

# Talbot County

## Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Minutes

April 23, 2026, 10 AM, Talbot County Public Safety Complex

---

**Attendees:** Geneva Schaffle (DES), Don Richardson (St. Michaels), Katie Luhrman (Benedictine), John Hines (Easton Utilities), Holley Guschke (DES), Neil Ross (Red Cross), Colby Hall (Hospice), Dave Stepp (County Council), Micah Risher (Easton Airport), Tina Kintop (DES), Paula Miller (Health Department), Linda Webb (Social Services), Erin Lewis (Health Department), Dana Meinzter, Matt Spence (Draper Media), Sam Harrison (Ag), Raymond Bonner (CERT), Dave Johnson (Bayleigh Chase), Sheriff Gamble, Brian LeCates (DES), Harrison Brown (MDEM), Dr. Fahmi Fahmi (Health Department), Sarah Kilmon (PIO)

### 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 explains the relevance of today's topic of agriculture emergency response and preparedness, and how it relates to the purpose of the LEPC and potential hazardous materials incidents.

### University of Maryland Extension Office - Agriculture Emergency Response and Preparedness

Sam Harrison, University of Maryland Extension Office, presented to the group about what the University of Maryland Extension Office does, how they prepare for emergencies, and how they support their communities in preparedness and emergency response. There were a few questions and comments regarding pesticides, impacts of changing weather conditions to crops, drought impacts, hazardous materials on farms, and snow response.

### Emergency Services Report Out

#### Emergency Management

Emergency Management supported a busy winter season. We are starting our Hazard Mitigation and Community Resilience Plan 5-year Update. EM has a few exercises coming up – chemical incidents with the HD, hurricane evacuation with MDEM, tropical storm tabletop with the HD, and more. Madison Loker is conducting multiple CERT courses with after-school students and county partners this spring. We are hosting a CERT class currently. Contact Madison Loker to sign up for our fall course. [mloker@talbotcountymd.gov](mailto:mloker@talbotcountymd.gov).

#### 911

Our 911 Division is working on a few major projects, one including a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Dispatch is anticipated to move to Marys Ct later this year as their primary PSAP center, while the Port Street dispatch center will remain a live back up center.

#### EMS

The North EMS Station in Cordova is nearing completion. Ribbon Cutting date coming soon.

### Roundtable

We conducted a roundtable asking partners to share any information from their agency as it relates to emergency preparedness, response, and/or recovery

Health Department: A lot of trainings coming up including defense tactics for healthcare partners, active shooter, CERT, chemical incidents, medical surge, and tropical storms.

Department of Social Services: Emergency shelter training/walk thru will be coming up in June for all DSS staff and sheltering partners.

St. Michaels: Working through grants on major road elevation projects – all to be completed in August. Pending application for BRIC. Working with FAA and Coast Guard regarding low flying planes private sea charters that will be operating near the town.

County Council, Dave Stepp: In the midst of budget season. Working to support public safety and schools.

Easton Airport: Planning a new helipad and emergency staging area near the old Black and Decker site.

Meinzter: Confirms that facilities are still submitting Tier II reports to DES and MDE.

Talbot County Sheriff's Office: Supporting many of events coming up. Doing joint training with EMS later this summer.

Bayleigh Chase: New Administrator, Kelly Johnson. May 19<sup>th</sup> – Evacuation Drill, EMS and Fire Department invited.

Maryland Department of Emergency Management: Office of Resilience Strategy Plan released. Whole Community Integration Disaster Forum June 2. Reevaluating how information is gathered and then disseminated to locals during storm operations.

Red Cross: Successful Sound the Alarm Events in both Easton and St. Michaels.

Hospice: Facility Manager is having planned outages tomorrow due to generator work.