

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

Meeting Notes Monday, August 26, 2019

The 277th meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, August 26, 2019 at the Republic Grill. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The June 2019 meeting notes were approved without changes.

ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
x	Ruth Boyd	x	Clean Harbors , Bruce Riffel	x	Steve Bis, Dow Chemical
	Tim Culp		Delta Companies Group , Frank Ingrassia	x	Robert Campise, Lubrizol
x	Ken Donnell	x	Dow Chemical Deer Park , Jeff Garry, rep by Brooke Hrach	x	Butch Cressman
	Bobby Garcia	x	Dow Chemical , Whitney Bolger, rep by Brooke Hrach	x	Rick Deel
	John Garrett	x	Evonik Oil Additives , Jim Bentinck-Smith, rep by Trilby Cressman	x	Betty Lemley
x	Sherry Garrison	x	GEO Specialty Chemicals , Derek Linder, rep by Mario Saenz	x	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
x	Tommy Ginn	x	Hexion , Marlene Mercado	x	Jana Pellusch
x	Stephen Harrell		Intercontinental Terminals , David Wascome	x	Christina Perez, LEPC, Speaker
x	Robert Hemminger	x	Lubrizol , Sarah Arroyo, rep by Doug Moore	x	Richard Philbrick, Shell Deer Park
x	Cara Herbeck	x	Lubrizol , Tanya Travis	x	Anna Piper, Vopak
x	Steven Horton	x	Oxy Vinyls VCM , Claudia O'Rourke	x	Keith Purvis, CIMA
x	Norma Hysler	x	Oxy Vinyls PVC/KOH , Craig Horak	x	Joe Reynolds, CIMA, Speaker
x	Bill Irwin	x	Shell Deer Park , Amanda Accardo, rep by Jessica Blackmore	x	Pat Shannon, Lubrizol
	Katherine Mitchum	x	Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site , Thor Nygaard	x	Lan Shen, Native Prairies
	Mike Mitchum	x	Texas Molecular , Frank Marine	x	Jay Stokes, City of Deer Park
	James Ragaisis	x	Valvoline , Robert Shelton, rep by Dulce Becerra	x	Mark Turvey, Lubrizol, Speaker
	Ariel Pena	x	Vopak Terminal Deer Park , David Carter, rep by Clifton Ferrell	x	Donna Wade
x	Vickey Roberts			x	Wallace Ward
	Robert Segelquist				
x	Andy Smith		Support Staff		
	Charles Thomas	x	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator		
x	David Wade	x	Anja Borski		
x	Ernest Weedon				

Emergency Response, Emergency Communications, and Sheltering In Place

Presentation slides from David Wade and Christina Perez: <https://deerparkcac.org/topics-and-meetings/>

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) learned about local emergency response protocols from a panel of experts that included Robert Hemminger, City of Deer Park Emergency Management

Coordinator; David Wade, Harris County Industrial Liaison; Joe Reynolds, Chair of Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA); Mark Turvey, Facility Fire Chief at Lubrizol; and Christina Perez, Chair of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Community Awareness Subcommittee. Facilitator Diane Sheridan directed the panel discussion by posing questions formulated by CAC members during program planning in June.

Turvey began with an overview of how a facility like Lubrizol would respond to an emergency on site. First, an internal alarm system would be activated, alerting personnel to the emergency. Trained responders are on duty 24/7, and an incident commander would assess the situation and determine what resources are needed. The plant's public address system and the all-call radio feature would be used to communicate with plant employees about how to proceed. Texts and emails would be sent internally to Lubrizol staff, an E-Notify alert would be sent if the incident warrants the community being alerted, and they can also call for assistance from their second Lubrizol site or CIMA. The local Deer Park fire and police departments can respond if needed, but typically incidents within the industrial district are handled by specially trained responders with specialized equipment.

Reynolds continued with details on how CIMA operates. CIMA has 108 industrial, agency and municipal members in the Greater Houston region. During the ITC incident, CIMA responded with 1,266 responders, 125 pieces of apparatus, and 309,000 gallons of firefighting foam over 5 days. When a stricken facility needs CIMA assistance to respond to an incident, they call CIMA dispatch. Specialists are the first responders sent to any call for assistance. Those specialists work side-by-side with the facility's incident commander (IC) and coordinate CIMA resources as directed by the IC.

Wade described the County's role in responding to industrial incidents as a partnership between private industry and local government. Wade works to help facilitate communication across jurisdictions. Their 360 degree communication model illustrates how their process provides warnings to the directly impacted areas, watches to make surrounding areas aware of the situation, and courtesy messages to inform regional constituents. Any time an emergency operations center (EOC) activates within Harris County (for example if the City of Deer Park activates their EOC), the County's EOC will also activate to provide assistance. The County utilizes multiple communication streams to get the word out, including their website and opt-in alert system, www.readyharris.org. Click SIGN UP to opt in for alerts. The ReadyHarris App is available in for Apple and Android smartphones. The county also uses social media (@readyharris), and traditional news media.

