



Torrance County

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Chair: Stephen Garrett

Vice-Chair: Todd Brogowski

Secretary: Maria Martinez

Information Coordinator: Tracey Master

Emergency Manager: Samantha O'Dell

MINUTES FOR

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025 @ 9:00am
205 S. Ninth Street, Estancia, NM 87016**

1. Chairman Stephen Garrett called the meeting to order at 9:05 am
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. It was determined that there was a quorum
5. Approval of Agenda-Tracey Master made a Motion to approve the agenda. Willard Mayor David Dean 2nd. The agenda was approved.
6. Approval of Minutes
Chief Tom Carter made a motion for approval of February Minutes. Willard Mayor, David Dean 2nd. The Minutes were approved
7. Nominations and Election for Vice-Chair-Samantha went over the duties and responsibilities of the Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson is to cover for the Chairperson in case of absence and assume any duties assigned by the Chairperson. This seat is to be held until March of 2027. Willard Mayor David Dean nominated Todd Brogowski for Vice Chairperson, but Todd was absent. So, Tracy Master nominated Mayor David Dean for Vice Chairperson. Mayor David Dean accepted the nomination. Chief Archuleta made a motion to elect Mayor David Dean as Vice Chairperson. Tracy Master 2nd. Motion was approved. Thank you, Todd Brogowski, for your time and dedication to the LEPC the last couple of years and thank you Mayor David Dean for stepping up to accept the Vice Chairperson seat.
8. Nominations and Election for Information Coordinator-Samantha went over the responsibilities of the Information Coordinator. The Information Coordinator is to cover for the Secretary in the event of absence and gather and dispatch any relevant information. This term will end in March 2027. Mayor David Dean nominated Tracy Master for Information Coordinator. Mayor David Dean made a motion to elect Tracy Master as Information Coordinator. Chief Tom Carter 2nd. The Motion was approved.

Thank you, Tracy Master, for your time and dedication to the LEPC in the last couple of years and for going forward as Information Coordinator.

9. Presentations-

Estancia Chief of Police, Tom Carter did a power point presentation on "Active Shooter". Chief sighted the "Violent Crimes Act" that became Public Law No: 112-265 in 2012. He also gave the definition of "mass killing" to be 3 or more killings in a single incident. He gave statistics from the FBI report of 2022 that out of 50 incidents only 9 of the shooters were engaged by Law Enforcement and the FBI report of 2023 that out of 48 incidents only 12 of the shooters were engaged by Law Enforcement. That means that a lot can happen before First Responders get there. So, planning and training are of the utmost importance. The Chief gave us two examples of Active Shooters and a short summary of their history. The first being, Andre Marcus Bing, Walmart Shooter, Chesapeake, VA, November 22, 2022, and the second being, Brenda Ann Spencer, Grover Cleveland Elementary School, San Diego, CA, January 29, 1979. In hindsight there were red flags in both shooters. The lesson being that we need to pay more attention to people and what they are going through. Be a good person and check on people and trust your gut. Know your demographics. Torrance County specifically. Does the County have: Antigovernment people? High poverty? High abuse rates? Gangs? Does the population have access to weapons? High rates of mental health issues? Soft targets? Hard targets? Other possible attacks could include vehicle attacks, arson, blade and knife attacks, bombings and multi-method attacks. Situational awareness. Know your surroundings. The Chief went over the Cooper's Color Code to explain the four-color codes and that we need to train to be in in the colors of yellow, orange and red. Stay out of the colors white and black. He also showed us a combat breathing technique to breathe in, hold it for four seconds and release the breath for four seconds and repeat. Using that technique, take a breath, look around, and act. The Chief explained "Fight, Flight or Freeze" being the physiological reaction that occurs in response to a perceived harmful event, attack or threat to survival. Remember: Take a breath, look around and act. Plat "what if". Imagine scenarios and plan your response accordingly. Take a breath, look around and act. Told us to learn to pay attention to people's physical attributes such as: acting nervous, clinched fists, heavy breathing, they're sizing up the area (getting ready to run), pulsing veins, etc. Look for concealed weapons. In the case of an active shooter to follow protocols. Barricade and hide, lock door, turn lights off and turn phones off or silent them. Prepare to fight, anything becomes a weapon, fire extinguishers, chair, pen/pencil etc. Immediately be thinking of a plan to move, how to exit the building and how to do it. Identify weak spots like transitional spaces (vehicle) and passing periods (at schools) for examples. Control the access that the bad person has. Lastly, what to expect from law enforcement. Their goal is to stop the threat. It is not to render aid until the threat is gone. What to expect in the aftermath of an active shooter incident. Expect an investigation; to make a statement, the media will never get the

story right, and people need support. The Chief closed with a question-and-answer segment. Tracy Master thanked Chief Carter for the presentation, and she spoke of the importance of addressing the needs of counseling for everyone involved. Taking care of our mental health. And with every irate and rude person that we must deal with to learn and grow from each incident. Stephen spoke on the importance of training. Leonard Howell spoke on how 75% of Torrance County is employed by soft targets and said that protocol should change in some areas to allow employees to carry. The cannabis shop owner said that is someone came in to rob her that she would have no defense because you can't carry into a cannabis business. Great presentation!!

10. Event Updates-

April 3, 2025, Tri-County Soil & Water 12-4pm West US RT 66,

Moriarty

April 26, 2025, annual meeting CNMEC @ Moriarty High School

April- East Torrance SWCO Community Cleanup Day/Check website

11. Agency Update- Samantha O'Dell/Torrance County Emergency Manager:

Julie moved to a new location and is focused on safety risk

management

Samantha is working on the Mitigation Plan

Danette Cabber/EVSWA:

Finished the blade cleanup in Vaughn and will no longer be taking anymore blades.

12. Social media/Website Update-

The Torrance County page is waiting on the vendor to update and add the LEPC to the page.

Still working on the website and Facebook page.

13. Public Forum-

Samantha shared with us about chemicals in the county. She will be choosing one chemical a month to go over. She is referencing the "Cameo Chemicals" website for information. BNSF and Trucks transport Ethanol through Torrance County.

Maria Martinez spoke about the Pipeline training and her concern that Torrance County Dispatch nor Torrance County Sheriff's Office had no representatives there.

14. Upcoming General Meetings-

Next Meeting-April 22, 2025, At 9:00 am

15. Adjourn Meeting-

Mayor David Dean made a motion for adjournment. Chief Tom Carter 2nd. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.