



**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
CLARK COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA**

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

- MINUTES -

ATTENDANCE

LEPC MEMBERS: Terri Davis, Kathleen Suey, Tim McAndrew, Patricia Lofft, Jim O'Brien, Glendford Parks, Dave Dahl, Ed Day, Warren Glidewell, Susan Crowley, Irene Navis, Mike Richardson, Andy Bailey, Tim Malcolm, Bill Richardson, Steven Kramer, Dan Shinn, Scott Emerson, Robert Fisher

LEPC ALTERNATES: Mike McCrimon, John Chase, Harry Kelman, Scott Lewandowski, Lawrence Sands, Jane Shunney, Ruben Gurrola

LEPC MEMBERS ABSENT: Fernandez Leary, Eugene Campbell, Doug Stevens, Dan Lake, Fred Thompson, Carolyn Levering, Michael Cyphers, Mike McClary, David Petersen, Kevin Fisher, Jim Wilson, Robert Marshall, Craig Wilkinson, John Horton, Phillip Tilt, Mary Martini, Timothy Gruber, Mike Moran, Michael Petullo, Manny Bay, George Jones, Lloyd Clary, Senator Dennis Nolan

I. Call to Order

Jim O'Brien, LEPC Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at the Clark County Government Center, 1st Floor Pueblo Room.

II Roll Call

A quorum was not present.

A. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. *Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for May 17, August 30 and Special Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2006

A quorum was not present. The minutes will be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

2. Reports and Updates

- a. *Community Right-to-Know Subcommittee*

In Steve Ross, the subcommittee chair's absence, Dave Dahl, District Manager, Kern River Gas Transmission Company, made the presentation. Dave presented a video entitled, "Kern River – Pipeline Safety for Emergency Responders and Public Officials."

The Kern River Gas Transmission national gas pipeline was built in the early 1990's. It runs from the State of Wyoming into the Bakersfield, California area. Most of the major customers are in Nevada and California. Natural gas in this approximately 36" diameter transmission line is transported about 1,000 pounds psi.

Dave emphasized that the pipeline is safe and state-of-the-art. In terms of the construction, particularly through populated areas, the thickness of the steel in the pipeline, the valve density, regular monitoring

and controls of the pipeline, are all intent on protecting the population. The company would be interested in speaking to any group that would be interested in ensuring pipeline safety.

The biggest issue and concern is third party damage. An awareness is key to ensure that no one is digging without using the one-call system or misusing the system and digging without a stand-by on their pipeline right-of-way.

The Kern River Gas Transmission Company is sometimes confused with the Southwest Gas Corporation. The gas that is managed and distributed by SW gas is odorized. The gas in Kern's 36" pipe going to regulator stations for Southwest Gas is not odorized.

Three hand-outs were provided: an overview of the video presentation, a brochure emphasizing the "call before you dig," and a copy of Mr. Dahl's business card.

b, Emergency Alert System

Steve Scott, Chairman, Southern Nevada Emergency Alert System (EAS) provided an update. The state is divided into Northern and Southern committee members. The Emergency Alert System Committee coordinates the tests and alerts that are disseminated via television, radio and cable systems. The committee also coordinates the Amber Alerts.

The interface between the National Weather Service (NWS), the County and the City of Las Vegas Emergency Management has been completed. The system is tested every Saturday at noon by receiving test alerts from the County and the City of Las Vegas Emergency Management.

The encoder on the County repeater located on Mt. Potosi was replaced and is in service. A new antenna and supplies for the Weather Service has been purchased, permitting the NWS to monitor City of Las Vegas Fire Command (EOC2) and the County Emergency Management frequency (EOC1), which is on 153.815 Mhz.

The NWS is able to monitor two primary emergency alert relay stations, and can relay actual alerts to home or business weather radios. The NWS is able to receive presidential and national level alerts and then relay back to citizens who have an all hazard radio.

In 2007, the EAS committee would like to engage in ongoing media and public information efforts to advise citizens about all hazard radios, broadcast emergency alerting and other methods that can be used to receive emergency information on the road, at work or home, or in public areas. A general outreach to the rural areas about civil radio alerting is also planned.

