

LEPC Meeting: 09/08/2023 from 1PM to 2:15 PM

Location: Library Conference Room

Attendees: Peter Gurney, Greg Peters, Erica Aus, Lynn Crane, Kerry Mahoney, Tyler Justus, Brenda Baker, Rachel Alinsunurin, Curran Chapman, Zac Schasteen, Cory Nelson, and Ian Shoup

Introduced new members: Since our last meeting, we have added 3 new members. They are as follows: Jennifer Van Deventer (City of Unalaska Finance Dep't / Lions Club), Steve Van Deventer (Public Works / Lions Club), and Cherilynn Tremarco (Eagle's View Elementary School Principal)

Review of Action items:

Heart of the Aleutians Festival: LEPC had a booth at the Heart of the Aleutians Festival. Ferdinand Lopez and I ran the booth for the day. During the festival we gave away LEPC books called, "It's a Disaster, What are you going to do about it?", LEPC stickers, and coloring books. Additionally, we got approximately 15 people to sign up to receive NIXLE emergency alerts for Unalaska. In post Heart of the Aleutians discussions, it was decided that we need to look into some better giveaways to the public to help draw people to our table. KPB Emergency Management recommended carpenter pencils and bumper stickers/car window stickers. In the meeting we talked about Emergency blankets that we could offer as prizes for people who enroll in NIXLE or complete other preparedness related tasks.

School outreach: Brenda Baker, Rachel Alinsunurin, and Kerry Mahoney will be working together on a school outreach program. Brenda has volunteered to put together a list of items to purchase for this with input from Rachel and Kerry. The idea is to have the kids put together their own emergency bags consisting of items such as a change of clothes, crayons / coloring book, item that is special to them, water, some non-perishable snacks, and emergency blankets. Their emergency bag could be stored at school in-case of a shelter in place type situation and it would make the kids aware of the importance of preparedness which would ideally lead to them influencing their family to do something at home.

Ready-Set-Go!!: The Kenai Peninsula Borough Emergency Management Department put together a Ready-Set-Go program for their borough which encompasses all of the hazards that they face. It is all through the following website: <https://info.kpb.us/> This is a very thorough and well put together program and would align seamlessly with hazards that Unalaska faces. I spoke with the KPB Emergency Management Director Brenda Ahlberg and she was open to us mirroring their website and the information available on it that is pertinent to our area. I think this would be a great thing for LEPC to do as it would potentially be a one stop shop for LEPC all-hazards preparedness / information that we could funnel community members to. I have spoken with IS Supervisor Jake Whitaker who advised me that their website was designed by ArcGIS and that the City of Unalaska owns that software and we could potentially build a very similar website. Jake recommended speaking with our Planning Director about this to help get the ball rolling. This would not be an overnight project, but I think if we were able to apply the Ready-Set-Go! Program to Unalaska it would be a sustainable framework for LEPC to accomplish our objectives. The meeting attendees were enthusiastic

about this project. As a result of this, I will begin working on how we can go about making this happen.

House Numbering Project: Curran Chapman and Rachel Alinsunurin requested to assist with this project. In the meeting we discussed putting together a PSA to encourage community members to put numbers on their house to make it easier for emergency responders to find them. It was also mentioned that we could purchase house numbers in bulk to be given out to community members who needed them. Northport has volunteered to store the house numbers at their business if we choose to go this route. In the meantime, we can refer community members to Alaska Ship Supply where they could buy house numbers. We discussed giving out / educating the public on the importance of house numbers at a future Public Safety fair. Sgt. Chapman is currently working on a house numbering PSA.

Additionally, we discussed the fact that OSI and Alyeska have one address for all of their buildings and docks. OSI is Captains Bay Road Mile 4 and Alyeska is 551 West Broadway Avenue. We are going to try to encourage the Planning Department to create addresses for each individual building as that will help with emergency responses to those locations. An example of this is Unisea; they used to list all unisea addresses as 88 Salmon Way. A few years ago the Planning Department added addresses for all of the individual buildings and that has made it much easier to pinpoint locations during emergencies.

Tier 2 Compliance: Ferdie has volunteered to assist me with increasing Tier 2 compliance. In the meeting we discussed that it would be good to check with all companies that have hazardous materials on hand to ensure that they have submitted the required information to the state and if so ask that they also submit it to our local fire department as well as LEPC. They can file via the following link: <https://tier2.erplan.net/onlinefiling/filingLogin.htm> We will get working on contacting local companies to inquire as to their status with the goal of increasing compliance and awareness.

Funding: Briefly discussed that we will be able to apply for the State Homeland Security Program Grant in December of 2023. Here is a link to the Grant: <https://ready.alaska.gov/Grants/SHSP>

In the meeting it was discussed that George Dominguez could be a good resource in regards to tying Homeland Security into our grant for LEPC funds. Additionally, Lynn volunteered to edit the grant prior to its submission as she is highly skilled in this area.

School Emergency Plan: We are going to wait until our next meeting to discuss the School's Emergency Plan as we want to give a chance for the plan to be refined. There are apparently multiple versions of the schools plan and we want to make sure that we have the most up to date one prior to reviewing. In the meeting we discussed concerns over school security as in the past doors have been mostly unlocked. It was found that the school board recently voted against locking down the buildings as they were concerned of what message that may send to parents. It is believed that in recent weeks the High school has been locking down side doors during school hours and funneling visitors through the Aquatic Center entrance. We will check on the status of this. There are concerns regarding safeguarding the schools to help prevent against an active shooter event.

Roundtable Discussions:

A few good ideas were brought up in the roundtable. One that stood out was brought up by US Coast Guard MSD Supervisor Tyler Justus. Tyler is interested in creating a Maritime Operations subcommittee that could be overseen by US Coast Guard MSD personnel. If this were to be put in place, they would make it part of their program so that newly arriving MSD personnel would know to be involved and understand their responsibilities. This is something that LEPC was highly in favor of and would like to see happen. Tyler volunteered to work on developing this subcommittee and making it part of their MSD program.

Additionally, Brenda inquired as to whether Unalaska has a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in place. I don't believe that we currently have a CERT team but if we were able to get community members interested in this it could be a valuable program. This is something that is worth looking into.

Next Meeting: I would like to have another meeting one month from now to check up on progress made and work to refine some of our initiatives and goals. I will send a meeting invite in the coming weeks. Thank you very much to everyone who has volunteered their time to assist with LEPC. I am extremely excited by what we can accomplish for our community!

Sincerely,

Peter Gurney
Chairperson
Aleutian and Pribilof Islands LEPC