Hemminger addressed Unified Command and the city's role in industrial emergency response. Every fire and police department, industrial facility, and government is trained in the EHCMA Incident Command System (ICS). In Unified Command, every stakeholder has a say in developing one set of target goals or objectives.

Question: Who is at the top? Whoever is paying the bill for response is in charge and leads Unified Command.

Question: Do these people [for Unified Command/Incident Response] come together in a physical location? Yes. Unified command will set up a staging area. Sometimes they use a mobile command vehicle. CIMA has a command vehicle they use to coordinate their resources from.

Question: Is it important to practice activating and coordinating response through a unified command system? Hemminger said every cadet (police, fire, etc.) learns the Incident Command system, and there is some kind of training, drill, exercise or practice opportunity every month. Reynolds said CIMA is divided into four zones, and each zone will do a drill during the year, with one large drill for all four zones together every 5 years.

Question: Where is Deer Park’s EOC (Emergency Operations Center)? The Deer Park EOC is at the Police Station.

Sheridan asked Hemminger for additional details about how the city decides to issue a shelter in place order. When a facility issues a Level 2 Watch or Level 3 Warning E-Notify message, the 24/7 dispatch center receives it in addition to city leaders who receive it on their cell phones. The city will look for a recommendation from plant experts on whether or not to shelter in place. If there is any doubt, it is better to issue the shelter in place order and lift it once conditions are known to be safe. The only way to lift a shelter in place is when air quality data shows it is safe. There are designated thresholds for incident severity and chemicals involved that give dispatch the authority to issue a shelter in place order without waiting for permission from anyone. Residents will be notified in a variety of ways. Everyone should visit www.readyDP.com to sign up to receive calls, emails and texts from Code Red, which is the opt-in emergency notification system. There are also 9 outdoor sirens that will be activated to alert residents to shelter in place. Those sirens run weekly tests on Saturdays at noon, so if you hear a siren at any time other than Saturday at noon, you should shelter in place and wait for further information from the city. Messages will also be relayed on official city social media accounts. Wade added that the county can only issue a shelter in place order for unincorporated parts of the county. Residents of unincorporated areas should register their cell phones with Harris County (www.readyharris.org) to receive notifications. Land lines with listed numbers are automatically included in both city and county notifications.

Question: Do the sirens “talk”? The sirens do not use public address/voice messages anymore. If residents need to shelter in place, we do not want them going outside to try to hear/understand the public address message.

Perez shared the LEPC’s community awareness program goals to inform the community about emergency notifications and plans, measure attitudes and awareness levels, and educate adults and children on how to act in case of an emergency. Their ongoing outreach programs include the LEPC calendar, DPISD report card covers, Wally Wise Guy mascot program, www.deerparkLEPC.org website, and new resident/business “Welcome” packets. The LEPC is expanding their efforts to inform the community about what to do when a shelter in place order is issued after finding a lot of uncertainty during and after the ITC incident. They are redeveloping the new resident/business packets, designing a Code Red sign-up postcard, and partnering with Parks and Recreation department to deliver more training and registration events, especially targeting elderly populations that may be missing their school-aged program messages. Sheltering in Place is as simple as 1) Go inside; 2) Close up; 3) Stay informed. If you’re already indoors, remain calm, stay put, close doors and windows, turn off the AC/heater, and follow directions given by authorities. If you are outdoors, seek shelter in the nearest building. If you are in your vehicle, close all doors and windows, turn off your AC/heater, drive to the nearest business or building and go inside quickly.

Updates

Host Plant Introduction

TM Deer Park Services LP (TMDP) is a provider of hazardous waste management services. TMDP provides commercial wastewater services to a variety of industries including chemical manufacturing, petroleum refining, metal galvanizing, and landfills.

Question of the Month

“How do I register for Code Red” See www.deerparkcac.org for the answer and for questions from past meetings.

Written Facility Updates

From February to August 2019, Evonik Oil Additives had no reportable spills or releases and no permit exceedances. They have had no OSHA recordable illnesses or injuries since October 2014. They hosted a Safety Day in April and had an EPA inspection with no findings in March.

From February to August 2019, Valvoline had no reportable spills. They have not had any recordable injuries since November 2016. The site continues to work to improve sustainability and recycling, and is exploring options to become zero landfill. Valvoline could not enter their site for 5 weeks due to the ITC fire. Their new La Porte warehouse became operational in March 2019, and the installation of a 4th tank farm is under way with completion expected in September.

