



**Local Emergency Planning Committee
El Paso County, Colorado
3755 Mark Dabling Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80920**

MEETING MINUTES

The LEPC Second Quarter meeting was held on May 14, 2025, from 0900 – 10:30 at 3755 Mark Dabling Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80907. The meeting was held with 16 in attendance and 8 attending online.

PURPOSE OF THE LEPC

To administer the federal program for development and review of chemical emergency response plans and providing advocacy and support for storage facilities, transportation routes, and intentional incidents to promote protection and response of the local community, emergency responders, industry professionals within the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Title III.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS

The meeting was facilitated by the County Designated Emergency Response Authority Jim Rebitski with County Co-Chair John Cole, who opened the floor for any public comments not on the agenda. District 3 County Commissioner Bill Wysong was present along with Meredith Nichols, PPROEM Deputy Director. The committee approved the 1st Quarter LEPC Meeting Minutes and those will be posted on the LEPC website.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES)

County HazMat Coordinator Jim Rebitski updated on status of Tier II reports, Secure the City Initiative, and Shelter-In-Place outreach and emergency messaging.

- **Tier II Reports.** There were 238 Tier II reports submitted this year (down from 278 submitted in 2023) and distributed to their respective fire districts. State of Colorado are sending in a few late reports and our office continues to forward these to their respective districts. One Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) facility Sinton Dairy closed and removed the Anhydrous Ammonia reporting for 2024. The next step is to conduct annual site preplanning and maintain the data in our digital recording platform aiding response to facilities.
- **Securing the Cities (STC) Initiative.** STC is a program that focuses on personal radiological monitoring for El Paso County Sheriff's Office and Colorado Springs

Police Department. Additional equipment such as detection backpack units for Hazardous Materials teams for use in large event scanning will also be equipped. An update two weeks ago by Denver OEM noted the funds are still put on hold, looking towards late 2025 or early 2026 to start the process of receiving the training and equipment.

- **Shelter-In-Place (S-I-P) Messaging and Outreach Initiative.** Shelter-In-Place has become associated overtime with active shooter and law enforcement events , however messaging is not specific to the actions to S-I-P for a hazardous materials release, and other natural or man-made hazards or disasters, which it was originally intended to protect from. S-I-P is useful if implemented correctly to minimize hazardous materials exposures. One example was the 2011 Rail Chlorine Leak in Monument, prompting the evacuation of South Monument. The call put evacuees at exposure risk. By specifying hazard/threat followed by actions to follow, this will support Incident Command efforts to protect people in the polygon to implement S-I-P for a specific reason with action. PPROEM is working with Ben Bills from the El Paso-Teller County 911 Authority to clarify this messaging and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) support of Public Outreach messaging both for the LEPC and S-I-P will enhance knowledge of the enhanced warning message and expected actions to take for the type of S-I-P.
- The discussion on S-I-P messaging brought up some concerns on mixed messaging amongst military installations, universities, and healthcare facilities. This discussion focused on identifying that concern and coordinating this endeavor with our Emergency Management constituents. Cory Matthew (Cheyenne Mountain Space Station) pointed out that Emergency Managers were not included in the discussion or criteria. Sara Baird (Common Spirit) contributed from her experience as a dispatcher. Sara commented that there is coordination with all Public Safety Answering Points including military installation emergency communication centers. Meredith Nichols proposed a separate meeting regarding this discussion (i.e., next MACG meeting) with the 9-1-1 Authority, PSAPs, and respective EM partners.
- Once the S-I-P message is developed and in-place, public outreach through the CERT in public safety and outreach events will help convey this to our populace. This will be the preparedness piece to promote awareness based on the approved and community wide messaging.

NEW BUSINESS (INITIATIVES)

2025 State LEPC Conference

This year's Colorado Emergency Preparedness Conference will be in Glennwood Springs, August 27-30. Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management sponsors two delegates per region to attend. The conference covers the Local Emergency

Preparedness Committee basics (LEPC 101) and advanced program initiatives (LEPC 201). There are many organizations and agencies addressing legislation, environmental impacts and response, and best practices from around the State, region, and LEPCs. Registration is open this month and our objective is to select LEPC Board and Committee members to attend benefiting our LEPC program. If you are interested, please talk it over with your leadership and let us know if you would like to attend. For more information, go to <https://dhsem.colorado.gov/dhsem/LEPCconference>

LEPC Board Member Elections

Following the 2016 LEPC Bylaws, all our elected board positions are up for election. Think about whether you would like to be involved as Chair, Co-Chair, and Recorder for nomination in the August 3rd Quarter LEPC where we will vote. In the meantime, we will provide a position description and what duties each position entails. This is a two-year commitment per the current Bylaws. After the third quarter election, then we will have time in the 4th Quarter to prepare and ready the Board Member to take the position starting in January. The Board positions have the support of the DERA, HazMat Coordinators, and assigned PPROEM Staff as we are building out our Standard Operating Procedures to make sure these meetings are well-organized, represented, and poised to address and solve planning issues in our community.

