninsula LEPC  
Jack Maker, Kodiak Island LEPC  
Tom Vaden, Nome LEPC  
Heather Seemann, North Slope Borough  
Dickie Moto, Northwest Arctic LEPC  
Kelly Swihart, Petersburg LEPC  
Dave Miller, Sitka LEPC  
Brian Templin, Southern Southeast LEPC  
George Keeney, Valdez LEPC

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mat-Su LEPC  
Northern Southeast LEPC  
Wrangell LEPC

**GUESTS:**

Michael O'Hare, Director, DHS&EM  
Mike Sutton, Deputy Director, DHS&EM  
Bryan Fisher, Operations, DHS&EM  
Jeffrey Lafferty, Preparedness, DHS&EM  
Kim Stuart, Planning, DHS&EM  
Gloria Harrison, State Training Officer, DHS&EM  
Dr. Michelle Combs, Alaska Volcano Observatory  
Lisa Shield, Department of Natural Resources  
Charles Pelton, Department of Health & Social Services  
Kathy Shea, Department of Environmental Conservation

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Megan Kohler, Department of Environmental Conservation  
Paul Valley, FEMA Region X Program Analyst, Anchorage Area Office.  
Mike Tolman, Aleutians/Pribilof Islands  
Terri Lynch, City of Valdez  
Tonay Frederick, Anchorage  
Ann Gravier, Housing and Urban Development  
Jennifer Shockley, Aleutians/Pribilof Islands  
Andy Preis, Anchorage OEM  
Evan Kressley, DHS&EM  
Chris Noel, Denali Borough  
Sarah Garcia, Petersburg  
Dorothy Canarelli, City of Nome  
Deneeri Nichols, Anchorage Fire Department  
David Baron, NWADAC

I. **CALL TO ORDER - Co-Chairs. Mr. Abner Hoage and Mr. Dave Miller**

Co-Chair Miller called the LEPC Association Meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The LEPC Association members said the pledge of allegiance.

B. Welcome and Introductions – Members present of the LEPCA introduced themselves. Co-Chair Miller reminded participants that when they speak they need to speak into their microphone and state their name. He gave a safety briefing.

C. Administrative Announcements from Co-Chairs

1. Moment of silence for Steve Jones, Bristol Bay Borough (BBB) –  
There was a moment of silence for the memory of Steve Jones, Fire Chief from the BBB.

II. **APPROVAL OF April 17, 2017 MINUTES**

**Brian Templin, Southern Southeast LEPC, MOVED to approve the minutes of April 7, 2017 as presented. Tom Vaden, Nome LEPC, seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:** It was pointed out by Michael Paschall, Delta-Greeley LEPC, that what had been provided was a transcript and not minutes. In response to his question, Co-Chair Miller stated he did not know why they went to a transcript instead of actual minutes. Ms. Kim Stuart stated they had a different transcriber than they have had in the past. Mr. Paschall stated he would vote not to approve them as they are not minutes of the meeting and he found them useless. He wanted to see a set of minutes produced from the transcript.

**MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Co-Chair Miller stated that what they were asking for is a regular set of meeting minutes for the April meeting to be presented at the next meeting. Ms. Stuart stated that they do have the transcript on their website for those who wanted something electronic.

III. **APPROVAL AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

(Skipped)

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

Jack Maker, Kodiak LEPC, brought up the fact that this meeting was held without a conference, making it a day conference. He thought that when there was an LEPA meeting without a conference it could be done by teleconference. It would be less expensive both for the Division as well as the individual LEPCs. Scott Brown, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC, seconded Mr. Maker's comments. Tori Clyde, Fairbanks LEPC, agreed. Tom Vaden, Nome LEPC, also agreed but did not know that it would work for the SERC meeting which comes after the LEPCA meeting.

Co-Chair Miller asked if they had to have the second meeting. Bryan Fisher, Chief of Operations, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM), stated that he would have to get back to them on that question, although he did not think that there was any requirement for the LEPCA to physically meet. He added that when they originally changed to this format Health and Social Services (HSS) was planning on doing Hale Borealis annually, which would have worked with having the LEPCA/SERC at the end of that, but they have changed that now to every other year.

**Jack Maker, Kodiak LEPC, MOVED to add a new business item added to the next LEPCA meeting agenda to address meetings that are not held in conjunction with a conference. Scott Brown, Aleutians/Pribilof Islands LEPC, seconded the motion. MOTION passed unanimously.**

George Keeney, Valdez LEPC, stated that the EMS Symposium occurs every November, which is a conference that quite a few of the LEPCA members attend. He suggested working that in if that would be possible with the SERC. Mr. Fisher stated that they will look into the other conferences that occur in the fall.

V. **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

A. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Donald Frederick introduced himself. He stated that communications are the secret to the security as well as the public in the event of a natural disaster such as happened in Houston, Florida and Puerto Rico where the cell towers went down disrupting communications. He stated that another concern was box stores where racks may be bolted to the floor, but are not cross-braced, and can domino in an event.

- B. SERC Finance Committee update – Co-Chair Hoage reported the Committee met recently and approved the LEPC allocations. As members were aware they are on a new funding formula so some funding amounts changed this year. The Committee intends for this to be an ongoing process. As they get toward the end of this year, they will take another look to make sure they are on the right track. He requested that if members have concerns about how this year’s process was going, they can contact him and he will take it back to the Committee. He reminded them that the first quarter reports were due October 20. If there were questions regarding what they can spend their money on, they should contact Kelly Isham, DHS&EM. Brian Templin, Southern Southeast LEPC, encouraged jurisdictions that if as they look across the year and think they will struggle to spend their funds, not to hesitate to turn money back as there will be other jurisdictions that could use those funds. He also encouraged jurisdictions that had projects that they did not have funds for to put them together to apply for turned-back funds. Co-Chair Miller added that turning back money was not a negative thing as long as it is done early and not at the end of the year. Mr. Fisher agreed that it was difficult for the Division to spend those funds if they are turned back at the end of the fiscal year, so the sooner the better. He added that the appropriation they get for the LEPCs is a separate line item, unrestricted general fund budget component in the Department’s budget. Last year there were legislators in some of the committees looking hard at eliminating the entirety of the LEPC appropriation. While they did not think there was a huge risk this year, it will come up again. He encouraged members to talk to their local legislators to support continuing to keep that budget. Scott Walden, Kenai Peninsula Borough LEPC, stated that their Vice Chair is Sen. Micciche who made the comment at the end of their recent meeting that there had been suggestions to reduce the LEPC funding. In Sen. Micciche’s opinion, it is not feasible nor something that should be considered.
- C. Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM)

Strategic Plans & Leadership – Mr. Mike Sutton, Deputy Director, DHS&EM, stated they would appreciate members contacting their legislators for support. He stated that it has been a busy summer. When nothing is happening as far as disasters are concerned, they are catching up on all the things that do not happen when they are in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Division has completed a reorganization of the planning section to dedicate three full-time permanent positions to the community resilience unit. Their mission is to collaborate across the resilience enterprise, meaning the whole community, to assist communities’ efforts to better mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies. The Division committed to conducting two rural resilience workshops each year focusing on increasing emergency management capabilities in communities off the road system. The first was held in Bethel in February 2017. It was attended by 13 villages and presenters included the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), FEMA, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, DHS&EM, the National Guard, and the Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF) with topics ranging from

individual and community preparedness in rural communities to public health and medical resources, FEMA direct support to Native tribes, planning for hazardous spill events in rural communities, introduction to the incident command system, and other topics. They also went over the Small Community Emergency Response Plans (SCERP) and did a lot of work towards helping communities there either build the one they have or update the one that already existed. Based on the lessons learned from the Bethel workshop the team is in the final planning stages for a November 2017 workshop in Kotzebue working in conjunction with the Northwest Arctic Borough LEPC. Kotzebue and 10 surrounding communities will participate. Presenters include DHS&EM, the Northwest Arctic Borough, DEC, ANTHC with topics including hazmat awareness and response, SCERP development, and a table top exercise, threatened hazard identification, public health and medical service, Incident Command System (ICS) training among other topics. Follow-on efforts for the rural resilience team will include the Tanana Chiefs Conference area as well as the Kawerak region. The intent is to get to every community in Alaska with the tools they have to enhance community resilience.

