

Talbot County

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Minutes

October 23, 2025, 10 AM, Talbot Operations Center

Attendees: Geneva Schaffle (DES), Madison Loker (DES), Katie Stafford (DES), Sam Harrison (Talbot UMD-Ag.), Mike Owens (TCPS), Ben Pittsley (Social Services), Raymond Bonner (CERT), Nick Greenhawk (Easton Utilities), Mich Risher (Easton Airport), Holly Wahl (Town of Oxford), Sarah Kilmon (County Managers Office), Dave Stepp (County Council), Harrison Brown (MDEM), Dana Meintzer, Tina Kintop (DES), Joe Gamble (TCSO), Erin Lewis (Chesapeake Center), Geoff Searle (Red Cross), Bob Luff (RACES), Brian LeCates (DES)

Welcome and Introductions:

Schaffle introduces the beginning of LEPC and its importance. She will present on DES's most recent MCI full-scale exercise and noted the outstanding community partner collaboration that occurred to pull the exercise off.

Presentation: Talbot County Full-Scale MCI Exercise:

DES used grant funds to hire a third-party vendor, Ascentra, to assist with creating, evaluating, and organizing this exercise. The exercise was a one-day full-scale exercise responding to an active assailant incident that resulted in a mass casualty incident. There was also an EOC/Public Information component that was exercised. This exercise include state partners, fire, EMS, law enforcement, volunteers, emergency management, public information officers, and others to help simulate a real-life incident and response.

Emergency Services Report Out:

911: Brian LeCates, DES Director, announces that the new EMS North Station groundbreaking has occurred and that construction is happening rapidly to have the exterior of the building finished before the looming harsher weather. The 911 generator will be delivered in November, and 911 will hopefully be in the new building by January/February. DES is implementing a new CAD system and is currently building out the new system/training. The new system will hopefully go live in March

EMS: Talbot EMS has 5 employees who will be completing Paramedic school in the coming months, which is a great show of retention and continuing education for our medical

providers. Talbot will be using new cardiac monitors in the field starting January 1st and will begin receiving training on new life-saving narcotics. Following the exercise, they will begin training in collaboration with law enforcement on response techniques for active shooters and similar scenarios. The new Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program is thriving and performing very well, with data indicating that it is helping to reduce the number of 911 calls from frequent users.

EM: Emergency Management's focus for the past few months has been on the MCI Exercise, which went smoothly and provided a large amount of feedback from participating agencies. There have been no notable effects from the Hurricane Season in Talbot County. EM division is continuing to collect flooding data to better our response and knowledge of how weather systems affect Talbot County areas and residents

GIS: Deployed the drone (10/22/25) for the response to the Trappe incident and worked seamlessly in collaboration with the Sheriff's department and other responding agencies.

Round Table

Dept of Social Services: Pittsley noted that their role in the recent MCI exercise provided his department with action items to work on, specifically: reunification centers and procedures, and faster response from their shelter teams in case of a rapid response situation

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Gamble announced that the department is looking to hire an SRO and one more Deputy to be fully staffed. He also filled the LEPC group in on the Trappe incident that occurred the day prior, where a male bailed out of his car as the Drug Task Force was following him. The man was found, and everyone was safe, and noted the great collaboration with DES and their drone program/pilots

American Red Cross: The American Red Cross will be hosting a Sound the Alarm Event in collaboration with DES, where they will be coming to Talbot on November 22nd and installing smoke alarms in citizens' homes who need this free resource.

County Council: Council member David Stepp mentions that flooding has been minimized on roadways where county roads have had projects to raise the area. He also commends DES for its continuing efforts to serve the community better and more effectively.

Department of Agriculture: Wanted to echo their support in assisting during an emergency, and especially with this upcoming winter. The group noted how imperative and helpful the local agriculture group was last winter.

Talbot County Public School: Mike Owens, School Safety Officer, noticed that TCPS had a bus returning from a field trip that was trying to return to the school during the incident in

Trappe the previous day. Acknowledged the students who would be returning home around that time, too, and there was a wonderful collaboration between all agencies to ensure the students were safe returning and leaving from school.

Easton Airport: Utilized their fueling stations during the Trappe incident to continue helicopter operations. The Easton Airport has also added new emergency access points within their new footprint to improve emergency response, as well as two new fire hydrants on its property for emergency response purposes.

Town of Oxford: Their local community is struggling to find manpower for their volunteer fire department, and it is becoming a large issue for their community. They are actively looking into solutions to this problem and may incentivize their public works employees to join.

MDEM: Introduction of Harrison Brown, new MDEM liaison for Talbot County, and filling in the role of Bill Hildebrand.

Office of Communications: Sarah Kilmon, Communications Officer, noted the improvement of TC Government social media and collaboration between county-wide PIOs to better flow of information to our community members. County-wide PIOs meet monthly to build relations and know who to contact during an emergency. Kilmon also noted the other PIOs that attending the MCI training and how instrumental it is for everyone to collaborate during an incident.

Adjourn

Schaffle will email everyone the 2026 dates along with calendar invites. Meeting minutes, agendas, and dates are also provided on www.talbotdes.org/lepc. Schaffle adjourns the meeting at 10:58 AM.