

On Friday, March 8, 2024 we had an Aleutian & Pribolof Islands LEPC meeting from 1 PM to 2 PM in the Community room of the Unalaska Library.

Meeting attendees were as follows: Peter Gurney, Ferdinand Lopez, Zac Schasteen, Cameron Dean, Curran Chapman, Ruth Marquez, Tyler Justus, Paul Jarrett, Rachel Alinsunurin, Heidi Lucking, Greg Peters, Cory Nelson, Noel Rea, Laresa Syverson, Josie Padgett, Veronika Kadoun, George Dominguez, Aviva Braun (Zoom), and Lynn Crane (Zoom).

Thank you very much to all who were able to attend!

Below is a recap of the meeting:

1. **Information Coordinator Report**--The deadline for businesses to submit their Tier 2 Chemical reports for 2023 was March 1, 2024. LEPC Information Coordinator Greg Peters provided an update on all local businesses/organizations that submitted Tier 2 reports in Unalaska, Adak, Atka, Saint Paul, Saint George, and Nikolski. There was an uptick in submissions this year over the previous year which shows that our outreach efforts were effective! Thank you to Greg Peters for stepping up in this capacity.
2. **State Homeland Security Grant Program:** LEPC assisted in applications for 4 Grants through the State Homeland Security Grant Program. The City of Unalaska applied for \$50,000 for a security framework including surveillance cameras and access control to be installed at City Hall and \$50,000.00 for new surveillance cameras at Unalaska Public Safety / Fire Department facility. Additionally, we assisted the school District in applying for a security framework consisting of Surveillance Cameras and an Access Control System at the High School and the Elementary School. School Superintendent Hanisch submitted the grant requests for a total of \$175,000.00. Superintendent Hanisch was very thankful for the assistance LEPC was able to provide with the applications and grant submission process. If the grants are awarded, funds will be received in October of 2024.
3. **Non-Profit Security Grant program:** Informed committee that I was advised of an upcoming Non-Profit Security Grant Program that will be opening up within the next few months. The primary contact for this grant is State Preparedness and Disaster Grants Officer Tiffany Peltier. Some local non-profits that we will want to make aware of this opportunity consist of USAFV, APIA, Senior Center,

Visitor's Center, Museum of the Aleutians, Q Tribe, Iliuliuk Clinic, and local churches.

4. **LEPC Website:** The Aleutian & Pribilof Islands LEPC website is currently complete from a content standpoint. With that said, once we release the site to the public it will be important that we update it when necessary and continue to look for ways to improve it. Currently, there are still a few minor formatting issues that we are trying to resolve and we also need to create a simple URL that will be easy for the Public to remember. Click the following link to review the site: <https://aleutian-and-pribilof-islands-lepc-unalaska.hub.arcgis.com/> . One thing that we discussed in the meeting is how to best push the site out to the public. Facebook was mentioned as an ideal way and then we would also want to contact KUCB for help spreading the word. Fliers can be placed throughout the community.
5. **Logo Contest:** LEPC Member Erica Aus proposed an idea to have a community wide logo contest to improve our current logo and help get the word out about LEPC. We discussed this as a group and the attendees were in favor of this idea. It was discussed that we could have a cash prize or some kind of art related award.
6. **Genius Star Discussion: Below is a recap of the discussion written by Coast Guard MSD Supervisor Tyler Justus**

Overview:

M/V GENIUS STAR, 410' Panamanian flagged cargo vessel, was transiting to San Diego, CA, to off load 828 metric tons of lithium ion batteries. During the transit on Dec 25th, 2023, a fire broke out in cargo hold number 1. The installed CO2 firefighting system was activated, and the fire was put out in hold number 1. On Dec 28th, 2023, a second fire broke out in cargo hold #2, having utilized the CO2 for the fire in cargo hold #1, the vessel conducted fire boundary cooling with sea water, and kept the hatch secured, ultimately putting the fire out.

After the fires, the vessel was diverted to Dutch Harbor to replenish the CO2 system and conduct response efforts to identify the damage to the cargo in the affected holds, and any structural integrity issues for the vessel. The Captain of the Port (COTP), CAPT Culpepper, issued a COTP order, directing the vessel to stay 2 miles offshore until marine fire and salvage experts could get on board to assess atmospheric conditions in the holds and adjacent voids, to ensure safety to the Port of Dutch Harbor, before it was allowed to enter.

Once cleared, the vessel was authorized to anchor in Broad Bay and

commence response efforts. The vessel remained in Broad Bay for multiple weeks conducting operations. The vessel was then moved to the City Pier where battery manufacture experts were contracted to repack the damaged battery containers and prepare the vessel to depart. On Feb 9th, 2024, Marine Inspectors from MSU Dutch Harbor, conducted a Port State Control Exam on the vessel. After the successful completion of the exam, CAPT Culpepper lifted the COTP order, and the vessel was authorized to sail to its final designation.

Lessons learned:

- Once the Unified Command is established, all concerns from the local city government are directed to the state representative, that person is appointed and a member of the Unified Command.
- Logistics are challenging in this region, planes contracted to fly out the spent CO2 bottles to be filled, or transport contractors to conduct work, were frequently cancelled or delayed. Delaying the response process. Moving materials and people via water was a more effective and efficient process.
- Frequent press releases to the community are extremely important. These ensure that the Unified Command and EOC provide a consistent, and accurate depiction of events to the public.
- With this complex situation, amassing a technical advisory group was beneficial to provide the Unified Command with expert information to help develop response strategies. Which were critical for the safety to the responders, vessel, crew, and community, while increasing operational efficiency.
- Establish local IMT early, MSU Dutch Harbor doesn't have the facilities to accommodate contractors and additional CG responders.

Action items:

From the discussion, a few questions/concerns were expressed that I'm going to brief to my Command.

- Why was a city representative not allowed to serve in the Unified Command?
- For future incidents, the Iliuliuk Clinic requests to be included, so they can prepare for medical concerns associated with the response.

- What was the name of the barge used to move the CO2 bottles? Was it local?

If reading this brings up any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. If I don't have the answer for you, I will do my best to find someone that can answer your question. I appreciate our conversation about this situation at the recent LEPC meeting, the only way to make changes and get better is to have frank conversations and look to improve processes.

7. **Roundtable:** LEPC Member Aviva Braun of the National Weather Service advised that she is working to finalize our Storm Ready Certification and is also assisting the City of Unalaska to regain Tsunami Ready status.

Our next meeting will take place on Friday, April 19, 2024 at 1 PM in the Community Room of the Unalaska Library. I will send a meeting invite and agenda out a few weeks prior to the meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter Gurney
Chairperson
Aleutian & Pribolof Islands LEPC