The Planning Section is also engaged in supporting Alaska National Guard's rewrite of their defense support to civil authorities plan as well as updating the terrorism annex to the emergency operations plan. Completion of the terrorism annex will support the concept and objectives for Alaska Shield 2019 tentatively scheduled for April 2019 which will be a terrorism-focused exercise.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA) and the Division partnered to bring the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program to the cadets as part of their curriculum. The concept is to train the cadets in emergency preparedness and basic response to ensure that they have the skills needed to protect themselves and assist others in their community in the event of an emergency. Cadets come from many communities around Alaska.

DHS&EM continues to design and conduct exercises statewide, including preparation for Alaska Shield 2019. The concept and objectives conference is scheduled in November. This summer the Division participated in the Nation's first full-scale end-to-end Arctic cruise ship search and rescue exercise and mass casualty field exercise, Arctic Chinook, in the Nome area. There were lots of lessons learned. The Division also conducted dozens of outreach and education events. They want to get the Quake Cabin out to as many communities as they can. The preparedness team has developed a multi-year outreach campaign plan which dovetails with the training and exercise multi-year plan to guide the State's focus through the calendar year 2019.

Mr. Sutton stated that it has been a pretty quiet summer for the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC); however, they did as a team conduct the most difficult continuity of operations exercise they have ever attempted. The Division initiated an early morning recall with the instructions for the Division personnel to report to the COOP site nearest them, which involved three different sites. The SEOC

members at each site set up the communications and began the process of assessing the scenario they were given and then began to work together to build an incident action plan for how they would respond to that scenario. There were a lot of lessons learned from the exercise.

He reported that breakup and river watch proceeded pretty much without a hitch. The fire season was a lot quieter than what has been seen in the past. The State has experienced its first fall sea storm this year with Utqiagvik experiencing a major storm at the end of September. DHS&EM is currently working with the community on gathering information for that to present to the Disaster Policy Cabinet, and then make a recommendation to the Governor how to proceed. They have also been assisting sister states with the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). They have sent people down to all the disasters that have been happening in the Lower 48. They will bring lessons learned and experience back to Alaska.

Operations – Mr. Bryan Fisher reported it has been pretty quiet in terms of disaster response since the spring. They are working with the North Slope Borough (NSB) currently with response to a significant storm that occurred at the end of September. He stated that they have spent a fairly significant amount of time in the last couple months supporting the EMAC. It is in statute in all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are signatories to the compact. EMAC is the country's interstate mutual aid agreement for disaster response. It allows for licensure portability. Members from the Alaska Air National Guard 212<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron have deployed to the Houston area, Northeast Texas, as well as to Southern Florida. DHS&EM sent an EOC support team to Lee County, Florida. They came back with extensive lessons learned and information to share, and have been asked to put together a presentation. In addition, the Alaska Army and Air National Guard have sent a number of resources to both Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A communications team is running their joint incident site communications capability. Recently they sent the advance party for a 30-person forward support company to the U.S. Virgin Islands to provide maintenance support on all the other military assets that are now operating there. He stated that in his 23 years in the office, this is the first year he ever heard FEMA call and ask them to go work for them. Every FEMA region in the country asked their states and region to send state employees to work for FEMA whether it is at the local regional response coordination center or to be deployed down range to any of the disaster responses that they are doing. In the last couple months upwards of 80 to 90 percent of FEMA's emergency response staff have been deployed.

Mr. Fisher stated that on the alert and warning side the State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) met October 19<sup>th</sup>. They have an in-person meeting at the Alaska Broadcasters Association convention in a couple weeks. He reported that this was the second year where they participated in FEMA's periodic nationwide EAS test. It went better than it

did last year. The Emergency Communications Committee still plans to do an amber alert live code test in January. The annual tsunami warning test will be regionally targeted to the coastal communities in March 2018. Depending on what the Federal Government does, they might have to do the national periodic test again sometime in 2018. The Emergency Communications Committee and his telecommunication planners will be coming out to some communities to write EIS plans for the local areas for communities that don't have them in place.

Tom Mattice, Juneau LEPC, stated he found it interesting that during all the federal level disasters with all the state level employees that were sent across the nation to support, there is no mechanism for locals to join into that support. Mr. Fisher stated that local, municipal, and volunteer resources as well as the private sector can deploy through EMAC. He felt that in Alaska there was still some work to do. They will have to engage their Assistant Attorney General to talk about what instrument may need to be in place between his Division and a local municipality. He needs to work with them on both the intrastate mutual aid compact legislation that is in place and see how it would or would not apply to sending folks across via EMAC. One issue is reimbursement. Mr. Mattice stated that whether in-state or out-of-state having this kind of experience is critical to be able to respond well in a disaster, so the more we can grow, the more we can do that, the better off they become as local jurisdictions.

Preparedness – Mr. Jeffrey Lafferty reported that since the April meeting they have had a lot of changes within the preparedness section. Additional personnel have been hired. Over the last six months they hired Doug Albrecht to act in a public information officer capacity. He stated that over the summer even though they were pretty lean in the outreach section, they had a lot of volunteers from other sections in the Division that assisted. They participated in 43 outreach events. Sixteen of these events included the quake simulator in the Interior including Healy, Fairbanks, Tri-Valley School, and other locations. They worked with the AMYA on a CERT program. Over 120 cadets participated with 95 finishing the course and issued certificates. Mr. Lafferty reported they are in the final stages of planning for the 2018 preparedness conference. With respect to exercises, Kathy Cavyell, State lead exercise planner, will be retiring next spring. They have the concepts and objectives meeting for the exercise coming up next month. The initial planning meeting will be in January. The exercise section developed, participated, or attended various table top exercises including the Alaska National Guard's wild land fire exercise, earthquake and tsunami exercises, and others. They worked with the Denali Borough and other jurisdictions, as well as the Denali Commission who funded three exercises for the communities of Kivalina, Shaktoolik, and Shishmaref.

Mr. Lafferty reported that the training unit has also been busy. They have

hired Gloria Harrison to be the State Training Officer. In the past six months they have offered 10 classes at local jurisdictions, did 7 state-sponsored courses, and 16 courses sponsored by the national training partners hosted or attended by local people. They coordinated sessions for over 650 students. They have active shooter training scheduled in Anchorage in November as well as in Bethel via Tom Wilder who is the protective security advisor for the State. Mr. Wilder is wondering if they would like more of these courses offered in 2018. Training is revamping the internal training matrix they use for training Division staff. With respect to position specific training, Mr. Lafferty stated they had a plan and they follow that plan stringently and have been successful in putting the courses on. Gloria and Eva have pushed the schedule out to 2021 for some of the position specific courses.

