

MOHAVE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes for June 5th, 2024, Meeting

June 5th, 2024

**Bullhead City Fire Department, Station 1
1260 Hancock Rd, Bullhead City, AZ**

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1304hrs.

2. Introductions

Nathan McDaniel
Mike Browning
Lauren Wellborn
Scott Wright
Robert Scott
David Martin
Don Dallman
Jack Yeager
Karen Pimentel
Scott Neal
Michael Rogers
Mark Austin
Samuel Meltzer
Stan Czyzyk
Beth Ehurst
Alex Marmo
Robert Sena
Daniel Berc

Jason Jessamine
Jason Macklem
Les Tarkowski
Joe Dorner
Chuck Waalkens
Michelle Martinez
Tom Neve
Earl Chalfant
Garrett Roberts

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Jack Yager motions to approve the March 6th, 2024 meeting minutes. Dave Martin seconds. There is no dissention. Motion passes.

4. Committee Membership Nominations and Resignations. Proposed New Members are:

None currently.

a. Resignation –

b. Nominations

5. Report from LEPC Subcommittees, Agencies, and Facilities

a. Terrorism Liaison Officer Report

Tom Neve reported there was a Threat Vulnerability Class going on right now. Also, there is a cyber assessment at

water facilities state-wide headed by Ryan Murry.

6. Reports on Incidents

a. Hazmat Events

Concerns were raised by Scott Neal about the reduction in Household Hazardous Waste Events hosted by the County. The frequency of the events has decreased from twice a year to once a year. The main reason provided was the cost of the events exceeding the revenue they were receiving for the events. The public are used to going twice a year and with the reduction to once a year, the fire department is being inundated with calls that people have no place to put these items. Concerns with having only one event is people may begin dumping the items in the desert instead of getting rid of it legally and safely. The cost of doing an event was approximately \$80,000. It used to be around \$50,000. Environmental Quality only got \$100,000 total to do them so they are about \$60,000 short. They collect a fee for waste disposal of regular trash and there's a small service fee attached to everyone's bill every quarter. He questioned why the fees haven't been raised to help offset the cost increase. He asked if there was any dissent within the group of reinstating the two events. If not, that will be the position the LEPC takes in his comments to the BOS meeting.

Mike Browning stated that Emergency Management would be glad to reach out to the County Department that manages those events (Environmental Quality) to see if we can get some clarity on how that occurred and what those impacts look like. He asked Michelle Martinez, with ADEQ, what she was seeing across the State and about the possibility of other funding options. Michelle said that she will be reaching out to County liaisons to see what they have available and will also be reaching out to JB Shaw, who does recycling and environmental cleanup, regarding his resources.

b. Cyber Security

Mike re-introduced Nathan McDaniel as the IT Director for Mohave County and asked him to provide a cyber security update.

Nathan informed the Committee that the State of Arizona has a Cyber Readiness Program. It's a non-traditional grant program. When Governor Ducey was in office, he dedicated 10 million of the State's operational budget to fund this program through the Cyber Security division of Homeland Security. They centrally procure cyber security products on behalf of all the State, Local, Tribal or Territorial organizations within the State of Arizona. School districts, fire districts, Counties, Cities, non-profits and hospitals can all become recipients of the program. Right now there are five different cyber security tools that can be provided to agencies that are interested and willing to deploy these tools to help better their organizations and increase their cyber security posture. It's not a reimbursement. There is no money that comes to the organization. Basically, when you apply and are awarded, you tell them how many users or licenses you need, they send them and then pay the bill on behalf of the organization with the money that has been dedicated to the operation from the State. Mohave County has been the recipient of approximately \$130,000 this year which would, based on the program's purchasing power, come out to around \$400,000 MSRP a year if the County had purchased it on their own.

Nathan stated the biggest risk we are seeing in cyber right now is the employee. AI is being leveraged to use social engineering to trick employees to give up money. It's being used to look at previous documents and mock-up emails and memos where they pretend to be a vendor, or finance director, city council etc. and trying to get paid by writing in their style. Nathan offered himself as a point of contact if anyone was interested in learning more about the Cyber Readiness Program.

Mike Browning stated that there are additional resources available through the Arizona Department of Emergency Management, who recently upgraded their AZMAC agreement. The National Guard has a unit that can be deployed to assist agencies in determining the impacts or protections needed. Nathan asserted that there was a caveat. The agency needs to have an MOU in place prior to their assistance outlining their scope of operation and services in the case of an event. They want it in place ahead of time so there is no red tape to go through when an event actually occurs.

