

Talbot County

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Minutes

July 25, 2024, 10 AM, Talbot Operations Center

Attendees: Geneva Schaffle (DES), Katie Stafford (DES), Rich Taylor (Health Department), Sgt. Justin Aita (TCSO), Nick Greenhawk (Easton Utilities), Mark Cohoon (Public Works), Matt Spence (Forever Media), Mike Sullivan (Town of Trappe), David Stepp (County Council), Ben Pittsley (Social Services)

Welcome and Introductions

Geneva Schaffle, Emergency Management Division Chief, Talbot County Emergency Services, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. She reiterated the federal requirements and importance of the Local Planning Committee. Schaffle says she has introduced more partners to LEPC including County PIO, and local healthcare facilities, and hoping to increase attendance of our hazardous facilities partners.

UAS Presentation

Katie Stafford, GIS Specialist, Talbot County Emergency Services, presented to the group about Talbot County Emergency Services' newly instated Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program. This presentation outlined what a UAS is, the purpose of the program, training requirements, UAS mission types, and ways a public safety drone can support the community and our partners. She answered questions regarding mission support for public safety agencies, the type of drones we utilize, and UAS payload information.

Emergency Services Report Out

Emergency Management

Tier 2 reports have been submitted by the facilities since our last meeting. We are starting a rewrite of our Continuity of Operations Plan with contractor Tetra Tech. Our EOP rewrite is complete, the tabletop exercise of the plan was completed in January, and a functional exercise of our plan is to be scheduled in the fall. Hopes to complete a cyber exercise with MDEM and an MCI exercise in 2025 pending the approval of EMPG funds. We have hired an Emergency Management Coordinator, Madison Loker, who will be fulfilling EM functions as well as grant support. Our CERT program is currently going on and we are taking registrations for our fall course. Schaffle discussed a few recent emergencies in the area lately – a few being an aircraft incident, hazardous materials spill, and MCI MVC.

911/EMS

Both divisions are hiring. Please reach out to Chief Guschke or Chief Kintop for information. Admin staff plans to move to our new facility at Mary's Ct. by the end of 2025 with dispatch to follow once all technological needs are met at Mary's Ct.

Roundtable

Department of Social Services: 10 new employees now has resulted in an additional sheltering team – training them on procedures and protocols now

County Council: Wrapping up last year's budget. FY 2025 budget approvals include 2 new ambulances, 44 AED replacements, and new radios for law enforcement. Security measures (door access and security cameras) were approved at the last meeting as well.

Trappe Commissioners: The Volunteer Fire Department has outgrown their building. They are in the process of setting up funding for a new building to be built on the same property (lining up grant funds and fundraising for the matching

funds to their grants). The Wastewater Treatment Plant at Lakeside is up and running – all going well. Shore Rivers in monitoring that area and reports are looking good.

Forever Media: Always available to help get emergency messaging out over the radio.

Talbot County Public Works: Nothing to report.

Easton Utilities: Nothing to report.

Sheriff's Office: Simmunition, purchased with Homeland Security grant funds, has been useful in recent training. Interested in doing more RTF training in the future.

Health Department: The HD has moved to 510 Cadmus Ln., Easton MD. Having some phone issues, must call the main line and get transferred to the appropriate party. The new building has meeting space available to be utilized by partners. Have grant funds if there is a need for partners for preparedness items.

DES GIS: Nothing to report.