

LEPC MEETING

NASH COUNTY ALL HAZARDS LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

03/11/2022

Meeting called to order by Brent Fisher.

Welcome – Brent Fisher

Introductions

Minutes from last meeting accepted. Minutes accepted as presented.

Presentation - Chief Jamie Cooke and Chief Trip Bunn with Rocky Mount Fire Department gave an informative presentation on the QVC fire response that occurred on 12/18/21. The facility had a footprint of 1.5 million square foot building on 300 acres with 2,000 employees. OVC opened in 2001. QVC is a 24 hour operation center providing 30% of global operations. Approximately 101 agencies, 75 fire departments from across the state, 3EMS agencies, ATF, NCSBI, NC Forestry Service, NC Emergency Management, NC Office of State Fire Marshal, and many others aided in the response to the state's largest structure fire. The facility was 75% involved when units arrived. Approximately 5 million gallons of water was used in the first 24 hours.

The operations went into 12 hour periods. Resources gathered from central and eastern branches. Used helicopters for water drops - "Water birds". The fire stopped at the designed firewalls. The fire operations saved 75,000-80,000 of product.

Facts about the fire - Smoke and heat showed on Doppler radar. Fire created its own weather. Debris and ash were found in Hobgood. Some 60 fire trucks shuttling water from 6 miles away. For 15 hours...no vehicle accidents and no injuries. Embers started a fire that burned 3 acres. It was a tremendous job with staying safe. A major contributing factor for the overall safety was the training these departments have gone through and the auto aid and mutual aid training most departments have taken and demonstrated as part of the NC Rating and Response Survey.

The investigation consisted of local fire marshal and local Sheriff's Office, along with NC OSFM, and NCSBI. A call was made to ATF to call National response team. National response team of 30-50 people came from all over the country. One from Puerto Rico to assist with the fire investigation.

Some 300 people interviewed in 3-4 days at the Rocky Mount Event Center. Still conducting interviews. Fire is still listed as undetermined. Estimates of a 555 million dollar loss. 2,000 jobs lost.

March Schell – NCEM Area Coordinator stated largest fire by far in NC and was thoroughly impressed with activities.

Brent Fisher commented – great relationships showed what could be done with a fire this large. Partnerships with communication with Domestic Preparedness Regions with the different resources getting used. The operation continues to show the importance of ICS training.

Administration Announcements

Brent Fisher: 2022 meeting dates
August 26, 2022; November 18, 2022
Will advise locations and times.

From Emergency Management: Tier II reports received in E-Plan. Federal requirements from businesses in our communities that meet certain thresholds.
Most recently - 92 facilities. Last year 99 facilities reported.
Working on Hazard Chemical Profile on these facilities.

TIER II – non competitive grant funds. Previously been used for brochures. Thinking of developing a brochure on Tier II information to send out to businesses to make sure those that are required to submit, do submit. Must spend funds by end of December. A motion was made to spend the grant funds to develop the brochure to be shared with industry.

Josh Langdon, NC Emergency Management, reported no huge changes. State new record 10,014 facilities have reported from last year. Up about 5%. Will be approving LEPC – April 8, 2022 if SERT not able to meet, will request special session.

Fisher commented on Hurricane season beginning June 1st with the need to discuss emergency planning with families and facilities.

DPR4 – Grant updates. Working Domestic Preparedness Region. Working on 2021 mobile response trailer. Working on THIRA (5/13/22). Funding from DPR being tied to THIRA. Getting feedback. Capturing what the needs and gaps are.

Nash Co. Public Health

COVID numbers have drastically slowed down. Still partnership with Radeas Labs for Rapid PCR test. Offering rapid antigen test at health department. Make appointment. Results in few minutes. Vaccines, make appointment. Children vaccines also. Testing and vaccines no charge.

Mark Schell, NCEM – Getting back to in person training. An ICS 300 or 400 course is going to be online in August and September. See Brent.

The 2nd – resiliency – State office of recovery split out. NCORR – lot of work going on in background. Focusing on community development to strengthen communities before disaster happens. Lot of meetings and surveys. RISE is an effort. US Army Corps of Engineers doing a lot of outreach.

The Central Branch Office has relocated to the Civil Air Patrol facility in Burlington, until a permanent facility can be found.

Agency Reports

Civil Air Patrol - Ramping up SAR training – protocols relaxing – more in person.

Nash Community College – all 1st responder programs been in person. On 4/7/22 Career Fair – Con Ed building 5:00-7:00pm.

Larry Carpenter – Continuing to recruit. Need to look at how low we are in the state.

Public Health – Accreditation Preparedness Coordinator is opening for applications.

Angie Baker - Thanks for helping with supplies. Appreciate helping out of patients and staff.

Rocky Mount FD – RMFD is hiring. Will be doing job career fair. Looking good diversity. Hired 53 new people in last 2-3 years.

Brent Fisher - Reminder – sever weather Saturday – Thursday. ...

Floor open for virtual:

Sarah Hartz – Trillium. Mental health screening available - focus on rural areas. Question asked; are mental health/first aid training available? Google Trillium for that. Training for law enforcement. CIT training email coming to Brent Fisher.

Here is the link to the CIT training: <https://www.trilliumhealthresources.org/regional-operations/crisis-intervention-team-cit>

The email is: CIT@TrilliumNC.org

Here is information about MHFA: <https://www.trilliumhealthresources.org/regional-operations/mental-health-first-aid>

Chief Batts – N/A

Chief Peaks – RRT 1 – echoed room – chiefs, great job from RMT. Tier II – thank you for making that happen. Stand ready – call if need anything.

Mark Reavis – N/A

Peter Gilliland – Red Cross - here if need anything. 252-813-7964. Personal cell phone.

Randy Lansing – working with NCEM application for fund buyout in Indian Trail subdivision.

Will send out the next agenda and next meeting minutes. Next meeting May 13, 2022.
Location to be determined.

Meeting concluded.