Planning - Ms. Kim Stuart reported stated they are updating the State Emergency Operations Plan. With the new annex they should be done with it in December. They conducted eight LEPC visits. They have distributed some Alaska assessment information. In May they held a hazmat tech course with 16 participants. They held an international hazardous material response team conference with eight attendees. They also hosted 13 attendees to the Hot Zone conference. She stated that they have some Hazardous Materials Grants Program (HMEP) money so if the communities have people that have some training ideas they can contact Planning. They are looking for things that the communities actually need, that the first responders need. There have been four new SCERPs since the April meeting: Nuiqsut, Shaktoolik, Tuluksak, and Gulkana. There are four more are on the street for a total of 73 communities. 42 communities are actively working their SCERPs, and six have been updated from last year. They are a one-year annual review.

The Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection has kicked off their season. The October meeting was October 19<sup>th</sup>. This year they are doing sector specific information meetings. In October it was public health and emergency services. They have a point of contact from each of those that is presenting. In November it will be communications and IT. They continue to do security briefings three times a year.

The next rural resiliency workshop will be in Kotzebue with the Northwest Arctic Borough. There are several communities on a short list, so they will be coming to those communities to see if they are interested in hosting those workshops with the Division and helping to find participants.

With respect to pre-disaster mitigation, they have projects they are doing final inspection for, including Skookum Creek, which is Alaska Railroad. The Port of Anchorage seismic upgrade project funding is pending FEMA approval. They are doing an environmental evaluation for endangered



species impact. They are also updating the State Hazard Mitigation Plan for completion in 2018.

Ms. Stuart stated that they have 14 new and 75 updates for local mitigation plans that the mitigation section is currently working on.

For the hazardous mitigation grant program, they have projects in the City of Anchoon, Anchor River, Mat-Su Borough as well as six or eight additional projects currently that are awaiting funding from FEMA for identification.

The tsunami/earthquake program conducted the second annual big earthquake workshop in May. In August they had earthquake preparedness training with UAA for college staff and Department of Corrections in Anchorage. They participated in Kenai Peninsula Borough risk map presentations with the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED). They conducted earthquake safety and mitigation training for schools in the Mat-Su Borough. In September they presented tsunami ready certification for the City of Whittier. October 19 was the National Shake-out so many divisions and places, APIP, participated in that. They plan to conduct a tsunami workshop in Sitka in April. They have created a new coastal community tsunami information brochure. There is also a new ash alert brochure that was just completed.

## VI. LEPC VERBAL STATUS REPORTS

### A. Public Comments

Valdez LEPC – Mr. George Keeney introduced Terri Lynch who is a public health nurse and the LEPC vice chair. She is setting up a Point of Distribution (POD) for them on October 24<sup>th</sup> at the high school. He felt that health and social services was a section they would like to hear from at the LEPCA meeting. He reported they are conducting ICS -300 and 400 classes next week. There are already 23 people signed up. They plan to do a mass casualty exercise through the hospital November 17<sup>th</sup>. Currently they are conducting an Emergency Trauma Tech (EMT) 1 class at the high school. Last year they graduated 33 students as EMT's through the high school program. They also have first aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in the schools, teaching freshmen and sophomores, as well as wilderness first aid and CERT programs. The college is also doing a CERT program once a month. With respect to Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) training they are doing the train the trainer. They had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DHSS for a POD that the city signed two days ago.

Southern Southeast LEPC – Mr. Brian Templin reported they have been working on two issues primarily. One is communications on Prince of Wales Island, trying to tie communities and responders together better. They have been helping the local police department upgrade some of their communications equipment, as well as working with the communities on how some of the extended range radio communications are working on the Island. They have also been helping communities to incorporate a mass notification system for both responders and the public. There are 10 or 11 communities on the Island, all of which have some

form of communications, but some are still tied to landlines. They have been using a system called Omni Alert which has been working okay. Getting everyone tied in as far as regional administrators or community administrators has been a bit of a challenge. Mr. Templin stated that they have been working with the school districts over the summer on classroom and school preparedness, trying to get more information out on individual and family preparedness through the schools. There are four school districts on Prince of Wales Island and about 10 schools. He has been working with some LEPC members and the public health nurse office to go to communities and do presentations primarily to elementary school classes this year. Last year they did their area preparedness fair, helping teachers get more prepared in their classrooms including putting together classroom emergency kits or lockdown kits for the classrooms. This year the focus is school vehicles. The four school districts have not only buses, but vans that they use to move students around. Most of the vans meet the minimum requirements for what they have to have in terms of first aid kits and fire extinguishers, etc., but they are reluctant to get into their first aid kits for minor stuff, because then they have to rebuild and recertify first aid kits. They have found that there is a lack of preparedness in the vehicles for getting stranded. So, this year they have been working to help the schools put together vehicle preparedness kits scaled to the size of the vehicles whether vans or busses so that they are prepared for more than just the minimum emergencies that the school districts are required to prepare for. The schools have been very receptive.

Petersburg LEPC – Mr. Kelly Swihart reported they are continuing to work on converting their disaster response plan to an emergency operations plan. They have put out some preparedness information to the community as well as display it in a couple areas. They have been collaborating with Department of Transportation (DOT), local police department, local fire department, hospital on their triannual DOT mass casualty exercise. They participated in some Code Red Training, their reverse 911 system, with the police department to help get emergency information out to people. They have an emergency communications trailer that they use on occasion, and they were able to go through it and make sure everything was operating correctly and up to speed. They met with the high school principal regarding their emergency response to the schools, and talked with their crisis team. They were able to do testing on the community siren and continue to try to get it up to speed. They are also in the process of adding two more sirens. They completed renovation of a new municipal building that included a new police station with a dispatch center. Over the past several years they have been working towards making sure they met all the interoperability standards and P25 compliance, and they are just about there. Mr. Swihart is working with DOT on responses at the airport. He stated that all of the vacant seats on the LEPC have been filled.

North Slope Borough LEPC – Ms. Heather Seeman reported in the past several months they have had multiple incidents and are still working on cleaning up the diesel fuel spill in Kaktovik that happened last January. There was between 6,000 and 6500 gallons of diesel fuel spilled in Barrow in the past summer. Recently they had a diesel fuel spill in Point Hope. A water sample from the water treatment facility in Anaktuvuk Pass came up positive for E.coli. It was a sampling issue, but they still had to treat it as a potential community threat at that time. In Barrow one of the fresh water lagoons was positive with PFCs with specifically PFOS and PFOA. While it was not the current fresh water lagoon, but it caused them to do sampling of the current fresh water lagoon which it came up astronomically high with both PFOS and PFOA. The water treatment facility in their routine operations, the testing from the treated water has essentially no PFAS levels whatsoever. They have put up signage to warn people not to drink directly out of the fresh water lagoons or use the ice. They have a current disaster declaration from the recent storm surge and flooding in Utqiagvik (Barrow). With respect to exercises, they have participated with the health department in their POD table top. They participated in another table top with DOT and the airport for the

