



Clark County Local Emergency Planning Committee  
**SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING**

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

**- MINUTES -**

ATTENDANCE

LEPC MEMBERS: Fernandez Leary, Eugene Campbell, Dan Lake, Tim McAndrew, Patricia Lofft, Michael Cyphers, Edward Hulbert, Dave Dahl, Ed Day, Irene Navis, Timothy Gruber, Ed Gannon, Andy Bailey, Michael Petullo, Tim Malcolm, Bill Richardson, Martin Heiny, Jim O'Brien

LEPC ALTERNATES: Mike McCrimon, Steven Ross, Harry Kelman, Steven Cabrales, Jane Shunney, Linda Alonzo, Doug Sharp

LEPC MEMBERS ABSENT: Terri Davis, Doug Stevens, James Green, Carolyn Levering, Mike McClary, David Petersen, Glenford Parks, Jim Wilson, Warren Glidewell, Robert Marshall, Craig Wilkinson, Susan Crowley, John Horton, Mary Martini, Mike Richardson, Mike Moran, Lloyd Clary, Steven Kramer, Brian Rogers, Senator Dennis Nolan, Penney Towers, Robert Fisher

I. Call To Order

Jim O'Brien, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2006 in Training Room 3 of the Clark County Government Center.

II. Roll Call

Quorum met.

III. \*Approval of February 15, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Irene Navis from Clark County Nuclear Waste made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2006 LEPC Quarterly meeting. Ed Day from the Kinder Morgan CALNEV Pipeline seconded the motion that was approved unanimously.

A. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. \*Critical Incident Protocol and City Watch

John Horton, President of the Las Vegas Security Chief's Association & American Society of Industrial Security Chapter #60 was unable to be at the meeting to discuss these topics. No one else present was prepared to speak.

2. \*Recommend the BCC approve/ratify grant application to the Division of Emergency Management for funds from the National Nuclear Security Administration Department of Energy grant

In Carolyn Levering's absence, Mike McCrimon from the Las Vegas Metropolitan PD, a member of the LEPC Grants Subcommittee spoke on this annual grant that is offered to six counties in Nevada that are on the low-level nuclear waste transportation route. Traditionally Clark County has requested personal equipment and radiological protection equipment under this grant. This year the grant subcommittee had two applications, one from the City of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

HazMat Team and the other from Clark County Fire Department rural firefighters, and they both fit the purview of the grant. Jane Shunney, Manager, OPHP, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) made a motion to approve this recommendation and Michael Cyphers, City of Henderson Emergency Management seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. \*Recommend the BCC approve/ratify grant application to the State Emergency Response Commission for funds from the United We Stand license plate fee program

Mike McCrimon again spoke for Carolyn Levering in her absence. This new grant was legislated to combat terrorism. Funding is made available through the fees collected from license plates with the "United We Stand: eagle and flag emblem. The two local applications submitted were from SNHD Environmental Health Response Team and the City of North Las Vegas (NLV) PD. Michael Cyphers made the motion to recommend forwarding this application to the Board of County Commissioners and Fernandez Leary, Clark County Fire Department seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. National Basketball Association All-Star game

Ed Gannon, UNLV Risk Management and Safety discussed preparation and the need for support from the public safety community for the All-Star game that will be held at UNLV in February 2007. An invitation was extended to all to attend the walk-through on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Thomas and Mack to give a hands-on look at the arena to look at the capabilities and limitations.

5. Railroad HazMat re-routing

Jim O'Brien and Irene Navis, Manager, Clark County Nuclear Waste with comments from Tim McAndrew, City of Las Vegas Emergency Management discussed Dr. Fred Millard's stance on railroad hazmat re-routing, the architect of an ordinance for Washington D.C. that has been challenged and the lower court supported the District of Columbia with their ordinance and the railroad is challenging it to the Supreme Court.

