

## **REGION V LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

### **1. INTRODUCTION/CONFIRM QUORUM**

Region V LEPC was called to order on November 5th, 2024, at 1000 a.m. via TEAMS and in-person at Dignity Health – Mercy Merced Hospital Medical Pavilion. Facilitated by Chairperson Shane Gardner, and Coordinator Ryan Essepian. A quorum was confirmed with most members present (see attendance).

### **2. ATTENDANCE**

#### **• Members present:**

Shane Gardner (Chair), Ryan Essepian (Coordinator/Recorder), Aaron Dwoskin (Hospital), Marianne Shaw (Alt. Hospital), Marc Stevenson (LEMSA), Guadalupe Fernandez (Fire), Chad SanJuan (Environmental Health).

#### **• Members absent:**

Lance Fink (Tribal)

#### **• Members removed/resigned:**

Katrina Poitras (ARC/Volunteer Org), Dan Eckles (Transportation)

### **3. MINUTES APPROVAL**

- Due to technical difficulties and the inability to retrieve the May 2024 minutes, the minutes could not be reviewed and approved by the LEPC committee. It was emphasized that there were no items pending votes or input, and nothing of significant importance. The May meeting consisted of updates and presentations. A vote was made and approved by the committee to move forward without May minutes.

### **4. NOMINATIONS & VACANCIES**

#### **• New members appointed:**

David Briggs, ESC from CDSS was nominated and appointed by the LEPC committee as Ad-Hoc Mass Care and Shelter (Primary) representation on 11/5/24. Marianne Shaw made a motion and Marc Stevenson seconded. All present members voted, aye.

- Ryan Essepian talked about some of the LEPC vacancies which include, transportation, law enforcement, ambulance provider, volunteer organizations, large industry and/or utility provider, as well alternate positions to the current primary members. LEPC members are encouraged to reach out to those who might be interested in joining.

### **5. CHEMICAL SAFETY DAY PROMO**

Amy Lopes from Chemco Products Company provided a brief promo and agenda for the Central Valley Chemical Safety Day on 11/7/24. The event will be held at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in Turlock. There is a

possibility that a Chemical Safety Day may be hosted in the southern portion of Region V, possibly in Tulare County, however that is still being determined.

#### **6. REGION V HAZMAT RESOURCES PRESENTATION**

- Lupe Fernandez from Fresno Fire Department presented on Region V fire department hazmat resources, mutual-aid, and regional needs. The presentation provided information on the capabilities of Fresno, Bakersfield, Kern County, Visalia, Merced County, and Clovis Fire Departments. Lupe also provided some insight on a recent ammonia leak that occurred in Sanger (Fresno County) and how FFD was able to assist the business not only incident stabilization but developing a ventilation plan.

#### **7. CUPA UPDATE**

Chad SanJuan from Kern County Environmental Health discussed the upcoming annual CUPA Training Conference coming up in March of 2025. Some conference topics will focus on regulatory requirements and emergency response for hazardous waste emergencies. The conference is open to both public and private environmental health professionals. Registration information is pending.

#### **8. LEGISLATIVE & SERC UPDATE**

- Brian Mancebo, Cal OES Hazmat, discussed the collaboration between Cal OES Legal and EPA regarding regulation changes and adjustment to regulatory reporting.
- Additional discussion included GIR and how businesses share their hazardous material plans or inventory and who they should be sharing that information with be that first response agencies and LEPC.
- The Continuing Challenge will take place in late 2025 and LEPC will receive a link in April to gather interest within the region.

#### **9. HMEP GRANT UPDATE**

- Ibrahim Koroma encourage OAs to submit application for future HMEP grant opportunities. Out of all Region V Counties, only Mariposa County applied and was granted HMEP funding for planning and training purposes.
- CalOES Hazmat will be starting work on the next three-year grant cycle, part of this work will be conducting a planning needs assessment throughout the LEPC regions. Grant funds can also be applied toward equipment that relates to plans and training purposes.

#### **10. CSTI REPORT**

- JP Robles discussed upcoming Tech training scheduled in January. Location will be in Visalia. Spots are still available and those interested should visit the CSTI LMS to register for the training.

- Going to try and send out a training needs assessment to each region to gather interest for more tech and specialists' classes.
- Upcoming budget meeting to help determine future training needs. Some potential needs include train-the-trainer and Hazmat IC courses. CSTI will update training bulletins to reflect any course additions.

#### **11. LEPC MEMBER REPORTS**

- **Fire:** Number of calls with EOD teams locally, assisted with search warrants, providing support and product identification. There have also been a number of chemical releases in the area however impact to the community has been minimal.
- **EH:** Nothing significant to report.
- **EMS:** Chemical response trainings took place in Northern California for chemical response emergencies and similar trainings will be held in Southern California.
- **Hospital:** Marianne Shaw, EM for Dignity Health in Merced attended a Threat Liaison Officer seminar in Lake Tahoe. She encourages others, especially those in the hospital preparedness setting to connect with CCIC. Aaron Dwoskin from Community Medical Centers have been working on hospital decontamination plans and exercised decon capabilities last month.
- **Tribal:** Not present.

#### **12. CHINESE PESTICIDES PRESENTATION**

Hasti Javid, EPA, presented on the illegal importation, use, and disposal of Chinese pesticides throughout California. The presentation touched on various responses, clean-up procedures, health hazards, and other dangerous conditions that public safety and environmental health responders may encounter.

#### **13. OPEN FORUM**

No updates from the public.

#### **14. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT**

- Next scheduled meetings:
  - 2/4/25 from 10-12pm at Clovis Community Medical Center
  - 5/6/25 from 10-12pm at Visalia Fire Department Station 55
  - 8/5/24 Location TBD
  - 11/4/25 Location TBD

#### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1155am.