upcoming full exercise next year. They also had a couple of petroleum industry drills. Conoco Phillips held their Incident Management Team (IMT) and then there was an annual drill at Endicott. Upcoming exercises include a table top in November in Nuiqsut to go over their new SCERP. Lonesome Dove, their multi-day active shooter full-scale exercise will take place in May 2018. With respect to outreach, they hosted many summer camps, including three elementary Saturday disaster preparedness and awareness summer camps, two one-week long middle school camps, and two one-week long high school camps. They are participating with disaster awareness and preparation curriculum development with the school system and some of their key stakeholders. They had a lot of different community activities with a lot of different groups including the senior center. They started distributing their 2016 Emergency Response Guides (ERG). When she stopped by the local FAA flight service station she found out that they have an awesome old-school military radio that's the size of a table. Essentially if you have your frequency for any VHF or UHF radio that you can talk to anybody using it. She stated they have distributed hundreds of community pamphlets with preparedness information, including making your kits and plans. They are working with the Inupiaq Heritage Learning Center (IHLC) to get some of the information translated into Inupiaq. With respect to training they had Arctic Guardian 2017, a two-day oil spill seminar, and half-day equipment drill with many participants. There was a maritime drift seminar co-hosted by North Slope Borough search and rescue. The U.S. Coast Guard Sherman visited Point Hope, Wainwright, and Barrow for cold water safety. Recently a cold-water ice rescue training was held by the U.S. Coast Guard in Kaktovik. Multiple classes have been held at Illasavik including ICS 100, 200, 300. Samuel Memorial Hospital has held a lot of different classes related to disaster response as well as ICS 300, 400. Ms. Seeman and law enforcement officers are in the process of completing the FEMA basic academy at Idaho Office of Emergency Management. With respect to planning, ASNA and North Slope Borough co-hosted a first meeting for the formation of a family reception/ reunification center planning team. There is an upcoming pastor preparedness potluck they are planning to get them involved. The North Slope Borough updated their Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (ODPCP) although it is still in draft form. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were up for two days for a coastal erosion and playing plan charrette. The health department has their POD plan draft out. Ms. Seeman is working with Ilkusagvik College and some of the North Slope airline stakeholders to get some MOUs and Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) developed. They are discussing a specific data dissemination plan since they have a lot of research that goes on up there, and they have a lot of partners that are interested in the research such as National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for better weather prediction programs. They have to have a data dissemination plan in order to release all that data. In July of 2018 they will be hosting the Circumpolar Conference.

Kodiak Island LEPC – Mr. Jack Maker reported he is still dealing with a couple assembly members with regards to questioning the emergency services code. He has been directed by the manager to send some rather embarrassing emails to DHS&EM with respect to whether they can take our code and review it and give recommendations, etc. He is trying to convince the city council members and the assembly members that they need to take the ICS for elected officials' course. He wants a commitment from them. He stated that fortunately they have a new city manager who is the emergency services director by both borough and city code; he is interested in putting forth more effort with regards to emergency management to the point where he has taken Mr. Maker's advice and is going to bring up the possibility of contracting out an emergency management specialist position or hiring one that will be a joint position contracted through the city and the borough. Mr. Maker attended the hazard mitigation planning work shop as well as attended the tsunami workshop in May along with the borough manager. With respect to the hazard mitigation plan, he heard there has been money set aside with a contractor for Kodiak's plan. Mr. Maker had been working on

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the update. He sent everything he had to the contractor. DHS&EM personnel have told him that they would like to do a tsunami workshop in Kodiak, bringing in people from the villages. He reported they have new draft tsunami inundation maps for the Island. The safe zone has changed from the 100 feet they had been using. Once the maps are adopted, they will have to invest funds into public education. The fire chief/LEPC Chair has obtained a grant to improve the emergency operations center. He worked with the Department of Health and Social Services, the borough, the city, the school district, and Bayside Fire department to agree and sign a POD MOU for actual dispensing sites. On October 28 they will hold a POD exercise. They will take their lessons learned and do an after-action report and update their POD plan. With respect to outreach, they participated in Crab Fest, where they had interactive training aids. Mr. Maker reported that he revamped their roster as they were having quorum issues for meetings. Through use of alternates and primaries they were able to somewhat fix that issue. He is struggling to get participation as at this point the LEPC seems to be 90 percent him and 10 percent them as far as what is being accomplished. He plans to start getting that participation through committees, etc.

Northwest Arctic Brough LEPC – Mr. Dickie Moto reported that he has been working with Ms. Kim Stuart on having rural resiliency training in October. They are working to make the once a year LEPC meeting better for the 10 communities. They are trying to get more awareness education going and more training for the community LEPC members. He thanked the staff from the state that he has been working with.

Nome LEPC – Mr. Tom Vaden reported they have been busy. They had a Field Training Exercise (FTX) in the spring; it was fire and hazmat with lots of lessons learned. They did DDRG training for the emergency services. They held a table top the next week to correct problems. Among the things learned was that the firemen could not switch frequencies on their com with their gear on. They are having their third level individuals become the incident commander. It turned out well. They have a full-scale training exercise coming up next week. The scenario will be an airplane hitting a muskox. They have had 47 go-arounds with airplanes in Nome this year. Mr. Vaden announced they have a new public safety administrator, LEPC coordinator, and city clerk, Dorothy Canarelli. Mr. Vaden stated that their emergency services are getting up with public inebriates, and they are losing a lot of emergency responders, who are volunteers, mainly because no one wants to go down and pick up a drunk, and then write a report for 45 minutes to an hour and a half in Aurora, the State of Alaska reporting system. He was concerned that they were degrading their response capability on the road system and in rural Alaska. The Elite reporting system which is supposed to be coming out is supposed to be a faster reporting system. He stated they needed to think about whether they were losing credibility, are they losing services within rural and remote Alaska because they are trying to make money.

Aleutian/Pribilof Island LEPC – Mr. Scott Brown reported they had still been working through some turn-over on the LEPC as well as full-staff. Currently they have filled almost all the LEPC seats. They are still looking to fill the transportation seat, although he thought he had someone lined up. They should fill the vice chair seat in December. They have held productive meetings and discussed community plan reviews. They are set up on the State's two-tier chemical data base now. They continue to do training with EOC members. They have restructured their communications and revamped their radios so all the radios can speak to each other with EOC channels dedicated. Radios have been put in all EOC member vehicles. They have reorganized the EOC with maps, PCs, radios, etc. They updated their information library. They are in the process of relocating their alternative EOC from the library to the public works department which is outside of the tsunami inundation zone. That should be completed in the next couple months. They recently got word that their paperwork has been received and accepted for the national database as a

tsunami-ready community. They are having some tsunami siren issues that they are working through. He reported that they had a close call with the potential of a large chemical release with one of their companies. It brought questions from the community to the council members which brought questions to responders and LEPC in open meeting. They discussed about the LEPC in open meeting as well as the right to know and that there are preparedness plans. It engaged their government a little more and at the last LEPC meeting they had two councilmembers show up. They had set up tentatively to have someone come out and speak to city officials and LEPC members, but other commitments came up and they were unable to follow through with that, but they still want to work on this to do some training with their elected officials. For outreach they partnered with their local sports club and they did a shooting event at which the LEPC set up a booth. A community health fair is planned for November. Mr. Brown discussed a situation they had with a 170-foot aging commercial processor that arrived in Unalaska a couple months ago and was about to sink. It had 4500 pounds of ammonia, 1500 gallons of diesel, 600 of lube and hydraulic on board. They ramped up the unified command with the state, Coast Guard, and DEC. Through the unified command they addressed the initial risk and mitigated those as best they could and stabilized the vessel so it could go for repairs. Unfortunately, the intention was to abandon the vessel in the harbor, so it is currently at anchor. There was a small storm and the vessel dragged anchor. It was caught about 200 yards off the beach. It still has the ammonia, oily water, and diesel on board. As a result, they have reenacted the unified command and currently are going to remove all the pollutants and potential risks. It is now classified as a derelict vessel. He stated that the fleet out there is aging and these are hazards that are not currently in their communities all year long, but are hazards that are going to be brought to their communities and dumped. He encouraged everyone who has an opportunity to work with their legislators to push Senate Bill 92 and help to keep these derelict vessels out of the harbors, and when they do show up, how it can be mitigated. He stated that it cost about \$2 million to take care of this one.

