

# Joint Benton/Franklin Local Emergency Planning Committee September 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- A. Meeting was called to order by Sean Davis, Franklin County Emergency Management, at 10:03 AM.

Sean Davis - Franklin County Emergency Management welcomed all to the meeting, gave quick safety briefing for the facility.

- B. LEPC Members Present:

Beki Hammons – Kadlec  
Brad Boyce- OXARC  
Chad Messerly – Harms Pacific Transport  
Doug Frenette- Dept of Ecology  
Eli Brackenbury – Ingredient  
Eli Elisondo – HSSE – Christensen  
Felicia Najera-Paxton- Energy Northwest  
Clint Didier – FC Commissioner  
Heather Durke- Dept of Ecology  
Jean Schalasky– Lourdes  
Jen Carson- Verdesian Life Sciences  
Joel Erickson- Benton Franklin Health District  
Jordan Hanes- Benton County Emergency Management  
Megan Woods – Franklin County Emergency Management  
Mike Aman – Dept of Ecology  
Noah Houston- Dept of Ecology  
Patrick Reid- Pasco Fire Department  
Paul Carlyle- Benton County Fire District #4  
Sean Davis, Franklin County Emergency Management  
Susan Forsythe – Washington State Emergency Management  
Ty Little- OXARC

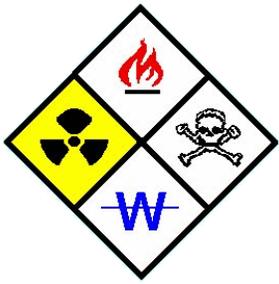
- C. New Business

1. Approval of 03/07/2023 Minutes –
  - a. Chief Reid gave motion, Chad Messerly seconded, group vote, motion approved unanimously
2. Approval of FC ESF-10 –
  - a. Sent out earlier for all to review
    - i. Changes made: current list of Tier II as well as EHS reporters
  - b. Chief Reid made the motion, Eli Elisondo seconded, group vote, motion approved unanimously



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3. SERC Update was given by Pasco Deputy Chief Ried
  - a. Working on meeting benchmarks with strategic plan
    - i. Updated in 2022
    - ii. Susan and EM have been providing sit aware
    - iii. A lot of discussion with lithium batteries; training with first responders in development
      - (a) Upcoming trainings for 2023-2024 (brief given by Susan Forsythe)
        - (i) Hazmat workshops
          1. Feb 22, 24 symposium, SW Community College in Lacey
        - (ii) East side workshop HazMat
          1. No topics yet, but selected topics will be relevant to the east side
          2. Location TBD, looking in May 2024 for dates....
        - (iii) LEPC conference
          1. April 23-24, location TBD
      - (b) Records retention workgroup in progress
        - (i) Focus on records retention specifically Tier II and spill forms (brief by Susan ended)
    - iv. Next SERC meeting: September 18, 2023 from 3-5pm @WSEMA conference in Spokane
    - v. Working on:
      - (a) Hazardous materials response
        - (i) WA doesn't have funding set aside for HazMat teams, and many agencies are pulling out because of lack of money.
          1. Stepping back and reevaluating; hoping to establish funding stream by 2025, with typing hazmat resources happening shortly after
        - (ii) Looking to OR, CAS and other states for funding models.
    - vi. For resource capabilities, looking at combining SERCS on the west side (Wahkiakum and Cowlitz counties)
    - vii. Also looking at combining LEPC
      - (a) Per Sean, makes sense locally; share industry on both sides of the river, and trying to incorporate Walla Walla as well
4. Chief Reid presented on the OXARC Fire on 05/16/2023 and shared response and lessons learned
  - a. Overview/Briefing
    - (a) Acetylene cylinder failed during a cascade filling system, and started a chain reaction
    - (b) OXARC great at reporting in a timely manner; Once command post was established, worked with OXARC closely
    - (c) Delay in getting water on the fire (hydrants turned off for repair and not reactivated)
    - (d) Fire was held to area of origin, the damage was maintained in that area, and OXARC was able to go back online the next day
  - b. Lessons Learned



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- i. PFD
    - (a) Working on getting people out to sites for tours to familiarize themselves
    - (b) Gone out and acquired program to better pre-incident surveys
    - (c) Increasing working with Public Works to maintain
    - (d) Open chain of communication with owners/facility managers at OXARC
    - (e) Used alternative tactics due to nature of materials inside
  - ii. OXARC
    - (a) Ty Little gave briefing, and thanked us for response
      - (i) Fire and subsequent damage contained to fill room, with no effect on generation equipment
    - (b) 1<sup>st</sup> experience responding to major emergency; many lessons learned; No injuries reported
    - (c) Brad Boyce spoke; appreciated the help
      - (i) Response incredible from Mutual Aid
      - (ii) Incident command
        1. Working with PFD, how to communicate information effectively
        2. Great teamwork despite a negative event
        3. A lot of lessons learned, and trainings have occurred
  - iii. Sean spoke, explaining that FCEM ended up having map of OXARC from being a Tier II reporting repository, and went door to door to tell businesses to evacuate
5. Chief Reid and Sean presented on the fire near Pasco Processing, and shared response and lessons learned
  - a. Overview/Lessons Learned
    - (a) Urban and industrial together
      - (i) Heavy equipment, pallets, refuse, scrub grass and recyclables all in one close area
    - (b) Got a call for vegetation fire due to discarded smoking materials
      - (i) One of the hottest and driest days of the year; fire spread quickly and got jump on FF's; response time is extended out there, slowly expanding but still vegetation issues
    - (c) Burned up into and around the storage area and started to affect the building to the south, but was eventually extinguished
  - ii. Encouraged people to look at the infrastructure surrounding their buildings; explained how to cut down vegetation around urban interface to allow for fire to burn out quickly, instead of getting trapped around the building
    - (a) Most industry has sprinklers inside, but no sprinklers outside.  
Something to consider
6. Round table



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- a. Spills/Response
  - i. I-90 Ammonium Nitrate (Powernel) spill 08/08/2023 was discussed
    - (a) Substance used in blast operations
    - (b) Had to close I-90; went back to normal operations a day or two after
    - (c) First Responders were not too familiar with product and how to deal with it
    - (d) Placard not present; only UN number visible
    - (e) Hard time figuring out evacuation zone size due to unfamiliarity with product
    - (f) Lessons learned
      - (i) Have correct placards in place for 1<sup>st</sup> responders
  - b. Training / Exercises
    - i. No responses provided
    - ii. FCEM offered if agencies need 100/200/700/800, they could provide that in the EOC free of charge

## 7. 2023 Benton/Franklin LEPC Meeting Schedule – 10:00am

- a. December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at BCEM
- b. March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at FCEM

## 8. Next Benton/Franklin County LEPC Meeting:

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
10:00 am - Benton County EOC  
651 Truman Ave, Richland**

## D. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM