



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

# MEETING MINUTES

The LEPC Fourth Quarter meeting was held on February 19, 2025, from 0900 – 10:30 at 3755 Mark Dabling Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80907. The meeting was held with 36 members in attendance.

## PURPOSE OF THE LEPC

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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

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The meeting was facilitated by HazMat Coordinator Jim Rebitski with the County Co-Chair John Cole virtually present. District 3 County Commissioner Bill Wysong was present. The 4th Quarter LEPC Meeting Minutes were tabled for now and pending approval. The LEPC By-Laws approved in 2016 are being reviewed and will be updated by the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. Next quarter (May 14<sup>th</sup>), we will discuss Chair and committee member elections.

## NEW BUSINESS (INITIATIVES)

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County HazMat Coordinator Jim Rebitski explained the 2025 LEPC initiatives to include the Tier II reporting requirements due March 1st to the State, the State's administering of "Securing the City" Initiative, and Shelter-In-Place messaging and outreach.

- **Tier II Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reporting.** Per EPCRA Sections 311/312 require submitting a report for the storage of hazardous chemicals that exceed federal threshold planning quantities. These thresholds are referenced in the U.S. Environmental Protection Act's "Consolidated Lists of Lists" which include determining what "Extremely Hazardous Substances" must be reported. The following are tips to consider when submitting your Tier II report submission.
  - Go through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's website: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dehs/sustainability/sara-title-iii/tier-ii>

and use the Tier 2Submit software. This reports directly through the State of Colorado and is available to your jurisdiction.

- The Tier II report data is analyzed and used to conduct operational and tactical planning. The County HazMat program is developing tactical response worksheets that will depict locations, release notes, and local infrastructure and facilities in the impact area. This will be noted in a 1-mile radius around Extremely Hazardous Substance facilities divided into 8 cross sections highlighting facilities such as hospitals, assisted living, high-capacity structures, and daycares to aid responders in determining protective actions such as Shelter-In-Place or evacuation.
- Ensure you select the right jurisdiction for the report. Often times, people select the wrong Fire Protection District or Fire Department. We recommend calling us if you are unsure. LEPC Contact Number: (719) 575-8410.
- Quantities are described as actual, maximum, and daily averages based on the threshold reporting quantities in the EPA's Lists of Lists.
- The City has 270+ Tier II facilities and the County has in the City and 78 Tier II facilities. Many of these are cellular towers with sealed lead acid batteries. There were 4 Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) Facilities requiring a Risk Management Plan (RMP), but with Sinton Dairy (Anhydrous Ammonia hazard) closed, there are 3 remaining facilities. An RMP ensures site hygiene, conditions for leak, spill, or release, countermeasures and protective actions to take, and a larger plan to notify authorities when conditions get out of control.
- **Securing the Cities (STC) Initiative.** Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management administration of the STC initiative was presented. The STC program began in 2018 with Denver and this year it will extend to Colorado Springs, Loveland, and Boulder Colorado. The program involves equipping and training Law Enforcement/Explosive Ordnance personnel with personal radiological devices and detection backpacks used to survey to locate, identify, and quantify radiological sources and materials in a large-scale event. The program also includes maintaining the equipment to ensure life cycle sustainment of the capability. Additional screener training will be required to conduct site survey and public screening operations. El Paso County HazMat will meet with Denver personnel in mid-April or May to conduct a program and site survey toward program implementation. The program will greatly aid detection and deterrent efforts for large-event public safety and response.
- **Shelter-In-Place (S-I-P) Messaging and Outreach Initiative.** Working with Ben Bills from the El Paso-Teller County 911 Authority, S-I-P message sent via Peak Alerts is "You've been ordered to Shelter-In-Place". In recent times, S-I-P messages have been

used to take shelter from natural disasters or in reference to an Active Shooter situation, however S-I-Ps true origin was developed to control hazard exposure for a chemical release. The County HazMat Program is addressing this by promoting buy-in from jurisdictions on standardized messaging with specific instructions to enhance the protection of the populace during a HazMat release. Once the message has been revised and approved, then the program will focus on public outreach initiatives. We are also looking to utilize the Community Emergency Response Teams and PPROEM Public Outreach efforts in large-scale community events (i.e., County Fair, Monument Fourth of July, etc.) and also through various media outlets in the future.

- In addition to this effort, PPROEM is working on their single source website to provide an information map populated via Geospatial Information Systems using evacuation, sheltering, and Shelter-In-Place information to inform the populace and to be a resource for alert, warning, and protective actions.

## **OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES)**

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**El Paso County HazMat Program.** Provided by Jim Rebitski, HazMat Coordinator.