Dr. Millard has contacted the leaders of Clark County and the City of Las Vegas suggesting they also enact an ordinance re: hazardous materials and nuclear waste transport and rerouting around the city. There has not been a lot of support for his concept but Ms. Navis is planning on keeping in contact with him and following the status of the lawsuit and what the court does because it may set a precedent for future shipments of either low-level or transuranic waste out to New Mexico or high-level waste out to Yucca Mountain.

6. Environmental Protection Agency Risk Management Plan reading room in Las Vegas

Jim O'Brien discussed a handout from Mike Ardito, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, U.S. EPA San Francisco Office. This hand-out gave the status of the reading room with problems encountered with mold in the facility that caused a temporary shut down and the retirement of the primary contact. Training is required for the secondary contact person at the Las Vegas EPA lab to become certified. If information is required in the interim contact can be made with EPA Region 9, RMP Reading Room Coordinator, Janice Witul, phone (415) 972-3089; Witul.Janice@epa.gov.

There is some misunderstanding about the lists accessing the RMPs. Mr. Ardito wanted to confirm there are no lists kept on who accesses these records.

7. Satellite phones expand list with other jurisdictions

In Richard Brenner's absence, Fernandez Leary recommended all public safety agencies contact Jim O'Brien with their satellite phone numbers to compile a "Satellite Phone Number Directory." In the event of a complete loss of communication this contact list would be very important.

## 8. Reports and Updates

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

Steven Ross from the LVVWD advised nothing to report.

### b. *Emergency Alert System (EAS)*

Steve Scott from the EAS system reported that the last Amber Alert was a success with no problems encountered. Andy Bailey, National Weather Service (NWS) discussed Homeland Security grant funds received by the Nevada Broadcasters Association purchasing EAS equipment. These funds have made it possible for EAS alerts to be transmitted by the NWS. Weather radios for \$30 will issue these special alerts also. One of the main features of the weather radio is its zone specific. For example, if you want to alert weather radios in the Mt. Charleston area or the Laughlin area, the code can be sent to activate those radios only. This is one of the main advantages of the new generation weather radios.

Jim O'Brien discussed a grant received from the U.S. Forest Service that is being used to design and implement a warning system for the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area.

Also discussed were the EAS signals and problems with broadcasting on cable. The FCC regulations say that cable companies are only required to carry national level signals and certain other signals and are not compelled to carry every channel EAS messages.

### c. *Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Update*

Chris Sproule is the new MMRS coordinator and is in the process of completing wet decon kits and expects to circulate about 720 people per hour per kit and these will be distributed at the rate of 100 kits on every fire engine in the County and two kits to every hospital. Also dry decontamination kits should be on every truck company in the valley as well as the hospitals. Doffit kits that are very similar to dry decontamination kits have also been received. Dry-it kits have been received which are basically oversized paper towels so people can dry off post wet decon. Mark-1 kits have not arrived.

Mr. Sproule participated in a conference call with the White House discussing the bird flu. A good resource for local, state and federal information regarding bird flu is [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov).

A hand-out was provided for an upcoming conference "Handling Radiation Emergencies" on June 26-27, 2006. It is an opportunity to ask the experts how best we can respond to nuclear and radiological events.

### d. *NV-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team Update*

Timothy Gruber, Acting Commander for NV-1 DMAT based out of Oakland, CA reported this team experiencing change as well as the whole agency. Our team is a Type 3 federal asset. This means it is a Developmental Team and it is growing. We are trying to recruit and must have a minimum of about 40 folks. Type 3 teams are never expected to deploy as a full team. Team members are deployed from other teams to make up a Strike Team that came out during last years Hurricane Katrina. It is usually composed of a physician, two nurses, and two paramedics or paramedic/EMT combination. These folks that go in augment hospitals and clinics.

There is work to be done to establish a good website, a good contact link in order for people to get into the system. Mr. Gruber's e-mail: [timothy.gruber@dhs.gov](mailto:timothy.gruber@dhs.gov) requests that you contact him if you have any questions.