Anchorage LEPC – Mr. Kevin Spillers reported that they share many of the same frustrations and concerns as Kodiak. Politics impact how effective you can be in emergency management. They also have some turn over going on. He stated that the past fire season was not nearly as ominous as the previous two years. With respect to outreach and education, they are working on translation of their emergency preparedness materials into the different foreign languages. He thought they were up to 14 different languages now and they were get more key pieces into these languages. With respect to planning, their continuity of operations planning is underway. They are working with the SECC on the city's Emergency Alert System (EAS) planning. Currently Anchorage relies on either the Weather Service or call the State if they need to do an EAS type of outreach or alerting. He stated that there were lessons learned from the fires in California that they are following pretty closely. Cyber security is a big deal with the city as it has some vulnerabilities. They are working with the city on their recovery plan for IT. He stated that the EOC training with their emergency response teams had to be reconciled as the city has a new computer system. It is a complex system, so a lot of effort and time has to be put in training to use it for every department; therefore, a lot of the things they would like to do for emergency management training has taken a back seat to that. He hopes early next year they will be back having more EOC types of training. They do have their public information center training coming up. He has seen an uptick in people requesting information about more sophisticated or asymmetric threats such as nuclear threats and electro-magnetic pulse. He stated that he has not been able to find a lot of government labeled information on this.

Bristol Bay Borough LEPC – Ms. Becky Sayo reported they will be electing officers at their next meeting. Some of the goals the LEPC has met include the annual review of their emergency operations plan. They have their Tier II advertisement out and public notice in the newspaper. One of their processors was fined

by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for having more ammonia on site than they had reported in their Tier II, which was concerning to her, because she did not want the processors to become reluctant to report on the Tier II. She reported that they continue to meet their membership goals. When someone leaves, it is hard to get people to step up, because everybody is so busy with volunteering for multiple positions already. Ms. Sayo reported they added a call-in number on their LEPC agenda, which has helped in meeting quorum and getting increased participation. They supported the need to focus on improved communication capabilities and supported requests for grant funding in this area. They identified in their last assessment that communications were one of their biggest weaknesses. They have improved radios for first responders as well as improved their 911 at their dispatch center, and now are improving their repeater at the landfill. She reported that they participated in a tabletop exercise on hazardous materials with Colin Blair and identified gaps in understanding their level of response. The fire department is not really trained to respond to hazardous materials and they do not have the equipment, so they rely heavily on industry to take care of their own. She toured Mr. Blair around the community and they identified the need to define protocol, ordinance development, and interagency coordination, and defined the roles of first responders and industry, and to get ICS training out to everyone in the community. They continue to work with fire, Emergency Medical Service (EMS), and police to inventory and upgrade response equipment. Under preparedness they participated in and are currently evaluating hazardous material tabletop exercise and after-action report. They continued their emphasis on the Bristol Bay Borough School District safety, exercised and refined school fire drill, evacuation, check the go-bags and classroom emergency kits, and discussed use of both with new teachers, and ordered additional supplies that were missing from both the bags and the kits. They focused heavily on the school and how they would get the kids out of the school. They also created emergency buckets for lock-down situations. With respect to training and exercise, they participated in one monthly teleconference. LEPC members attended the spring preparedness conference. They reviewed the evacuation plan template. The LEPC voted to use their preparedness money to hire a consultant to develop an evacuation plan. With respect to outreach, the LEPC participated at Fish Expo, giving out outreach materials such as tide tables, preparedness brochures, shelter maps, and they showed a video on how to correctly get into a survival suit on the fishing grounds. They distributed emergency preparedness brochures and shelter maps to the seasonal residents and the cannery operators. They hope in the future to get the brochures translated into Spanish and possibly Tagalog as there are a lot of non-English-speaking workers in the summer. The LEPC discussed the next grant cycle and the needs to be met. Some outreach ideas included tee-shirts with a preparedness bucket list, a scavenger hunt for preparedness items, translating a brochure into Yupik, Spanish, and other languages used in the area, and other ideas. At the last Winter Fest, they distributed headlamps. Currently they are updating the SCERP; they are working with their consultant to update the hazard mitigation plan, which will be finished in December. In southwest Alaska they have an increase in storm damage, high tides and wind erosion, and many people have brought up the idea of the nuclear threat with North Korea, which is becoming a concern. They will add this into their EOP. They distributed the shake-out material via email.

Copper River LEPC – Ms. Laura Thiesen reported they have been working on the hazard mitigation plan for Glennallen and Tazlina. They participated in the youth environmental summit where they gave out preparedness material and little giveaways to the kids. They were supportive of the clean up that was started by the Native Village of Tazlina to clean up Mile 117.5 of the Richardson Highway where they removed a fuel tank and hazardous waste along with 40 yards of debris, approximately 100 tires, and approximately 30,000 gallons of hazardous waste. Their goal is to develop a park in that area commemorating the local villages. They have developed a logo for their LEPC and redesigned their website. They had a display for disaster preparedness month at the local IGA with how to put together a kit.

They participated in the community health fair, and encouraged others to participate in the Great Alaska Shake Out. They have encouraged the clinic to do ICS training, so they have a number of their nurses who have completed ICS 100 and 200. They continue outreach efforts to increase LEPC membership. They appreciated having Kelly attend the last LEPC meeting.

Delta-Greely LEPC – Mr. Michael Paschall reported they had a good summer. There has been an increase in the number of wrecks on the Richardson Highway with the tankers. There is a concern due to the amount of fuel that's trucked up and down the highway. A development they are following is with Fort Greely where they are considering some changes in their structure with regard to Fort Wainwright, and because of the communications problems they have, Fort Greely serves as a backup. If they move their communications center to Wainwright, then they still realize they are the only communications ability between Delta Junction and Fairbanks. They are trying to consider how they deal with the fact of losing that support as a backup center. He reported they are working on revising their bylaws. A mass dispensing exercise will be in November through Public Health. He stated that they are working out to community members through the LEPC and some local emergency services organizations to put up street signs and house numbering. They are having people fill out a form, then after checking that the address is the legitimate address for the property, they are obtaining the GPS coordinates so they have the ability to find the property, and putting directions to the property on a magnet to go on people's refrigerators. He stated that response to this has been good. Mr. Paschal stated that an issue in communications is that with many communities that are on ALRM he has never seen anything about communication procedures for utilizing the ICS channels.

Denali Borough LEPC – Ms. Kate Batten reported they ran a tactical emergency care course in May with 25 participants. They had participants from all the borough fire departments, National Park Service, security personnel from Princess Hotels, and the troopers. Colin and Kelly ran a tabletop exercise for them on hazmat. The goal is to use that tabletop template for the Tri-Valley Fire Department to run an exercise for a tactical EMS response to an active shooter at the Tri-Valley High School. They are also addressing the lack of addressing in their borough. They received a positive response from the public that they could see the need for the borough-wide address system. It has been forwarded to the planning committee. The shake shack came to Tri-Valley High School.