The Spring Mountain's alerting project is an ongoing funded project. In 2007, the possibility of interconnecting the 1610-kilohertz AM radio highway advisory radios to receive and relay, automatically, local or national alerts on the 1610 frequency is being researched.

The government permits retransmission of local emergencies on the amateur radio repeaters, and the EAS committee would like to do that in 2007. Some of that has already been done and a couple of repeaters in town that are in the amateur radio service are currently relaying alerts from the NWS.

The EAS committee will monitor the progress of mass cell phone, pager, and the satellite distribution of national level and local emergency alerts.

Robert Fisher, President and CEO, Nevada Broadcasters Association, said he acted as a presenter at the Broadcast Emergency Summit held last month in Boise. The Department of Homeland Security for the state of Idaho sponsored the summit.

Rural area meetings are conducted. The last meeting was held in Yerington, Nevada. There is an ongoing problem of the lack of information sharing with the rural areas.

The Department of Justice has made \$5 million available for working with Amber Alert in Indian country. Anyone who has direct contact with some of the tribes and has good communication resources was asked to pass that information on to Mr. Fisher. Irene Navis, Clark County Nuclear Waste Division stated she would get contact information to Mr. Fisher on the Division's contacts with several tribal entities, the Western Shoshones, the Moapa Paiutes, and the Las Vegas Paiutes.

In October, the Nevada Broadcasters Association held emergency management training for all of the northern broadcast engineers. The association has assembled a book that outlines from A to Z everything that television and radio stations need to know in case of a catastrophic emergency.

Depending upon what the emergency is, cell phones, Internet and television will not operate. Radio will be the only form of communication that will work.

Beasley Broadcast was responsible for a \$10 million donation to upgrade the Nevada Broadcasters signal. Las Vegas and Southern Nevada now has a 24-hour news station; KDWN, 720 AM with eight full-time news staff members.

On December 4, the Nevada Broadcasters will begin working with the Nevada Department of Transportation on a million dollar television and radio campaign to bring out the 5-1-1 System, Amber Alert, and EAS as the eyes and ears of Homeland Security.

Jim O'Brien asked if there is any digital radio in Southern Nevada. Mr. Fisher stated that Radio Shack sells digital FM radios. Digital FM rides piggyback on the main FM frequency, making it possible to get another channel of programming on the FM radio.

Jim O'Brien added the County is involved with a project to improve preparedness for the deaf and hard of hearing. They want to see if it is possible to leverage that capability so that text messages could somehow be broadcast through digital radio.

Jim O'Brien recognized LEPC member, Andy Bailey who represents the National Weather Service and will be relocating to Kansas City after the first of the year. Andy has been a large contributor to the emergency alerting effort by pushing the interconnect between the emergency alert system and the NOAA weather radio.

c. Metropolitan Medical Response Update

Chris Sproule, MMRS Program Coordinator, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, displayed some megaphones in the meeting room. The megaphones are carried in every fire department command vehicle, i.e., the Battalion Chiefs and hospital, the HazMat, the technical rescues, in anticipation of a mass casualty incident. The megaphones are also carried in AMR and MedicWest ambulance supervisors' vehicles. Each emergency room has two megaphones.

The wet decon kit hooks up at the hydrant and all twelve nozzles are run at the same time. There are 100 kits in the Las Vegas valley; 70 are on fire engines and 30 in the emergency rooms.

Chris discussed the auto vent 2000's (ventilators). Purchases include 158 of the ventilators and distribution was made to all of the fire department's ALS units and ambulance companies in the valley. Cost of the ventilators is approximately \$1,500.00 each and was purchased in anticipation of vent-dependent patients for possible Bird Flu.

Instructions are included in the dry decon kit that contain a trash bag, a hole is cut in the bag for the arms and head. The responders put the bag on, remove their clothes, and wipe themselves with the decon wipes.

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue received 6,000 Mark One Kits, (Nerve Agent). The kits are being distributed to fire department first responders. Each responder is being given anywhere between 1 – 3 kits. Following distribution to fire department personnel, kits will be dispersed to AMR, MedicWest, METRO and NHP.

