

# LEPC Minutes 10.24.24

Talbot County

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Minutes

October 24, 2024, 10 AM, Talbot Operations Center

**Attendees:** Geneva Schaffle (DES), Rich Taylor (Health Department), Danielle Diefendafer (DES), Madison Loker (DES), Katie Stafford (DES), Kurt Fuchs (Easton Utilities), Nick Greenhawk (Easton Utilities), John Hines (Easton Utilities), Mark Cohoon (Public Works), Ben Pittsley (Social Services), Colby Hall (Hospice), Dave Johnson (Bayleigh Chase), Tina Kintop (DES), Josh Webber (Health Dept.), Matt Spence (Forever Media), Karine Ireland (Health Dept.), Dr. Famhi (Health Dept.), Joe Gamble (TCSO), Bob Luff (RACES), Greg Wilson (Oxford NOAA), Melissa Wilson (Mount Airy), David Stepp (County Council), Randy (Suburban Propane)

## Welcome and Introductions

Geneva Schaffle, Emergency Management Division Chief, Talbot County Emergency Services, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Schaffle quickly summarized ChemLock, their importance, and the hope for them to present in the future. She reiterated the federal requirements and importance of the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Schaffle says she has introduced more partners to LEPC including local long term care facilities, utility partners, and other local groups and hoping to increase awareness of the group and the overall importance of LEPC.

## Talbot Presentation

Schaffle, Talbot County Emergency Services EM Chief, presented to the group about Talbot County Emergency Services' new updates and importance of LEPC in Talbot County. This presentation outlined how Talbot DES is structured, DES Hazard Mitigation Plan, ICS structure, EOC functions, upcoming plans/ projects, and DES' upcoming move to Mary's Ct. NOAA representative announced the installation of a new Tide Gage has been added to Oxford which will be feeding publicly in the upcoming months assisting with tidal monitoring. Bob Luff voiced his concerns on recent high tides effecting Talbot County citizens and their homesteads, along with the lack of notification from the NWS of incoming and high tides.

## Emergency Services Report Out

Emergency Management

DES will be moving to the second story of Mary's Ct. Port St. will be a live backup center for Dispatch which is a notable great asset to Talbot County. Schaffle reviewed what roles and programs will be housed at Mary's Ct. such as MIH, AED Program Coordinator, Medical Director, etc. COOP Plan is under way and the robust planning process has begun. Flood mitigation has been a high-ticket item for EM since the last meeting. Hurricane season has been slow for Talbot County and a potential burn ban may be in effect in the upcoming weeks dependent on County Councils decision. Loker discussed the improvements of our CERT program and future goal of integrating with TCPS as well as the expansion of our Community Outreach programs to minority groups, specifically Spanish-speaking groups, in Talbot County.

## 911/EMS

EMS is heavily engaged in training and about to hire a full-time training coordinator to enhance overall training operations and organization.

## Roundtable

Department of Social Services: Has recently hired 10 new employees which has resulted in an additional sheltering teams, training new hires on procedures and protocols now. Going to send out invitation to Shelter exercise in June for anyone who is interested.

Talbot County Council: Changes on upcoming ballots involving additional funds for TCSO and DES.

Forever Media: No updates. Always available to help get emergency messaging out over the radio.

Talbot County Public Works: Looking to integrate RACES into their SOPs in order to ensure contingency.

Easton Utilities: Announced Kurt Fuchs as a new hire. Recently observed a cyber security exercise on Utilities in Rhode Island and hoping to become an active participant in next year's exercise. Emphasis on the importance of cyber security in their infrastructure and their active role on combatting this issue within Talbot County. Actively hiring for various positions.

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff's Office recently moved to Mary's Ct. and announce the beginning of Black and Decker demolition in early January. TCSO just committed 2 more officers to their SWAT Team and looking to hire more officers to ensure they are fully staffed but looking solid on employment.

Health Department: Health Department has moved to Cadmus Ln. and open to providing meeting space to anyone who is looking for space. Has a supply of 1,000 Covid tests and willing to provide tests to anyone who is in need until they are out of stock. Health Department has an organized list of supplies to help community partners and willing to share supplies upon request. Dr. Fahmi requested the communication of severe weather events in order to push that information out on their platforms.

DES GIS: Successfully received COA allowing the ability to fly within regulated airspace for the UAS program. Recently flew and mapped the Repurposing Center for Brian Moore. GIS is monitoring a bill for mapping within critical infrastructure and schools. Looking to decide on a new CAD system for DES in the upcoming weeks.

Bayleigh Chase: Hosted an evacuation plan with DES members as observers. DES provided feedback at this exercise, and they have implemented these recommendations. Noted discoloration in domestic water throughout buildings and addressed concern with Easton Utilities.

Hospice House: No major updates. Would like to review Emergency Plan with DES in the upcoming months.

Suburban Propane: No updates. Open to give tours of their facilities. First time representing at LEPC meetings but hoping to foster a strong relationship.

RACES: Looking to upgrade connection capabilities for RACES group to enhance communication within Talbot County. Upgrades are working great and able to communicate large messages and

pictures in less than 20 seconds. Looking to expand their capabilities within the shelter environments in order to allow increased shelter communications.

Oxford NOAA Lab: Hosting an Active Shooter exercise this month and teaming up with Oxford PD and the Coast Guard. Willing to integrate DES personnel into this exercise in the future. Interested in observing Active Shooter drills in the future to better understand the DES/TCSO response process.

Mountaire Farms: No updates.