Fairbanks North Star Borough LEPC – Ms. Tori Clyde reported they have had a lot of changes in the LEPC recently. They held elections in May so they have a new chair and vice chair. She is now the chair. She thanked Doug Fleming who is the former chair. She also thanked Kelly for attending their August meeting and talking about Tier II and connectivity. She stated that they had an event at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and one at the hospital and they were able to test out their plans. With respect to exercises, they held one with the Fairbanks International Airport police and fire regarding a terrorist attack. They got to test out active shooter response plans, explosion on a plane. Multiple agencies were involved in the exercise. They tested out their response plans, commo, mass casualty, and the EOC. The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) hazmat team have had several responses this year in the Fairbanks area. They have done nine community outreaches, training, and courses throughout the state. Membership on the hazmat team is increasing. They also attended the state hazmat tech course in May. Upcoming training includes disaster awareness for caregivers in October and a Public Information Officer (PIO) course in November. They have planning for emergency operations happening. They plan to have an ICS-300 by the end of the year, and then in January they will be planning for the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) exercise. Plans they are working on for the borough for emergency operations include the hazard mitigation

plan, pre-disaster recovery plan, MOU for the POD, shelter use agreements, and the MOU with the school district for mass feeding. The Arctic Amateur Radio is working on an MOU with the Department of Corrections for communications. She reported that their POD will occur October 21<sup>st</sup> and they will be working both North Pole and the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. The state Health Service will be doing the POD. They are working on CERT training with the VIP (Volunteers In Policing) and local fire departments. They are working with traffic incident management for safety for DOT for some training through industry and Eielson Air Force Base. They are working on funding and training for stop the bleed to control the bleeding during any kind of an active shooter or terrorist event. She stated that listening to what other LEPCs are doing, they are gathering a lot of great ideas. At their LEPC meetings, each agency talks about what they have been doing. She would like to see in the future having them submit their reports prior to the LEPC meeting so they can sit down and work on outreach, work on mitigation plans, etc. She also stated that she is updating their website and doing more community outreach.

Juneau LEPC – Mr. Tom Mattice reported that their LEPC attendance remains strong. They recently got a DOT member and have had a trooper apply for the first time. They held some ICS classes in the last year. When they do classes at the local level, they have limited need so it is hard to do some classes. They do a lot of 300 and 400 classes. They have found they are teaching more state agencies and outside organizations than their own people. With respect to position-specific classes, they do not have enough people to get them into their jurisdiction, and there is no funding available to go out for the classes. He has reached out to the state and requested them to look at the possibility of doing a carve-out from the SHSP grant to have a state-managed grant budget for travel in order to bring more people to position-specific classes. The CERT classes have been going good for them. They budgeted two annually, one in the spring and one in the fall. Area maritime security committee conducted a full-scale exercise last spring. They had a mass rescue operation plan revision with the new dock facilities for the cruise ships in Juneau. They have been working with FEMA on the hazard maps project in regards to flooding, landslides, etc. He stated they have been dealing a lot with mitigation around glacier outburst floods. New tsunami reports came out for Kodiak and Juneau. A distant tsunami could cause a 12-foot run up and a 55-foot run up from an inshore tsunami. This has turned a lot of heads in regard to tsunami planning in a jurisdiction that previously had no significant tsunami threat. He reported they had great planning meetings with the National Guard. They are going through their third revision of their all-hazards mitigation plan for the community and are getting ready to submit it in November. They had 54 agencies participating in their preparedness expo. They completed their airport tabletop exercise in September. There is a POD exercise with Health scheduled in November. They are going to do a combination of the stop the bleed campaign and “the you are the help until help arrives campaign.” It will be taught through the schools with teachers also to the public, students and to anybody else who wants to be involved in combination with the fire department.

Kenai Peninsula Borough LEPC – Mr. Scott Walden thanked Eva and Gloria for continuing to put out the information on available training. Kenai stepped up and say they wanted to host a new training from TEQs , the cyber security in the EOC. They showed up with 10 instructors and there was a whole slate of people enrolled. It consisted of about a day of classroom and two days of practical exercise. Many of the attendees now want to come to the monthly Thursday training where they do incident management team basic training. With respect to community outreach, they have been active in the CERT courses. They participate in mentoring in the junior achievement programs for first through fifth grade. Part of what they present in the classrooms is the emergency preparedness for businesses. They are also involved in the caring for the Kenai program. Ten years ago, Hannah Watkins provided a project on family preparedness for a variety of emergencies. She wrote children’s books for earthquakes and volcanoes. DHS&EM helped



with some printing and it is actually distributed worldwide now. He stated that the LEPC's involvement is that when they do the briefings for the students, they talk to them about how their ideas could benefit the community in continuity, resilience, using technology to help improve evacuations or emergency preparedness, etc. They just hired a person to move this program statewide in all the school districts. He urged those present that if it comes for presentation in their community to have their LEPC open their doors to cooperate with the school district and have these people explain what that program model does and how it can benefit your LEPC side of things in addition to the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) programs. Mr. Walden stated that the LEPC meetings are well attended. They support the annex revisions for the existing ones and the addition of several new annexes including the intruder one, alluvial flooding, etc. Currently they are reviewing the joint information annex. It is now in place and in agreement with federal firefighters, state firefighters, and locals that that would be the format that they would use as the consistent means of helping each other in the large widespread events. The LEPC is reviewing the final copy now along with legal. He hopes it will be in final form by their April meeting and posted on their website. He stated that a lot of the ham radio operators have seen the need for them to get up to speed in what's required by what agency to deploy to either provide advice and consult with that extra communications ability or actually take an extra resource to an area. During the Puerto Rico event, FEMA put out a call through the Red Cross for 75 qualified ham radio operators. Local people called him to find out what it means to be qualified and he couldn't tell them what it meant. Through the FEMA websites and Red Cross, he was able to give them the general contacts and an outline of what might be required in addition to being able to respond to a large-scale disaster in Alaska. That same training would help them deploy somewhere else. The club is following up on this and will come back to them to show them what had to be done to get to that level. Mr. Walden reported they have had a lot of new faces in their LEPC meetings. There are a lot of new and rebranded exploration groups on the Kenai Peninsula. They have asked to be on the agenda to do presentations on things like pipeline safety, and to inform the rest of the LEPC on what they are there to do and some requirements they might need help meeting. This is also true of the trucking industry. The Alaska Guard has also been very active in the LEPC. The group has been deployed for the last 20 years all over the world in many capacities. They want to expand into community preparedness and emergency response in whatever capacity they are allowed to do. They have made a commitment to improving the relationship with the Guard in their new mission and to make sure the city leaders understand that the Guard is more than just an armory in Kenai. It is areawide and can provide a lot of resources. He reported that an exercise that was done in the refinery industry recently was specifically to figure out when there is a problem inside a fence at a hazardous area, what the foremen are taught to say when they call 911. The LEPC has decided to work together to coordinate the issues, take the information from the after action on that exercise and see what the gaps are and try to fill them on a local level. He does not expect any real changes in support or for the funding of programs with the new borough assembly and mayor. He thanked DHS&EM for their efforts over the past year and their continued support for things like the hazard mitigation plan updates and revisions and many other things that DHS&EM has provided to them. He also thanked Kelly for his assistance. He thanked the Weather Service river forecast office for their forecasts that enabled them to work with DOT, state Parks, and others to make sure no one was in certain campgrounds and that communities were aware of what might come with respect to flooding. They are working closely with many agencies for the community wildfire protection revisions. There are questions with what is happening as far as revenue sharing and other things. They have received calls from commissioner-level people asking who has the authority, who has the jurisdiction on a variety of issues. It is not an easy question for his office to answer because it often includes a city who should answer some of those questions as well so they can be on the same page. He stated that a lot of the communities have resigned themselves to the fact that what looks like a savings at the state level is actually going to trickle