Two tools are used with the MMRS. One is the EM System, located in all of the emergency rooms. The EM system is a plasma, flat screen television containing all of the hospitals' status, i.e., what the expected wait is, so that the crews in the field can make a decision on the hospital that has the least amount of patients and the amount of time for getting in and out. The EM System is a great tool on a daily basis, in the event of an incident, an alert message could be sent to every ER.

The all-hospital channel is another MMRS tool. The EMS group leader or the Incident Commander using the all-hospital channel can connect with fire dispatch. Dispatch can send an alert tone to all the hospitals. From that point the Incident Commander can be in touch directly with each hospital ER to communicate where they want the patients to go and which hospitals would be the best for each patient. The goal with these two communication systems is to make certain that everyone is trained and knows how to use these systems in the event of an emergency.

d. NV-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team Update

Timothy Gruber was not present at the meeting.

e. Emergency Management Coordinators Group

Roger Bueher was not present at the meeting.

f. Planning Subcommittee

Richard Brenner was not present at the meeting.

g. State Emergency Response Commission Executive Director Report

- Policy Updates

Karen Kennard was not present at the meeting.

h. US Environmental Protection Agency Report

Mike Ardito was not present at the meeting.

i. Community Awareness Emergency Response

Susan Crowley, CAER representative stated the CAER Group has not met since her last report to this committee.

j. Community Organizations Active in Disaster

Linda Nowell, United Way of Southern Nevada, and COAD Chair reported following Katrina last year, the United Way was asked to be the lead agency of the COAD function. The COAD is a coalition of non-profits working together. The group has been involved in strategic planning focusing primarily on disaster recovery.

"COAD will be an indispensable asset to Southern Nevada's emergency management efforts," is their new vision statement. The new mission statement reads, "Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) enhances Southern Nevada's ability to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from disasters by developing collaborative approaches that maximize resources and services." All of COAD's goal statements follow the normal emergency planning response. The communications committee's goal is to enhance effective communications between community organizations, emergency management agencies and members of the community.

A joint committee has been devised to work with mitigation and response. The goal of mitigation is to actively participate in community activities to eliminate or reduce the degree of long-term risk to human life, property and the environment from the effects of natural and technological hazards. In the

preparedness area, the goal is to take action in advance of an emergency to improve readiness and develop or expand operational capability.

The response goal is to participate and support emergency management efforts during an emergency to lessen emergency impact and recovery effectiveness.

The recovery goal is to assist the community in returning to an acceptable standard of safety and sustainability. COAD membership has interface programs, and would welcome a for-profit business provided it has a non-profit/ volunteer arm or ability. If someone has a for-profit business but would be willing to offer volunteers and/ or needed supplies or equipment during the recovery phase, they are welcome to participate.

COAD meets monthly, generally in the Pueblo Room at the Clark County Government Center. The meeting time now spends a minimal amount of time doing the housekeeping business and a maximum amount of time for the committees to work on accomplishing committee goals.

B. CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL

Citizen Corps Programs Report

- Medical Reserve Corps

Jane Shunney, RN, MS, Manager, OPHS, Southern Nevada Health District, gave the report at Paula Martel's request. The MRC has 165 volunteers. A new veterinary component is being developed to educate local veterinarians and citizens about animal disaster preparedness. MRC will be working with animal control agencies to assist them during disasters.

- Community Emergency Response Team

Tim McAndrew, Officer, City of Las Vegas Emergency Management gave the report on behalf of the CERT Program Coordinator. Beyond finishing up the fiscal year 2005 funding processes that they have received through the Homeland Security Grant Programs (Citizen Corps programs), they will be preparing to engage in the 2006 process. The CERT team members and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) will be incorporated in the process.

The Las Vegas Grand Prix will be held in the downtown City area on April 6-8, 2007. The intent will be incorporating the CERT membership and the MRC for their volunteers to assist in the event.

- Neighborhood Watch

Captain Kathy Suey, METRO reported utilizing Neighborhood Watch. Distribution of handbooks developed and purchased through the Homeland Security grants has begun.

- Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Vern Garman, AEO OPS Training, ARES/RACES, reported participation in the McCarran Airport exercise working with ten of the local hospitals and people on site at the airport.

Providing communications in training activities, such as two weeks ago participation in the 150-mile bike ride between the Speedway and Mesquite and last weekend participation in the bicycle portion of the Triathlon that was held along Lake Mead.

Jim O'Brien expressed appreciation for these volunteers availability during the Rotunda Thunda Exercise when Clark County's e-mail system went down. The amateur radio operators were able to transmit e-mail messages to our State EOC in Carson City.

C. URBAN AREA WORKING GROUP

1. Urban Area Strategy Update

Jim O'Brien stated that it is likely receipt of FY07 guidance for the Homeland Security grants programs will be received on Friday, November 17.

Jim stated that Tim McAndrew had participated in a working session in Chicago a few weeks ago. Tim said he was in Chicago on November 8 attending a stakeholders meeting. In attendance from across the county were about 75 representatives both from state and local jurisdictions. The Department of Homeland Security's Grant Guidance document has historically been about a 200+ page document. An effort has been made to reduce the document to about 60 pages plus a couple of attachments.

There are five specific highlights/ focus areas for this year's grant program monies. The first is the establishment and expansion of a nationwide network of fusion centers, previously known as Terrorism/Early Warning Groups. Essentially, these are the intelligence centers for law enforcement types to get together to analyze and disseminate information. This will be a very strong highlight of the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) monies.

The second focus area is to try to proceed forward with implementing enhancements to the emergency operations plans nationally and follow-up to this year's national plan review process, specifically for catastrophic incident planning.

The purpose of this meeting was for the participants to review the draft grant guidance document and recommend revisions if necessary. A blanket checklist in the guidance document stated that every single jurisdiction would need to conduct mass evacuation planning, along the lines of New Orleans. The participants said the "one-size fits all" will not work and is a poor use of funds and resources. The participants suggested that the guidance plan be revised to state that the catastrophic incident planning that is done should be appropriate to the local jurisdiction, based on the level and type of risks involved with that jurisdiction. It remains to be seen whether or not the recommended change is incorporated in the document.

The third focus area is continuing the efforts for critical incident infrastructure protection programs.

The fourth focus area is continuing efforts to strengthen communications interoperability.

The fifth focus area is highlighting the needs to enhance radiological and nuclear protection efforts.

A small note in the grant guidance of interest was that grant guidance enabled state administrative agencies to arbitrarily change the geography of the urban areas. The participants suggested that the urban areas continue to be allowed to make the determination on what appropriate geography is and coordinate that through the state.

There was a placeholder in the draft document for the 2007 Urban Area Working Group list. It was anticipated that the list would be completed and included in the grant guidance.

A question was asked regarding the actual process. Had the actual process been shortened by approximately a month? Tim said the only shortening had to do with the grants guidance document itself. There was no mention in any shortening of the process. In fact, the investment justification templates process had deliberately not been changed. Jim O'Brien stated it was his understanding that it is 90 days from the time of the release of the guidance. Tim referenced a handout he had with him. The grant guidance will be released on Friday, November 17. Applications are due back from the state administrative agencies on February 15. Award announcements will be made by May 16.

- *Regional Emergency Operations Center Report*

Irene Navis, Manager, Clark County Nuclear Waste, reported that a feasibility study had been conducted. The Nuclear Waste Division sponsored the funding of the study. This effort came about, as a follow-up activity to some public safety needs assessment studies/ impact assessment studies done by the Nuclear Waste Division as it related to Yucca Mountain. The County pursued the task under the Urban Area Security Initiatives Strategic Plan. It was also included in the Board of County Commissioners' strategic priority to look at multi-agency coordination. There is a focus on Yucca Mountain but there are also broader applications to other issues.

