



Torrance County

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Chair: Stephen Garrett

Vice-Chair: Todd Brogowski

Secretary: Chief Winham

Information Coordinator: Tracey Master

Emergency Manager: Samantha O'Dell

WORKSHOP NOTES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 @ 9:00am
205 S. Ninth Street, Estancia, NM 87016

1. Call to Order – Chairman Garrett called the meeting to order at 9:06am
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome and Introductions – Chairman Garrett asked all in attendance to introduce themselves
4. What is LEPC, why does it exist, and who can vote? Chairman Garrett explained that the establishment of LEPCs is a federal requirement. The Torrance County LEPC was reestablished in January 2024, after a multi-year hiatus. Unlike LEPCs that focus strictly on hazmat situations, the Torrance County LEPC focuses on all emergency events. Emergency Manager O'Dell said ideally membership will be made up of different community partners, including state and local governmental entities, elected officials to include mayors and county commissioners, law enforcement, fire, emergency management, media, ham radio operators, emergency services, New Mexico Department of Transportation, community organizations, residents, and ministerial alliance. She further said that anyone who submits a completed application is a member and can vote.

Chairman Garrett said the LEPC is going to have to review attendance. Currently, the bylaws state that if a person misses three meetings in a row, they can be removed from membership. He said the executive committee will discuss this and

bring it back. It's also important for people to understand that they do not need to be members to attend meetings.

5. Determination of Quorum – QUORUM NOT MET

6. Approval of Agenda – Unable to approve agenda due to lack of quorum

7. Approval of Minutes

- a. August – Unable to approve minutes due to lack of quorum

8. Membership Applications – Already discussed

9. Event Updates (9/28 – Pinto Bean Fiesta, 10/12 – Punkin Chunkin) – Emergency Manager O'Dell advised the group that the Moriarty Homecoming parade will be held on 10/5/2024. Her office has already conducted two evacuation workshops and has another scheduled for 10/12/2024. The workshops include an overview of how to prepare for an emergency evacuation. Participants receive evacuation workbooks and partial "go bags". She started with 250 go bags and would like to schedule additional workshops.

10. Agency Updates

Tom Carter, Estancia Police Department, reported that both the fire and police departments are fully staffed. They are in the process of obtaining their biennium trainings.

Todd Brogowski reported that, with approval from the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, the town of Mountainair will soon have law enforcement.

Christian Larson reported that there will be prescribed burns on the week of October 14, 2024, depending upon weather conditions. The burns will be in Espinosa, near Forest Roads 275 and 422, and at Capilla, northeast of Red Canyon. It's possible that there will be prescribed burns in the Sandia district, as well.

Ryan Logan with Pattern Energy reported that they have approximately 1,800 people working on the different projects. They are trying to bring awareness about construction and how to coordinate emergency responses. He said there was a situation near Corona, NM and that due to communication issues, a life was almost lost. Guadalupe County will have emergency medical services in Vaughn, and they are hoping to have a tri-city meeting with Lincoln, Guadalupe, and Tarrant counties to determine how best to provide services to the area.

Danette Cabber from the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority provided information regarding EVSWA. They operate eight transfer stations and the county landfill. She said many people try to sneak in such things as propane and oxygen tanks, which can be dangerous.

Ryan Logan asked where such tanks can be disposed. Joanna Mendez also with EVSWA, said tanks can go to Albuquerque, and that information is available on the EVSWA website and on Facebook.

Danette said there have also been issues with lithium batteries. They should not be in regular trash cans.

Emergency Manager O'Dell advised attendees that the next CPR class is scheduled for 10/28/2024 at 9am. The cost is \$60 for community members, but there is no fee for county employees or county volunteers. The class will be held at the Torrance County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division building in Estancia

11. Tabletop Exercise

Emergency Manager O'Dell described the scenario (hereto attached). Attendees (both in person and on Zoom) discussed the best response to the scenario. The group brainstormed to determine how to respond and which agencies would provide the best resources. An after-action plan will be provided at the October 2024 LEPC meeting.

12. Public Forum

Danette said she is working on a project to manage the Vaughn landfill, where they will be crushing the blades from the wind farms.

13. Next General Meeting October 22, 2024 @ 9:00am

14. Adjourn Meeting – 10:57am.