down to be a cost at the local level, and now how do they deal with that. He stated that the LEPC chair and three members came to him and asked when the civilian support team training get scheduled. They said right now there was an event going on in a town up the road and why weren't they informed that they had the opportunity to participate in that level of training. He made a few calls and found out it was not even an Alaska support team and it was coordinated by a person from a third state for a local police department that had an opportunity for training on short notice and they took it. There was really no time to distribute the information. He has talked to locals about the training. He said that if it is something you have to do in that fashion, at least get the PIOs involved so that they can at least explain to the public that there is training. If it is training that is disclosable entirely, then get it out to people that can take advantage of it. Mr. Walden that in the tsunami meetings in Homer there was opportunity for them to talk to some people from Yakutat that they probably never would have talked to directly about before that they had a need for some kind of a warning system that they do not have. He stated that they have two portable tsunami warning sirens in the shop yard that were built by their maintenance guys with funding from DHS&EM. He felt they should be able to get them to Yakutat. With the help of DHS&EM they were able to arrange that transfer. That spurred him to go around and look at other maintenance yards to see what other stuff they have gathered over the years that are parked in a lot and he found a number of items, significant, expensive grant-funded items that are still ready to go, but they are not at the place where they might most likely be used. He put a call out to their fire departments. The mass casualty trailer is now under agreement to be placed at the airport fire station along with a mobile shelter unit. He advised that if others have items that are just sitting and have to inventory every year and do not look at them much, maybe figure out a different way to stage and store them with somebody else's help. Mr. Walden stated that the Cooper Landing area, like Moose Pass, like Hope, are areas that aren't service areas of the borough. They are communities that basically do bake sales and get grants to operate. They literally at times cannot go on a call unless they have raised a certain amount of revenue for whatever their process is. There's not enough people there to set up a service area, to vote tax it and fund it. He stated that through working with the mayor and legal and a change at the state level that could benefit other areas, there is an area of the highway corridor that goes from Mile 75 near Girdwood all the way to Cooper Landing to the city limits of Seward all the way to Hope. There are 120 plus miles that is unprotected for EMS and fire response except by the good graces of those little communities that cannot afford to go there and may not have enough resources to do it. The consistency in training is not always good. The consistency in reporting is hard to keep trained up on. The dropping of level of service is happening, because it is too much of a demand on individuals. What they did was establish a payment in lieu of taxes use of money. There is a payment in lieu of taxes in the general fund. The assembly agreed to use some of that, which took a change at the state level and agreement at the federal level, because there are no voters in those areas. They were able to establish a corridor service area, East Peninsula Highway Service Area. The service area board has been established by members at large primarily from the communities that might provide a resource. The borough assembly funded its budget, including the hiring of a part-time program manager. That new service area will become part of the LEPC as a member. There is a draft proposal out to have those communities be the resources of response. As a borough they will provide the medical director for oversight of all the services through the service area, and they will provide the training necessary through the program director for use of the reporting systems, and to help make sure those are complete, quality assurance programs, etc. By spring the idea is that that entire corridor will be protected and will be able to coordinate better with Girdwood up to the Mile 75 point.

Ketchikan LEPC – Mr. Abner Hoage discussed the EMS stuff that Mr. Vaden brought up. Mr. Hoage also sits on the Alaska Council for Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS). With respect to the EMS reports, money is really the side benefit of doing the EMS reports. The true goal is data collection. The state has a

huge gap in data collection from the EMS services, especially the first responder services. That data can help them target CMEs, to target funding priorities when there is money available, and to establish appropriate scope of practice and education requirements for providers so they are not spending as much time on things they do not need to be doing and more time on things that they do. He will take back the concerns expressed to ACEMS and will try to work with the state EMS office. Hopefully they can adjust the EMS reporting and maybe come up with something that is not so onerous on the smaller agencies for reporting.

Sitka LEPC – Mr. David Miller reported that landslides are still a big thing in Sitka and keeping the community on edge a lot. A group of the big landslide gurus in the country were in Sitka and did some studies and are doing more studies. He stated that they just finished up their statewide fire chiefs and firefighters conference in Sitka. They had the Sebring class put on by TEEX. He stated they were contacted by the 103<sup>rd</sup> Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) civil support team. They are going to put on Exercise Van Winkle May 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Sitka.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bogoslof Volcano and impacts throughout Alaska – Dr. Michelle Combs, Alaska Volcano Observatory, discussed the impacts of the Bogoslof Volcano eruptions as well as Alaska volcanoes in general, some of their hazards, how they monitor the volcanoes. She also discussed how people can get information about possible impacts from eruptions and information directly from the observatory about volcanic activity. The active Alaska volcanoes are located mostly out in the Aleutians, along the Alaska Peninsula, in the Cook Inlet region and in the Wrangell Volcanic Field. Since 1988 there have been 66 individual eruptions at 22 different volcanoes in the state. They have monitoring systems on about 30 volcanoes in the state, but there are over 90 that are potentially active. Bogoslof Volcano has had about 60 individual eruptions since December 2016, each of which was volcanic ash advisories issued by the Weather Service in conjunction with Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMATS). The eruptions had quite an impact mainly on the aviation sector. She stated that the five highest threat volcanoes in Alaska are in Cook Inlet, including Spur, Redoubt, and Augustine, Makushin Volcano near Unalaska, and Akutan Volcano. There also many high threat volcanoes. Volcanoes give them precursors, warnings that they might erupt. Hazards from eruptions include landslides, lava flows, mud flows (lahars), and pyroclastic flows. She stated that in Alaska they were fortunate in that pretty much all of our volcanoes are far away from infrastructure and population. However, there are a lot of people downwind from volcanoes, which includes the primary hazard in the state, volcanic ash which consists of small, tiny and often sharp fragments of rock. It has characteristics that be hazardous. It's hard, angular, abrasive, electrically conductive, chemically corrosive, etc. It can impact structures. It is incredibly dangerous to aviation. Most of our volcanoes are under heavily trafficked air routes. There are about 50,000 people a day fly over volcanoes in Alaska. Two-thirds of the state's population is only 300 kilometers or less downwind from an active volcano so there are potential impacts to communities. If a volcanic eruption occurs during something else, such as a heavy snowfall, there can be a cascade of hazards. She stated that a great resource on the web is the Volcanic Ash Impacts Group. It goes into the effects of ash on things, but also what can be done to mitigate the effects. She also discussed when there is

volcanic activity in Alaska, how they communicate it to the public, to their interagency partners, LEPCs, etc. One method is the aviation color code alert levels. For local hazards the US Geologic Service (USGS) uses an alert level system which talks about hazards on the ground. They also want to provide people more concrete information about what the eruption might do, what hazards might be caused by a particular eruption. They have been putting on their public website results from an ash dispersion model. Dr. Coombs also discussed some of the key partnerships they have. When there is significant activity, the first thing they do is call their interagency partners including the FAA, the National Weather Service, DHHS, and other local, state entities. They also put out a formal written notice that includes information about what the volcano is doing. She stated that their practices during volcanic eruptions and ash episodes are written down in the Alaska Interagency Operating Plan for volcanic ash episodes. It is updated every two years. They try to get together at least a couple times a year with all of their interagency partners. They sometimes have tabletop exercises going through eruption scenarios. She invited those who are in areas potentially impacted by eruptions are welcome to join them. The plan lays out all of the different roles and responsibilities of their different partners during ash episodes. She stated that they try to put up-to-date information about all currently active volcanos on their website. She added that they have a service where people can sign up for any volcano notices they are interested in getting.