The report was co-sponsored by Irene, Jim O'Brien, Frank Siracusa from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management. Don Burnette, Clark County's Chief Administrative Officer provided a great

deal of guidance and support. Jim Spinello, Clark County Assistant Director of Administrative Services, was also instrumental in the preparation of the report. Partners in other jurisdictions included Captain Kathy Suey, Lt. Michael McCrimon, Richard Brenner, Fernandez Leary, Tim McAndrew, and staff from the Cities of North Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City and Mesquite. Many of the LEPC members took the time to be interviewed by the consultants for this report. Copies of the report were made available at the meeting.

A session will be held this afternoon at the HazMat Expo to discuss the need for and feasibility of a regional EOC.

Irene introduced the consultants who worked on the report: Alvin Mushkatel and Sheila Conway from the Urban Environmental Research (UER). Sheila said UER was able to conduct this study with the support of many LEPC members and others. The report is 100 pages and UER is appreciative of everyone's efforts. Sheila offered to meet individually with any organization for report review.

UER examined the feasibility of leveraging local emergency response capabilities to construct a new regional emergency operations center (REOC). UER has been working in the valley since 1999 with all of the local jurisdictions doing public safety impact assessments for Yucca Mountain.

UER studied national statistics going back as far as the 1970's on the regional emergency operations center topic. How well does the REOC work in the terms of regional coordination, what legal authority was involved with these types of activities particularly in Nevada? Also considered, what has already been established in groups such as the Regional Transportation Commission, Regional Flood Control District, and the Southern Nevada Health District. UER looked at how authority flows within the state, the responsibilities of the state, and local responsibilities.

UER conducted six case studies of REOC's and a survey of the LEPC members.

On-site investigations were held in New York meeting with Henry Jackson, New York's Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Response; the head of the Police Department Homeland Security Bureau; the City of New York's Fire Chief. On-site investigations were conducted in Chicago, L.A., King County, Washington, Washoe County, and the Cities of Reno and Sparks. UER appreciated Richard Brenner accompanying staff on visits to King County and Chicago.

UER'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regionalization provides better coordination and leveraging of responses.

If the communities go forward with examining a new REOC, recommendation made for comprehensive legal assessment be part of the next component.

Widespread support among the LEPC for pursuing the construction of the new REOC.

There was support for Clark County to continue to manage a new REOC. It was not universal but significant.

There was a commonality of interests and goals significant enough to continue to pursue an in-depth assessment and a business plan. The current EOC has all of the necessary elements but if falls short of being optimal.

If a new REOC is built, it should be a center for excellence in the areas of communications and interoperability. One to two years ago, on behalf of the Clark County Nuclear Waste Division, UER conducted two national symposiums. Local and national experts in public safety and transportation were brought in to look at communications and interoperability. A large portion of our congressional delegation, the County Commission, and local mayors participated in that activity. From those symposiums came a strong recommendation that we needed to move in the direction of a center for excellence in these arenas.

While UER was in the process of conducting the study, staff became aware that a working group existed who had already looked at these issues and initiated some dialogue between Clark County, the City of Las Vegas and METRO. UER recommends that the working group be expanded to incorporate a broader array of stakeholders, particularly the cities of North Las Vegas, Henderson, Mesquite and Boulder City.

UER identified some useful activities to have the working group address, which included: identifying the public safety functions compatible in such a facility, look at preparing a legal assessment, and development of location criteria. National facilities identified the importance of having excellent location criteria for siting a facility in order to generate the type of support needed. It will be necessary to develop a preliminary design, detail cost estimates, and detailed funding plans.

UER identified the need for two types of groups: an "operations type" of working group and a policy group. A level of input is needed from each group due to the sharing of resources and funds.

It would be useful to have professional support because it is a very intensive job and the support would aid in garnering knowledge from around the nation.

A suggestion was made to engage an independent facilitator.

Tim McAndrew thanked the staff from UER for the work done on this project stating it was a pleasure working with them. He thanked Irene and Jim for facilitating the first feasibility study to be commissioned.

- *Updates on FY'06 investments*

Captain Kathy Suey from METRO stated a site has been located for the fusion center. A proposal should be going forward for their business affairs. The projection for having the fusion center up and running is by March 2007. A majority of the stakeholders have been identified.

