

**Cumberland County
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Meeting Minutes October 29, 2020**

The Cumberland County Local Emergency Planning Committee attended a virtual meeting on October 29, 2020.

Members in Attendance:

Calvin Bishop, At-Large
Dean Demark, Ft. Bragg
Gene Booth, Cumberland County Emergency Services
Hendrix Valenzuela, Cumberland County Emergency Services
Brett Chandler, Fayetteville Police Department
Mark Ingram, Chemours
Renee Larson, Parker Gas
Robert Brinson, Fayetteville Fire Department
Henry Eisenburg, At-Large
Stephen Hodges, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
Celestine Raineri-Smith, Cumberland County Public Health Department

Others in Attendance:

Freddy Johnson, Cumberland County Fire Chief Association
Robert Godwin, Cape Fear Valley Health System
Terry Crawford, Cargill
Garry Crumpler, Cumberland County Emergency Services
Marc Baker, Cumberland County Emergency Services
Kevin Lowther, Cumberland County Emergency Services
Christina King, Cumberland County Emergency Services

Introductions:

Welcomes and introductions were made at the opening of the meeting. The preceding meeting minutes were accepted and approved by committee members.

Membership Update:

- Hendrix informed the group that we currently have two vacant positions available. The committee is looking for a PIO representative and a local and environmental representative.
- Hendrix also shared with the group that we have three positions that are ineligible for reappointment. Freddy Johnson Jr. with highway patrol, Mark Ingram with Chemours, and Ronnie Willet with Fayetteville Fire Department have all fulfilled their terms on the committee. We are looking to find a replacement for these three positions.

Membership Recommendations:

- Calvin asked Mark if he could try to find someone at Chemours to serve on the committee as interim until we find a replacement for his position.
- Calvin stated that he will ask Chief Brinson about finding someone at Fayetteville Fire Department to serve on the committee to replace Ronnie Willet's position.
- Chief Johnson informed the group that he had someone with highway patrol that wants to serve on the committee. However, he is not a resident of Cumberland County. According to our by-laws, a person has to be a Cumberland County resident to serve as a member on the LEPC.
- It was suggested in the meeting if we could get a six-month extension to give us some time to fill these vacant positions.
- Calvin asked Gene if he would see if the board would be willing to grant us the extension.
- Gene stated that this type of request has never been done before but will pass it up through management to the board.

HMEP October 24th Exercise update and closing briefing:

- Dean informed the group about the exercise drill at Cape Fear Valley Hospital. He stated that they found a few communication issues during the exercise but overall, the exercise turned out very well and they learned a lot from it.
- Dean also informed everyone that he will share the after-action report with the group once he receives it from EnviroSAFE.

Tier II Grants:

- Chief Brinson shared with the group that they are looking to purchase a new decon system for HazMat. They have one on hand but will need a second one because they work in teams. He stated that the new system will help get the teams to their responded calls faster.
- Dean informed the group that he is looking at some quotes for the equipment. He stated that he will send the quotes to Hendrix and once we decide on which one works best, then we will move forward in purchasing the equipment.
- Calvin entertained a motion of agreement to move forward in purchasing the decon equipment. Dean originated the motion and Chief Johnson second it.
- Hendrix informed the group that we have until February 26, 2021 to use the funds.

General Election:

- Dean informed the group that no threats has been made towards anyone in Cumberland County about the upcoming election. However, he wants everyone to stay vigilant. Dean stated that it is best to be prepared in case something does transpire but hopes that nothing happens.
- He also shared with the group that some governors will have their national guard teams activated the day before the election until further notice. He is not certain if our state will activate our teams as well.

Open Discussion:

- Calvin asked when the next HMEP grant period will be?
- Hendrix stated that we have submitted the combined application to the state and will not hear anything back from them until the beginning of the year.
- Hendrix informed the group that he will notify Calvin as soon as we get awarded from the state so that we can start the planning process for the next exercise.

The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (Virtual Meeting).