- **Increase local HazMat response capabilities.** The County program is conducting local training and drills to enhance the capability to respond to highway or fixed facility spills or releases to include air monitoring, safety of entry teams, and simple mitigation cleanup. This involves HazMat Coordinators as trainers with the help of volunteers to administer 3 hours of training to Fire Protection Districts and Departments. The vision is for those departments to carry some basic detection and mitigation equipment to respond to 90% of calls (i.e., Semi Tractor-Trailer, and vehicle rollovers causing a spill) with local dispatch calling for additional units and support. This is already underway to bring HazMat apparatus and training equipment to various departments three days a week to cover all shifts and give an annual training and refresher to increase knowledge and skills to respond, mitigate, and report conditions of the response. The objective is to utilize mutual aid and intergovernmental agreements similarly to Weld County for a regional response effort. This will also lead to organizing the ICS structure for meeting large-scale HazMat response interoperating in a multi-jurisdictional and standardized fashion.
- El Paso County will be advertising for the vacant HazMat Coordinator position soon.

**Colorado Springs Fire Department HazMat Program.** Provided by Mark Stanwood, Fire Inspector's Office.

- Permits for storage of Hazardous Materials in the city are through the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Reporting System (HAMMERS). With over

2,000 facilities identified with storage of hazardous materials via permits identifying the maximum storage. The Fire Inspectors office recommends just including the maximum capacity to avoid having to resubmit for a permit. CSFD is looking to replace HAMMERS with a GIS mapping enabled access for responders to pull up data on facilities that are permitted or have a Tier II report attached to the building.

### **Hazardous Materials Working Group**

The HazMat Working Group was established last year to support election security. The standard operating procedures are codified to expand preparedness and response to support large-event planning to prepare for detection, staging and expanding operations, and to organize decontamination efforts. With planning efforts for the U.S. Senior Open at the Broadmoor, the working group and HazMat partnerships will be involved to determine layout and staging to support. This working group is combined with the Training Officer's Group to plan and prepare for local series exercises involving Mass Casualties, Healthcare facility patient decon, and working within five groups (East, West, North, South, and the Highway 24 corridor including Falcon, Peyton, and Calhan).

### **LEPC By-Laws**

The By-Laws approved in 2016 are out of date and we are taking the opportunity this year to revise and get those approved. The foreseen changes include: 1. Defining the Committee membership, 2. Codifying the combined LEPC (County and City) relationship, 3. Election frequency and voting criteria, and 4. Procedures for conducting business, documenting, and public interactions.

## **UPDATES / ANNOUNCEMENTS (AROUND THE ROOM)**

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Darren Pemberton, Schriever Space Force Base Emergency Manager. We are planning with El Paso County HazMat for a local decontamination exercise with the Schriever responders and community in June or July timeframe.

Kara Prisock, South Central Healthcare Coalition informed us about the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) has upcoming open-session meeting on February 20, 2025, 1:00 pm – 5:00 Eastern Time on the “Clinical follow-up and care for those impacted by the JP-5 releases at Red Hill” (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii) with speakers from the Veteran's Affairs, the Department of Defense, Hawaii Department of Health, and the University of Hawaii to describe the committee's work and an overview of the November 2021 releases of aviation fuel from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facilities response and recovery efforts. [Access the NASEM Event Here.](#)

Meredith Nichols, PPROEM Deputy Director thanked everyone for their participation in our LEPC and briefed on the on-going planning and preparedness activities opening up discussions aiding resources for community and response agencies. We are updating our regional Hazard Mitigation Plan this year and also building our Mass Violence and Recovery

Plan that will coordinate efforts to connect our community to resiliency resources. Another endeavor is working with GIS partners to increase public outreach and maps to inform prior to and through a crisis situation so the public has the latest visuals to protect themselves. We are working to increase efficiencies in our Emergency Coordination Center with development of ESF Playbooks, resource guides, and checklists to enable better continuity and procedural understanding. Let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for quest speakers and reach out to [lepc@elpasoco.com](mailto:lepc@elpasoco.com) for inputs, suggestions, or questions you have.

Ricky Kaczmarek, Children's Hospital announced they will be hosting training at four locations in Colorado Springs and preparing for a Full Scale Exercise for their hospital staff focused on mass casualty tracking and treatment based on a Tornado touching down in a large gathering spot.

Darrell Kirby, El Paso County Public Health announced they will be hosting the ChemPak Full Scale Exercise after a couple of rescheduling's due to the weather. This exercise will commence on April 23, 2025 at the Public Health Office and involve many Points of Distribution across the City of Colorado Springs.

Mark Stanwood, Colorado Springs Fire Department, Fire Inspections Division spoke on a CSFD and Microchip facility exercise planned for May or June. Planning is underway with Captain Robert Haines as the lead planner and organizer.