John Cole, Co-Chair, expressed kudos to Jim Rebitski and Dave Gallagher to fill in and keep our LEPC moving forward and efficient to meet our requirements.

LEPC Bylaws Update

Our Bylaws have not been reviewed or updated since 2016. We are opening our Bylaws for review in the 3rd Quarter. You will receive a compiled document for review over the summer, and we will have discussions about those standards that direct our LEPC. The objective is to have our Bylaws updated this year in November. Some of the discussions led to identifying the voting membership, combining the City and County LEPCs, and the parliamentary procedures at a very top-level point of view. We are recommending keeping the jurisdiction LEPCs separate in requirements and standards while keeping a combined quarterly meeting. Each municipality could have their own LEPC, however the El Paso County LEPC objective is to be the forum for the entire region.

Current Bylaw voting members are 19 distinct agencies, however we are looking to identify these into groups, much like the Fire Chief's Group with a spokesperson to communicate and have a solid vote. Some additional groups might include a Law Enforcement Group, Public Works, Healthcare, Public Health, Medical Transport, Schools and Universities, Communications, Industry, DoD Installations, Critical Infrastructure, and a Citizen's Group. We are looking to identify a spokesperson and voting group member to vote in policy and planning standards.

We also discussed other voting methods, such as voting by email or text. We will investigate the Bylaws to identify voting options.

A question came up about organizing the Bylaws for the combined County-City LEPC and if there is a funding benefit for combining. There is no direct funding for the LEPC, rather it is an additional duty as required thing. Meredith Nichols alluded that this could be something in a 3–5-year strategic plan given the complexity of the discussion. PPROEM under the Board of County Commissioners delegated this responsibility to the DERA to facilitate planning and organization, so this will continue to be a part of the duties with elected Board Members.

In summary, we will be sending out the current Bylaws for the 2026 revision and frame those discussions towards the much-needed updates.

UPDATES / ANNOUNCEMENTS (AROUND THE ROOM)

County HazMat Program Update

Distributing late Tier II reports to the jurisdictions and municipalities.

Working on the Extremely Hazardous Substance facility templates in both GIS data and 11"x17" copies for distribution. Once completed, these response sheets will also be helpful in conducting table-top exercises.

August HazMat Technician Course. Offering a 30-person HazMat Technician hybrid course in a hybrid fashion with weekly classroom and every other week a practical. The thirty slots have already been filled, and we are looking for an additional April class next year. This will be a State Pro-Board-Certified course. The funding is between El Paso County, South Central Region, and Teller County has interest in contributing.

El Paso County HazMat has been engaging in municipal Fire Departments and conducting HazMat Air Monitoring training and any knowledge or skills training needed. We roll a trailer to the station with all our training devices and props. This will continue as we promote and advocate HazMat preparedness throughout our region.

City Hazmat Program Update. Representatives were available to provide.

Partner Updates.

Charles Hiller, Colorado State Patrol is assisting in the HazMat Technician course.

Mark Stanwood, CSFD Division of the Fire Marshall, is working on the HAMMERS system replacement to manage access to Tier 2 data.

Bill Wysong, County Commissioner gave a brief on the news conference on evacuation planning utilizing LADRS (software) to model evacuations of neighborhoods in our community. This is a great modeling program involving multiple response partners to input and better understand sheltering, safe refuge, and traffic management options to get people to safety.

Erika Smith, BELFOR Corporation, is conducting environmental training on systems to get more team involvement to support incidents.

James Baumgartner, El Paso County Public Health spoke about the South-Central Healthcare Coalition summit next week, on May 21st. Provides hospital preparedness and capability solutions. Additionally, community measles outbreaks in Canada and Mexico are ramped and they are limiting large public gathering to control the spread.

Richard Sebastian-Coleman, Colorado Springs Utilities is updating their Facility Response Plan for the Birdsall Power Plant. They are also planning a coordinated exercise involving a large quantity diesel fuel release in the nearby Creek in the late Summer early Fall. This will involve the utility HazMat teams, yet all regional partners will be invited to participate.

Benjamin Till, U.S. Air Force Academy Emergency Management. The Academy will facilitate the Cadet Graduation in two weeks with the Secretary of the Air Force presiding. Expecting a large influx of people and coordinating

Terri Adams, U.S. Air Force Academy Emergency Management. KIRA Training Services are looking to hire three HazMat Technicians. We will be participating in the annual Technician Refresher Course offered on May 15th with our fellow Air Force EM partners.

Cory Matthews, Peterson Space Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain, our folks will be participating in the May 16 annual Technician refresher as well.

Darren Pemberton, Schriever Space Force Base update. Mr. James Gray, Inspector General in charge of the Exercise Evaluation Team, is planning for a three-installation exercise between Cheyenne Mountain, Peterson, and Schriever in late July. This is in the early planning stages and Mr. Gray is interested in working with local agencies willing to participate with us. Jeffrey Wright is working with Fire Chief Malley on new SCBA equipment.

