



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

LEPC

Emergency Operations Center

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Southwick LEPC Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2018

Karl Stinehart, LEPC Chair opened the meeting at 0930 hours with an introduction of all present after noting a quorum represented.

I. Acceptance of September 28, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Karl Stinehart entertained a motion for acceptance of the September 28, 2018 meeting minutes as presented with a motion made by Randy Brown and seconded by Tom Fitzgerald with all voting in favor.

II. New Business:

1. Update from Bruce Augusti MEMA

Bruce Augusti from MEMA updated the group on issues happening in and around the Southwick area. There was a Tornado on October 23rd in the town of Norton. It was a Category EF1 with winds of 95-100 miles per hour. There was no significant damage and there were no injuries. Tornado's can develop quickly without a lot of warning.

This weekend this area is expected to have a rain nor'easter. There is 1-2 inches of rain predicted for Saturday October 27th.

MEMA is currently in the process of going through old reimbursement records. They have discovered that some payments have not been made to communities from the August 2011 Tropical Storm Irene. Mr. Stinehart asked Charles Dunlap to look into this issue and make sure Southwick was fully reimbursed.

Lawrence, North Andover and Andover gas explosion issue is the biggest incident we have seen and probably will ever see in Massachusetts. There have been 8300 residents that have been displaced as a result of the explosions and fires. Columbia gas is giving out space heaters and cooking apparatus. This has created some issues with safe electrical systems in homes so they are sending out teams of 4-5 people to do preliminary inspections on homes. It may take up to 2 years before final answers are determined regarding the cause of the incident. Millions of dollars will be expended to resolve this issue. MEMA is hoping for a 11/19/2018 date of people returning to their homes.

FEMA is developing a new program called PODS which means Points Of Distributions Systems. FEMA will be coming out and looking at communities to determine sights for a full scale drill/demonstration for how effective communities can be in distributing supplies such as water, blankets, and MRE's. FEMA will bring full trailers to off load. Southwick may be potential site for this program. More information will be determined in the coming months.

Towns must have a Comprehensive Emergency Management plan. Southwick is in compliance with this requirement. It is now electronic which will allow for Cities and Towns to be more specific. It is a living/working document that should be updated on an ongoing bases. This plan will allow Cities and Towns to know what their inventory is in regards to trucks, generators, shelters etc to provide aid to their communities and also provide mutual aide to surrounding communities. This document should be extremely detailed. Departments such as Public Health, Fire, Police, EMS, and DPW have sections to complete with their own detailed equipment etc. This report will also require towns to identify venues that may be targets for terrorist activities. Venues in Southwick may include schools, Whalley Park, and or DPW garage.

2. Transportation and storage of needles and sharp units

Marc Siegel-SPD safety officer and Richard Stefanowicz-SWFD Deputy Chief reported on procedures to dispose of sharps and medications. The SPD is the site town residents can dispose of pill form medications. There has been issues with liquid medications. The SPD does not currently dispose of liquid medications. Residents are referred back to the prescribing agency for disposal. There are a few instances they have had to deal with liquid materials. The SWFD currently has a sharp container exchange program. On a monthly basis a company called Steri-Cycle picks up the sharp containers and disposes of them. Both programs are free to Southwick residents. The ambulance

needle exchange gives their sharps to the hospitals for disposal. Donnie Rickson from Baystate Noble reported that the hospital also has a company come in to dispose of their sharps and hazards waste materials. Sometimes there are issues with the landfill and people disposing of medications and sharps that go undetected. If they do have a chemical that is hazardous then they bring it to the disposal site in Westfield. They also try to refer residents that there is a site for disposal nearby. If residents call either the SFD or SPD regarding a needle at a park or in the road they have single disposal containers to pick up the needles. Tom Fitzgerald will follow up with the State of Massachusetts on their procedures for communities to dispose of liquid medications.

III. Old Business

- 1. Randy Brown reported he is waiting for the MVP final report. He is hoping to receive it in Mid-November. He will notify people when he receives it and the next steps to present to the Select Board.**

IV. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Fitzgerald, seconded by Charlie Dunlap with all voting in favor. Chairman Karl Stinehart stated the next LEPC meeting would be in the EOC at 0930 hours January 24, 2019. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sullivan
LEPC Secretary