Chad Renslow, Sunoco Liquid Petroleum Pipeline Company announced a lunchtime meeting on Coordinated Response Exercise Pipeline Safety Program sponsored by Paradigm Alliance open to response agencies on March 18, 2025, 11:30 am at the Colorado Springs Shriners Club. Lunch will be provided. [See Paradigm Alliance meeting schedule.](#)

Sara Baird, Common Spirit Healthcare & Cindy Corsaro, UC Health Emergency Managers updated on the initiative for a Regional Hospital Decontamination Plan to enhance coordination and interoperability utilizing various community resources such as the Medical Reserve Corps and working with emergency response agencies for a mass casualty response. They are developing two Full Scale Exercises with a Bomb Scenario, and a Chemical Exposure involving 911, American Medical Response, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations coordinated mass casualty care, tracking, and supporting criminal investigations.

Hannah Rigdon, City of Colorado Springs Stormwater Management in partnership with Captain Robert Haines are updating the Hazardous Materials Elicit Discharge training program for implementation this year based on Tier II reporting quantities and standards.

Our next meetings for 2025 are scheduled for May 14th, August 13th, and November 12th. Please direct any questions about any changes or inputs to the meeting minutes to the LEPC

Recorder Dave Gallagher at [davegallagher@elpasoco.com](mailto:davegallagher@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

Attachment 1: Agenda

Item	Topic/Discussion	Presenter
1.	<b>Introductions</b> 1a. Roll Call – around the room and online 1b. Administrative Remarks 1c. Public Comments not in Agenda 1d. Review/Approve 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Minutes (Nov 12, 2024)	Recorder  LEPC Chairs
2.	<b>New Business</b> <b>Primary Discussion(s):</b> 2a. 2025 LEPC Initiatives 2b. Tier II Reporting Requirements and Resources 2c. Secure the City Initiative 2d. Shelter-In-Place Procedures	LEPC Chairs
3.	<b>Old Business</b> <b>Updates and Initiatives</b> 3a. Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- County HazMat Program</li> <li>- Colorado Springs Fire Department HazMat Program</li> <li>- HazMat Working Group</li> </ul> 3b. Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LEPC By-Laws</li> </ul>	Jim Rebitski Kris Cooper Jim Rebitski
4.	<b>Announcements</b> 4a. Planning 4b. Organization 4c. Equipment 4d. Training 4b. Exercise (Local Exercises: Schreiber and Microchip)	LEPC Chairs
5.	<b>Next Meeting:</b> May 14th 9:00 am – 10:30 am 5a. Agenda 5b. Discussions 5c. Guest Speakers	LEPC Chairs
6.	<b>Adjournment</b> (approximately 10:30 am)	Recorder

## Attachment 2: Attendance

### Present In-Person:

- Angelo DeThomas, U.S. Air Force Academy
- Andrea Yousef, American Medical Response
- Bill Wysong, El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, District 3
- Bryan Easley, Peterson Space Force Base Emergency Management
- Chad Renslow, Sunoco Liquid Petroleum
- Chance Brabham, Oneok Liquid Petroleum
- Charles Hiller, Colorado State Patrol
- Cori Tanner, American Red Cross
- 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
- David Grisenti, Dept of Homeland Security Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards
- Doug Meikle, Community Emergency Response Team member and volunteer
- Gerald Gromko, Schriever Space Force Base, Missile Defense Agency
- Greg BenaVides, Peterson Space Force Base Emergency Management
- Hannah Rigdon, City of Colorado Springs Stormwater Management
- Hector Rivera, Ambipar Response, LLC (Pueblo Training Site)
- James Baumgartner, El Paso County Public Health
- James McAllister, Fort Carson Fire Department
- Jeffrey Cole, American Medical Response
- Jeffrey Wright, Schriever Space Force Base
- Jeremy DeLaTorre, Belfor Environmental
- Jim Rebitski, PPROEM HazMat Coordinator
- John Cole, El Paso County Environmental (LEPC Co-Chair)
- Kara Prisock, South Central Region Healthcare Coalition
- Kyle Pierce, PPROEM HazMat Coordinator
- Lizz Floro, El Paso Sheriff's Office
- Matt Henry, Martin Marieta
- Mark Stanwood, Colorado Springs Fire Department, Fire Inspectors Office
- Meredith Nichols, PPROEM Deputy Director
- Ricky Kaczmarek, Children's Hospital
- Sandy Ingrassia, Peterson Space Force Base/Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station Environmental
- Sara Baird, Common Spirit Healthcare
- Steven Klaffky, El Paso County Attorney's Office
- Thomas Braswell, Uhsinc