Sara Baird, Common Spirit, has completed two full-scale exercises. Woodman Hospital completed a Code Black bomb threat and explosion exercise with AMR transporting 11 patients total and involved radiological secondary devices. This involved the Operating Room and Intensive Care Unit as well as Hospital Security. We have partnered with Cindy Corsaro to plan a local hospital-wide exercise with the FBI to look at the problems presented in the Las Vegas Shooting response where Fire Department crews were dispatched to assist the triage and evacuation process. Planning for this exercise will be for later this year.

Gerry Gromko, Schriever Space Force Base Missile Defense Agency. As an agency, we are pushing out additional hazard campaigns beyond Wildfire such as Hurricane as our unit deploys to Hurricane prone areas. Working with Fire Chief O'Malley, we are looking at hazardous materials with batteries from uninterrupted power supplies being a huge concern.

John Cole, El Paso County Environmental. Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control is sponsoring a 2-day Air Monitoring Class this weekend, May 17-18 and at Northeast Teller County Fire NETCO. Second offering will be held here at PPROEM June 9-10. HazMat Safety Officer course on July 13-14 in Pueblo. Colorado State Patrol has a Specialist class in Golden August 4-6 for Highway Response Specialist. These are grant funded and free for

local responders. <https://dfpc.colorado.gov/firetraining> for registration and further information.

Breann Bockstahler – EPA is revising ‘Waters of the United States’ definition. This is defining what constitutes a waterway. We are still operating on the Risk Management Plan (RMP) 2019 standard reconsideration rule with 6 facilities in El Paso County that qualify.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 13th, 9:00 am – 10:30 am. We will send the Bylaws out for review due by the end of June. Please direct any questions about any changes or inputs to the meeting minutes to lepc@elpasoco.com.

Please see the Agenda in Attachment 1 and Attendance in Attachment 2.

David Gallagher
LEPC Recorder, Emergency Management
Specialist
Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency
Management

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Attendance



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LEPC AGENDA

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 9:00am – 10:30am

In-Person at 3755 Mark Dabling Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO. 80907 or [MS Teams](#)

Item	Topic/Discussion	Presenter
1.	Introductions 1a. Roll Call – around the room and online 1b. Administrative Remarks 1c. Public Comments not in Agenda 1d. Review/Approve 1st Quarter LEPC Meeting Minutes (February. 19, 2024)	Recorder LEPC Chairs
2.	Old Business - Updates and Initiatives 2a. Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tier II Reports• Secure the City Initiative• Shelter-In-Place Procedures	Jim Rebitski
3.	New Business - Primary Discussion(s): 3a. State LEPC Conference – August 26-29 (Registration in May) 3b. Opening Nominations for LEPC Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair, Co-Chair, DERA, and Recorder 3c. LEPC Bylaw Update	LEPC Chairs
4.	Announcements 4a. County HazMat Program Update 4b. City HazMat Program Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exercises (Local Exercises: Schriever and Microchip) 4c. Partner Updates (Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training and Exercises)	LEPC Chairs County DERA City DERA Around the Room
5.	Next Meeting: August 13, 2025, 9:00 am – 10:30 am 5a. Planned initiatives and Guest Speakers	LEPC Chairs
6.	Adjournment (approximately 10:30 am)	Recorder

Attachment 2: Attendance

Present In-Person:

- Benjamin Till, U.S. Air Force Academy OEM
- Anthony Flowers, Schriever Fire Department
- Bill Wysong, El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, District 3
- Brad Dorris, Manitou Springs Fire Department
- Brandon McAnally, Microchip Corporation
- Brian Siravo, U.S. Air Force Academy Program Manager
- Breann Bockstahler, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
- Chad Renslow, Sunoco Liquid Petroleum
- Charles Hiller, Colorado State Patrol
- Cynthia Norton, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs EHS Manager
- Cory Matthew, Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station Emergency Management
- Darren Pemberton, Schriever Space Force Base Emergency Management
- David Gallagher, PPROEM
- Doug Meikle, Community Emergency Response Team member and volunteer
- Erika Smith, Belfor Corporation
- Gerald Gromko, Schriever Space Force Base, Missile Defense Agency
- James Baumgartner, El Paso County Public Health
- Jeffrey Wright, Schriever Space Force Base
- Jim Rebitski, PPROEM HazMat Coordinator
- John Cole, El Paso County Environmental (LEPC Co-Chair)
- Kristian Atkinson, Peterson Space Force Base Bio-environmental
- Kyle Pierce, PPROEM HazMat Coordinator
- Mark Stanwood, Colorado Springs Fire Department, Fire Inspectors Office
- Meredith Nichols, PPROEM Deputy Director
- Scott Rand, Medical Reserve Corps
- Sara Baird, Common Spirit Healthcare
- Terri Adams, U.S. Air Force Academy OEM
- Thomas Braswell, Universal Health Services, Inc.