7. Regional HAZMAT Plan review

Mike Browning brought up the HAZMAT Plan to be reviewed by the Committee. The Code Red product is going to be cancelled this October. The State has chosen to replace that service with Rave and has secured funding for five years. Instead of the County paying \$36,000 a year for service for Code Red, the State will be funding Rave through other means so it will be available at no cost. The Sheriff's Office has already begun using it and has plans to go live with it shortly. Anyone that has a cellphone can register it with Rave. All landline phone numbers are automatically collected and input into the system. If we use IPaws, it captures the cell phones within that region, so they don't necessarily have to be signed up. The sign up part is nice because if you're a city and you have a water line break or something, if your city had that product they could circle that area and the alert would go out to everyone within that area that had registered. We are going to take Code Red out of the plan and replace it with IPaws in all sections. Up till now, the cities have never had access to these products so they would contact the County and the County would put out the alert on their behalf. Lake Havasu, City of Kingman, and Colorado City are all in the process of taking Rave on so each individual jurisdiction will have the capability to send those alerts. Additionally, with neighboring jurisdictions having access to Rave, there's a possibility that if one were to have an IT outage, a neighboring jurisdiction that has the product may have the ability to send those alerts as well. We plan to go to each of the dispatch centers to do a follow up on Rave because it's a shifting point from the Sheriff's Office doing it all to the communities having more capabilities in their backyards.

Mike Browning asked Michelle when our revised plan was due and she responded August 1st.

8. Training, Education, Exercises and Events

- a. G205: Recovery from Disaster- Local Community Roles: April 16-17, 2024
Mohave County Administration building

Mike Browning informed the Committee that we had a decent turn out but the instructors from DEMA seemed inexperienced. He stated he has had some hard conversations with DEMA's training department and was told they are running into the same issues we have been with finding experienced instructors willing to teach. Recently we've experienced death by powerpoint, where the instructors were basically just reading off the slides and not engaging the students very well.

- b. G300: Intermediate Incident Command System: July 29-31, 2024 0800-1700hrs
Lake Havasu City Fire Department, Station 2-2065 N. Kiowa Blvd. Lake Havasu City, AZ

Mike Browning stated that as of right now, we have approximately 10 enrolled. Ideally, we would like to see about 20 enrolled in these types of classes.

- c. L146: Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP): Aug 27-28, 2024, 0800-1700hrs:
Bullhead City Police Department-OPS Room, 1255 Marina Blvd, Bullhead City, AZ

Mike Browning stated this class covers why it's important to have a process when you're planning an exercise and developing documents and building an exercise team. He asserted this course would be very beneficial if you're in the health and safety realm.

- d. G400: Advanced Incident Command System: August 20-21, 2024, 0800-1700hrs
Lake Havasu City Fire Department, Station 2-2065 N. Kiowa Blvd. Lake Havasu City, AZ

Mike Browning explained this as a follow up to the G300 course.

9. Call to the Public

Scott Wright spoke about the tabletop exercise that Public Health is in the process of putting together to test their Mass Fatality Plan and Family Assistance Center plan. The tabletop will be on July 17th from 8am-2pm, with lunch provided.

Michelle Martinez asked if an item could be added to the next agenda as an item to review the tier 2 reports. She said that 158 facilities reported for 2023 and 67 of those facilities reported having extremely hazardous substances. She has been reviewing the reports and she found that some of the facilities have been turning in IOUs as of January. If the plans aren't turned in by March 1st, they will be in non-compliance. She stated there was a training available of all users (LEPCs and 1st Responders) on the 29th. If you are unable to attend, please reach out and she will facilitate that

training.

Daniel Berc with NOAA informed the Committee that his office has made changes to their HAZMAT response ability. He said, if you call, they will still get you a plume but they are no longer supporting the HPAC software directly out of their office. The HPAC is very robust and can give you very detailed information; however it takes roughly 20 minutes to run and there are experts at their National Center, the IMAC, that can produce those things far more efficiently than his office can. If you call, his office will still run their own plume software, called the Highsplit, and you can have it within 5 minutes. It's usually enough to make a decision on but if you have a protracted HAZMAT event, we will just have to go through the IMAC to get it to you.

Mike Browning stated that the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management notified the County a couple of weeks ago that the State will be receiving \$3.7 million for a mitigation project in the Hualapai Mountains. The projects will be administered by the State. They are wanting to go back through Pine Lake and offer the residents the opportunity to mitigate some of the threat that's in their community. That community has been rated at the number one most dangerous wildfire community in the State of Arizona for well over ten years now. They are also wanting to go back through Hualapai Mountain Park to do some mitigation assessment on the Flag Fire burn as well as strengthening some of the fire breaks that go through the community up there and extend those activities down through the Pinion Pine community. It should be extensive. It will help the fire districts up there greatly as well. We are seeing insurance companies wanting to dial back insurance coverage on high-risk areas, saying that if the homeowner doesn't keep the property cleaned up they won't protect it from the insurance side. The losses being seen in super fires are causing a ripple affect in the insurance industry.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1359.

Note: The committee may go into executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the committee's attorney on any of the above agenda items pursuant to ARS 38-431.03(A)(3).

Dated June 5, 2024.

MOHAVE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
Scott Neal, Chairman