State Watch is on track. A project manager is being identified. The critical infrastructure protection program is being utilized. One of the issues is dealing with the difficulty of loading the information into the program. A different vendor is being considered to assist in easier information loading. A suggestion from the audience, if the program would accept the PDF format it would simplify things. This program is being brought statewide. Presently work is being done with Washoe County.

The fusion center will be a location for information from various public safety agencies and the weather service. The center will have the analytical capability to look for threat potentials, abnormal patterns of activity, and all types of hazards (criminal, weather, inc.). There will be information sharing with other states and with the Department of Homeland Security. This will be a 24-hour operation allowing watch over Clark County and Southern Nevada.

Tim McAndrew stated a small grant in the amount of \$60,000.00 from FY 2006 would probably provide seed money for public safety announcements (PSA). Some discussions have taken place internally within the City as well as with Washoe County. They will likely try to leverage as additional investment justification for the upcoming 2007 cycle in order to proceed forward with the program. They will probably leverage their Communications Director to take the lead operative role on this project to work with his counterparts, both in government and the private service arena, to develop the PSAs. The goal is to emulate what Seattle has done over the past two years, i.e., entering into public/ private partnerships with the print and broadcast media. Seattle has received support in the form of in-kind donations from the broadcast media affiliates in that area.

Jim O'Brien reported on a one day workshop held in September comprised of deaf and hard of hearing consumers and public safety professionals. Discussed was how public safety activities could be addressed so that both groups, consumers and public safety practitioners, would benefit.

Jim has been working closely with Norma Lee Chrismon, Chair of the Southern Nevada Coalition of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SNCODHH) and others throughout the state to develop a scope of work on how to address the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing during emergencies. One task accomplished

was the participation of 38 folks from the SNCODHH in the McCarran Airport Exercise acting as role players in the incident on the tarmac.

There are challenges ahead in trying to make headway in the public safety arena. The Southern Nevada Coalition is in the process of revising a visual tool. The Coalition has made some recommendations on the revision. The Task Force will be soliciting recommendation from others around the state. The tool is irrespective of language; pictures convey the ideas. The Task Force will look at how the pictures might be put in emergency response vehicles.

The Task Force received an example of a contract used by the City of Los Angeles to acquire interpreter service for non-emergency and emergency situations for the City's day-to-day meetings or when a police officer encounters a deaf person out in the field.

In reference to investments, Jim stated he wanted to mention that these are statewide projects. The projects are not confined to Clark County or Washoe County. During the first week of December all of the investment leaders will be traveling to Elko and Tonopah to invite the participation of the other counties, cities and tribes that have needs that can be met by projects that are currently funded by this year's process.

2. Regional Transit Security Strategy

Jeff Mills was not able to attend the meeting but asked Jim O'Brien to read an e-mail in his absence. During the week of December 4, the Transportation Security Administration's transportation security inspectors will be conducting a cooperative baseline assessment for security enhancement review of the Citizen's Area Transit System.

During the week of December 18, the Department of Homeland Security's technical assistance will be coming to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada. Also invited are RTC of Washoe County and the Water Reclamation District to understand how to design and implement a department operations center for their respective organizations. If anyone has questions, contact Jeff at RTC, phone 400-8705; millsj@rtcsnv.com.

Jeff will be prepared to discuss the results of these two activities at the next LEPC meeting.

3. Interoperable Communications Technical

- Exercise Full House After Action Review

Jim O'Brien reported that tactical interoperable communications plan validation exercise was held on September 13. The exercise demonstrated to the DHS that the Clark County Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan is valid. A few minor updates will be made to the plan based on experiences in the exercise. Copies of the plan were made available as a handout.

A working group is scheduled for December 5, at 9:00 a.m., at the Clark County Government Center, 4th Floor, Gold Room. The group will edit the draft plan based on the after action report provided by the Department of Homeland Security.

It will be necessary to bring the training officers for the fire and police departments together to develop a curriculum for consistent training.

Exercises conducted in the future should include a tactical interoperable communication component.

- Training and Drills

No comments.

- Program Management

No comments.

- Investments

No comments.

III. Public Comments

No comments

IV. Next LEPC Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., Clark County Government Center, 1st Floor Pueblo Room.

V. *Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.