Mr. Spillers, Anchorage LEPC, stated that they noticed in the 2009 incident, people would become hyper-vigilant or over react. Some of the slides she presented would really help explain things. In response to his request, Dr. Coombs stated he could get a copy of the slides. Dr. Coombs also invited people to come by Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) and get more information.

- B. Tier II Reporting System – Kathy Shea, Department of Environmental Conservation/Spill Prevention And Response (SPAR), gave some background on Tier II. Facilities are required to submit Tier II forms under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). The owners of any facility that have hazardous materials on site are required to have an OSHA safety data sheet (SDS) on hand. The purpose of the reporting is to let state and local officials and the public know what chemicals are present in their communities. The EPA issued an update to their rule in 2016, which updated the physical hazard section of the reporting. She is working with DMVA to update the form and the electronic database that they will be using for reporting. They will be asking the SERC to approve the updated form. She stated they will be doing some outreach. They will let everyone know that it will be **on-line only** this year, and they will not be accepting mail-in hard copies unless there is an extreme situation. She hopes to have some sort of video on how to do the entire form. Mr. Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC, stated he went into the system last year and apparently he could edit submissions that are made by reporters to the system. He thought this is an inherent security problem. In response to a question from him, Ms. Shea stated that they are working on making sure that only facilities can make changes to their submissions. That is one of the kinks that has been worked on. Mr. Brown, Aleutians/Pribilof Islands LEPC, asked about other out reach besides the video. Ms. Shea stated she was hoping to update the FAQ site of the DMVA Tier II web page. She would like to send out emails to all of the facilities that have previously submitted.

She realizes there is no way to reach every single facility, but they will do their best. Mr. Keeney, Valdez LEPC, stated they are sending out a postcard to all of their facilities highlighting the Tier II reports. Some of the companies they are sending it to use to report and now they aren't. They are still sure they have those materials. Is there any way of saying, wake up, you need to send in this report or at least do it on line. One problem with sending an email is that some people are not there any more. Ms. Shea thanked him for the good idea. In response to a question from Mr. Tom Mattice, Juneau LEPC, Ms. Shea stated that she is located in Anchorage.

- C. Training Outlook panel Discussion – Gloria Harrison, DHS&EM, Lisa Shield, Department of Public Safety, Charles Pelton, Department of Health & Social Services, discussed the training outlook. Ms. Harrison is the new state training officer for DHS&EM. They discussed the training that is available to close capability gaps that were identified by the 2016 Alaska assessment. The three highest priorities included operational communication, planning and operational coordination, public information and warning, mass care services and mass search and rescue operations. Courses that are available to LEPCs and local jurisdictions are available in the National Preparedness course catalog. Ms. Harrison stated that they can bring the training to Alaska, although there are couple hurdles they have to jump over: priority and being able to fill the seats as well as being able to get it out into other communities than Anchorage and Fairbanks. If they want to schedule training in the local jurisdictions, they can contact Ms. Harrison or Eva Edwards and they will help. Some position specific classes they are planning to bring up include resource unit leader and finance/admin unit leader. Ms. Harrison stated that another resource that was available to LEPCS is the DHS&EM multi-year training and exercise plan. It is on their website. They would like to know which training LEPCs would like delivered to address their top three core capability gaps, designate personnel to attend position specific training, designate and train at least one PIO, and designate and send at least two individuals to the ICS train the trainer course. She stated that the training section is always looking for feedback regarding training that has happened or their training needs. Mr. Keeney, Valdez LEPC, stated the biggest hurdle they have in the communities is the cost to bring people in and the time commitment. He requested that some of the programs be videoed and made available to the communities. Ms. Harrison thought that was a great recommendation and has been looking into it with some of their national training partners who have web courses for rural communities.

Mr. Pelton, DHSS, asked if they would benefit from webinars, etc. Mr. Keeney stated that the problem with webinars is that it is still a time commitment and availability for people to be right there. If it was on a video process where people can look at it at any time, he felt that would be better. Mr. Pelton stated they do the bleeding control course as well as the advanced trauma life support system and other courses they can provide. They also participate in the Alaska Youth Military Academy and other things. They are willing to do these courses on weekends or evenings. They are willing to work with communities. He added that they have videoed some training, but they have had some pretty bad feedback on it. The problem with bringing up a course from TEEX has always been filling the seats. Ms. Seeman, North Slope Borough LEPC, stated that she recently tried to do a one-hour webinar and it took her almost four hours to complete it. She did not feel that was a

delivery methodology that works well for them. She thought the videos would potentially work for them. Mr. Pelton stated that this feedback was important to hear. Mr. Mattice, Juneau LEPC, stated he was impressed with the audience DHSS put together for the recent Bartlett course. In response to a question from Mr. Mattice, Mr. Pelton stated that they funded some traveling for some of the individuals to go to that course in Juneau as well for some that came to Anchorage. Their grant funding allows the coalition members to do this. Mr. Mattice stated that this is a perfect example of how comingling of funds to bring forth the training is so advantageous. Mr. Keeney stated he has been talking to the person who will be coming to Valdez to do the Bleeding Control I course, and he is going to be able to teach the high school class, the college and the hospital crew. He hopes the city will join in, too. Mr. Pelton stated that they are looking to bring some hospital incident command system training to Alaska and are looking for the best way to get it done. He has been reaching out to local hospitals. He has effectively two contractors that they are looking at. The goal is to have one team come out to four communities, provide hospital incident command system training to the medical facility and then follow it on with tabletop/functional exercise. The second one will be video-based Hicks training and then follow on with a tabletop exercise. The Hicks training would come with licenses which will allow the facilities to utilize them for a full year.

Co-Chair Hoage requested that the slides from the PowerPoint be sent to the LEPCs. Ms. Harrison said that could be done.

Ms. Shield, Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards and Training, reported they have had some restructuring recently; with all the budget cuts a number of positions have been eliminated, so they are trying to reorganize. They are still providing training. They are doing NFA classes. They want to know from the LEPCs if there is a place for them, do they need them for things and then tell them what those things are. The Office of Rural Fire Protection provides training to the micro communities who do not have the ability to get the grants larger communities are able to get. Even with the cuts, they are able to do the training in Palmer in summer, to bring in new firefighters and get them trained with a basic firefighting level. They are also still able to get people to the conference the Fire Chiefs Association and the Alaska State Firefighters Association puts together in September. They are working hard to get the word out that they are still able to provide that training. She stated they would also like to find out from DHS&EM if there are times where they can partner as DHS&EM has access and training funds that they do not necessarily have. They are looking for ways they can bring people in from the micro communities to get basic training. Co-chair Miller stated that if they want to do anything with fire service, talk to Ms. Shield and she will make it happen. Ms. Shield reported that they are working with their web designer to build the training portal side of their impact system, so in the near future they will have the ability to put all training that's related to the fire service into one training portal so that anyone can register through that portal. It can be used by any agencies, fire departments or others that are hosting the training to have access to manage that registration process through that portal.

#### **VIII. MEMBERS CLOSING COMMENTS - OPEN FORUM**

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IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