### e. *Emergency Management Coordinators Group (EMC)*

Jim O'Brien related that at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting there was good discussion as a result of a Department of Homeland Security mandated national plan review where all emergency operations plans for major jurisdictions were reviewed. As a result of this review the discussion of the concept of having a single emergency operations plan (EOP) for the organizations and

the entities within Clark County took place. The basic plan really consists of viewing things like authorities, scope, concept of operations, continuity of government and generic high-level things that can be captured as a base line for what an EOP would look like. More problematic but not insurmountable is in the annexes that are the functional areas like communications, warning, firefighting, law enforcement, search and rescue, all of those other activities. We already have three of those annexes effectively written with respect to the Hazardous Material (HazMat) Plan and the Mass Casualty (MCI) Plan, which are regional plans. We have the Terrorism Response Plan and we have a good stab started on the Joint Information Center (JIC) Plan. So we're actually well on the road to getting that done as well. Also briefly mentioned was the evacuation annex that would be rolled into a similar annex.

The Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan was also discussed.

- f. *Planning Subcommittee – Update on changes to the Hazardous Materials Response Plan*  
Richard Brenner, Hazmat Coordinator for the Clark County Fire Department was absent to discuss this item. Fernandez Leary added that work is continuing on the plan update process. Eugene Campbell, Assistant Chief, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue shared that a requested change to the response algorithm for unknown substances notification where the notification will go initially to the armor team is being worked on. It has been changed three times. The notification is supposed to go straight in to their dispatching system and then through the paging system, was going to come out two different ways. He did not know if this change had been finalized yet.
- g. *State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Executive Director Report*  
Karen Kennard, Executive Director and Richard Brenner, SERC Co-Chair are both attending the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Conference. A handout was provided stating that the above conference was to provide information on the upcoming HMEP grant awards. SERC adopted new regulations regarding grant management policies and the imposition of the already established \$500 fee for toxic release inventory (TRI) reports. This is scheduled to be approved by the Legislative Commission on June 1. Also discussed was the purchase and implementation of the previously referenced hazardous materials database. Schedule is contact to begin July 1, design, customization and implementation are scheduled by approximately October with online process for March 1 renewal date. SERC and Clark County OEM staffs is coordinating the 10<sup>th</sup> annual HazMat conference to be held at the Orleans Hotel/Casino, November 13-16.
- h. *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Report*  
Mike Ardito, was not available to give a report, but did provide an EPA Program Update for our LEPC. This handout provided information on EPA's roles for combating avian flu if pandemic occurs as well as information on how to access their regional emergency response, prevention and preparedness for 2005 and their progress report for 2006. Additional information was also provided. If you would like more information about U.S. EPA's Emergency Prevention and Preparedness (EPP) Program for Nevada, contact Mike at (415) 972-3081 or by e-mail at ardito.michael@epa.gov.
- i. *Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) Update*  
Susan Crowley, CAER representative was not available to give a report. No one else was present from this group to give a report.

## B. CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL

### Citizen Corps Program Report

- **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**  
Paula Martel, MRC Program Coordinator, reports that the Medical Reserve Corps is growing within our state. Number one, this corps is still a local resource but the government could not ignore during Hurricane Katrina that there were 420 MRC units across the U.S. and over 75,000 volunteers who could help out. So they are taking a whole new look how this corps

may be responding nationally, if they will, when they would, who they would deploy through as you can imagine that is from the White House down through Homeland Security and some input now from the American Red Cross. The first opportunity to deploy with the American Red Cross, the Homeland Security just came right in and pulled together some protocols and there were about 600 MRC volunteers from across the U.S. that were actually able and willing to go. The White House contacted Ms. Martel for her recommendation of a Katrina volunteer to be awarded when President Bush visited our area. The MRC is always very pleased for that recognition both locally and nationally. MRC Nevada, [www.MRCNevada.com](http://www.MRCNevada.com) will be up and operational no later than June 1. If you know anyone interested in volunteering please refer them to the website.