From February to July 2019, Vopak had two releases to report. On March 6th, there was a small fire at Station 9 flare. There were no off-site impacts. On April 19th, about 2000 pounds of benzene were released when a railcar was off-loaded into an internal floating roof tank. The tank was taken out of service for improvements to prevent a reoccurrence. There were no recordable injuries or process safety events. The terminal has commissioned and put into service 3 of the 10 new 80,000 bbl tanks, with the remaining 8 scheduled to be commissioned in the fourth quarter of this year.

Level 2 Watches or Level 3 Warnings

Shell Deer Park's Thor Nygaard reported two Level 3 warnings. The first, in June, involved a spill of two gallons of gasoline at one of their docks. The second, in July, was a spill of 25 gallons of oily water from a pipeline that was being cleaned.

Craig Horak from Oxy Vinyls reported two Level 2 watches. The first, on August 3rd, involved a release of about 15 pounds of vinyl chloride monomer due to steam loss. The second, on August 14th, involved a release of less than 1 pound of vinyl chloride monomer. The reportable quantity of VCM is 1 pound. There were no outside impacts.

Ozone Exceedance Days

TCEQ's Karen Lewis-Holmes reported there had been 25 8-hour 71ppb ozone exceedance days in Houston for the year, five of those in Deer Park. There had been three 1-hour 125ppb exceedance days in Houston, and one of those was in Deer Park.

Other Updates

Lan Shen with the Native Prairies Association of Texas announced the Deer Park Prairie Preserve will be celebrating Fall Wildflower Day on Saturday, September 28, 2019, a free event with wildlife observation, plant ID, seed collecting, walks and other fun activities. Registration and more information at www.HoustonPrairie.org

Sheridan reviewed the Program Plan for the rest of 2019 and beginning of 2020. The plan was accepted, and a copy is attached. (*Note: After the meeting, Sheridan contacted attendees to say she made an error in the topics for October and January.*)

The Harris County Office of Emergency Management Annual Report is available online at bit.ly/2018ReadyHarrisAnnualReport (*Note: May have forgotten to announce at the meeting.*)

Plans for Future Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held at the Republic Grill. Food service begins at 5:30 and business at 6:00. We adjourn no later than 8:30.

MONDAY, September 23 – Annual Report on Emissions

MONDAY, October 28 – Coastal Protection Update

- The US Army Corps of Engineers and Texas General Land Office will speak about the status of coastal protection projects. The Houston Community Advisory Panel will meet with us.

Dates for 2019 – all Mondays

Jan. 28

Feb. 25

Mar. 25

Apr. 30 (Tuesday for Boat Tour – Not Available Mondays)

June 3 (delayed due to Memorial Day)

No end of June meeting

No July meeting

Aug. 26

Sept. 23

Oct. 28

December 2 (delayed due to Thanksgiving Week)

Deer Park Community Advisory Council
Input on Emergency Response, Communications, Sheltering in Place
8-26-19

1. Best things you heard tonight?

- CIMA – mutual aid industrial personnel & equipment
- Harris County Liaison – industry & impacted area notified/e-Notify – 34 cities in Harris County
- Industry that is stricken is commander
- CIMA 4 Zone drill at least once a year
- ASAP or 15 mins e-Notify to municipality/community
- Outdoor siren – go inside & code red/website will tell what is happening
- Calendar LEPC – Tips in the back
- DeerParkLEPC.org
- Wally Wise Guy – Elementary, Over 55 years – training, Maxwell center, Postcard to sign up for Code Red
- All panelists gave relative information. Very good, pertinent information. Glad to know of the multitude of cooperation of multiple agencies. Lots of pieces to the puzzle.
- To know the siren is to shelter in place, except noon Saturday
- It was good to hear what the businesses are doing as well as the county and city governments.
- The interaction between industry and government agencies during an event.
- How to find reliable information
- Wally's origin story
- Depth of response
- Unified Command
- They assist one another
- Code Red
- Robert H's breakdown of how emergency response works in DP
- Concur with above, I also wanted to know how emergency is lifted and appreciated the info on that.

2. Suggestions for improvement for plants, city, county, Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA), Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)?

- Ballfield – Shelter in Place
- Teens – Need to shelter
- Regular information sharing from CIMA. How they are working together.
- Drill information
- Better call CIMA early than late
- Importance of transparency and rapid communication
- You can't overcommunicate – help communicate a plan
- More communication for the plants in the area when there is an emergency. The alarm notified the community first when they should have had more communication with the area plants.

3. Any other input?

- Food was good.
- Was not aware cell phone usage was allowed in our plants – are they?
- Good interaction