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)  
Tim McAndrew on behalf of Rick Diebold, CERT Program Coordinator for the City of Las Vegas stated that Rick and a number of their CERT volunteers were attending a CERT conference in southern California. There have been 1,019 successfully trained people to complete the CERT training classes. Future training will depend on Homeland Security funds for continuance of Citizen Corps and CERT programs. For the balance of FY 2006 there are twelve training courses and anticipates twelve courses for calendar year 2007 for a total of 500 students.
- Neighborhood Watch  
Police Departments, no report.
- Volunteer in Police Service  
Police Departments, no report.
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service  
Charlie Kunz, ARES/RACES stated members have provided communications for the Baker/Vegas run. The members man a number of the rest stops and also provided command post communications. This group also supported the Susan B. Komen race held in downtown Las Vegas and also the ADA bike ride from Henderson to Las Vegas and Boulder City held this past weekend. These volunteers have been requested to participate in the airport's exercise on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kunz added he hoped the fire season would be quiet this season. There are about 160 members and 75 members could be counted on in a pinch.

Jim O'Brien put a request to Mr. Kunz for volunteers to be included to support Ed Gannon, UNLV in their September communications exercise.

#### C. URBAN AREA WORKING GROUP

1. Urban Area Strategy Update  
Jim O'Brien stated that a notice was sent out to the group that Department of Homeland Security (DHS) approval was received on our strategy. He went on to thank everybody who contributed to the tweaking that was required to satisfy DHS evaluation criteria.
2. Monitoring visit from DHS  
Jim O'Brien requested members from the Urban Area Working Group who participated on the strategy development attend a May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at 9 a.m. in the Sandstone Room for the first couple of hours because of their understanding of the rationale behind objectives, goals and implementing steps. A schedule of discussions Kathleen Steinle, Preparedness Officer, DHS has requested will be sent out by week's end. She wants to review the specific progress that has been made with respect to our approved strategy.
3. Regional Transit Security Strategy  
Jeff Mills, Safety and Security Administrator, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada stated that it looks like the RTC would likely receive plus or minus the amount received last year - a half million dollars. The grant application guidelines have not come out yet. They were initially due in December and have kept sliding every month.

Mr. Mills will be attending a conference next week with security managers from the top 50 agencies.

4. Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Full Scale Exercise

Ron Massey, Clark County Chief Information Officer was unavailable to discuss the Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan. Jim O'Brien stated this plan was submitted to DHS a month ahead of time for their review and approval. Forty-five days has elapsed and there has been no response.

A requirement to be eligible for 2007 interoperable communications funding is to validate the plan no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> by conducting a limited full-scale communications exercise, demonstrating elements of performance within the plan for fire, police, and EMS agencies in the first hour of incident response. Ed Gannon, UNLV is willing to host the September 13<sup>th</sup> Full Scale Exercise in preparation for the UNLV February 2007 NBA All-Star Game.

The agencies to receive DHS TIC Plan exercise evaluation based on the venue and the required scenario, being an improvised explosive device is UNLV PD, Las Vegas Metropolitan PD, NHP, Clark County FD, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, American Medical Response and MedicWest. Other organizations are welcome to participate; however, you will not be evaluated by DHS.

Interoperable Communications Plan procedures must be used frequently in order to be remembered. We found that the I-CALL/I-TAC channels that are a common frequency that people can initiate in the beginning of interoperable communication was a mystery to a lot of street level operators. A request has been made to DHS to provide us with a standardized lesson plan.

Jim will e-mail evaluation criteria. There will be contractor support to develop this exercise due to the short time line. A June and August planning conference will take place. A one-day TIC Plan implementation workshop will be scheduled thirty to forty days before the September full-scale exercise.

IV. Public Comments

Andy Bailey, NWS said between now and the next meeting of this year, expected is the death of thirty to fifty people as a result of weather. Mr. Bailey stated if you have questions on what the National Weather Service does, the kind of products offered, or how NWS can work with your organization or business see him after the meeting or make contact with him at (702) 263-9744 ext. 223; e-mail: andy.bailey@noaa.gov.

V. Next LEPC meeting

Wednesday, August 30, 2006, Clark County Government Center

VI. Adjournment

Tim McAndrew moved to adjourn the meeting. Fernandez Leary seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.