
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Regular Committee Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2021
via Zoom and in person at Harrigan Centennial Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Warren called to order the June 10, 2021 meeting at 12:00 pm.

B. ROLL CALL – (Quorum established by at least one member present from four different categories.)

Present:

Category 2: Fire Chief Craig Warren, LEPC Chair (SFD); Robert Baty (SPD Chief)

Category 3: Becky Meiers (LEPC PIO, KCAW)

Category 4: Mim McConnell

Category 5: Trish White, LEPC Vice-Chair (White's Pharmacy); Scott Wagner (NSRAA)

Category 6: Joel Hanson; Robert Hattle; Mary Ann Hall (Retired Medical Technologist); Dave Miller

Absent:

Category 1: Valerie Nelson, Assembly Liaison

Category 2: George Bennett Jr (SEARHC); Shannon Freitas (SEARHC); Lance Ewers, (SPD);
Geraldine Laux (TSA)

Category 3: vacancy

Category 4: Justin Mullenix; Amy Zanuzoski (Sitka Counseling)

Category 7: Jennifer Klejka, LEPC Coordinator (SFD)

C. APPROVAL of AGENDA: June 10, 2021

There were no additions, deletions or objections to the agenda.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of May 13, 2021.

MS –to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021.

Motion carried.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **SHARK/ARES Report:** SHARK member Becky Meiers provided a report.
2. **Broadcast Communications Update:** Meiers provided the report.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. HazMat Report – None.
2. LEPC Public Information Officer (PIO) – None.
3. Sitka Red Cross – None.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Coronavirus EOC updates**

Chief Warren, Incident Commander (IC) for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) noted planning is on-going for the arrival of cruise ships in mid-July. Once the cruise ship season begins, it is expected there will be two cruise ships in port on Wednesdays through the end of the season.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Tsunami Inundation and Pedestrian Evacuation Maps**

Chief Warren introduced Dave Miller, who was Fire Chief when the inundation map project began, to provide interpretation, orientation and leadership to LEPC review of the power point

Tsunami Inundation and Pedestrian Evacuation Maps developed. The maps are now ready to be reviewed for planning purposes, recommendations and community comment. Chief Warren cautioned it is not the intent to cause any difficulties to property owners and effort will be taken to avoid that unintended consequence while planning for community safety.

Dave Miller, Retired Fire Chief, provided background information on the inundation study that began in 2009 with a re-mapping of shoreline communities by USGS, University of Fairbanks and some other agencies. A supercomputer in Fairbanks was utilized and it took about 10 years to analyze 6 or 7 scenarios of areas in the Pacific Ocean (nothing involving landslide) that could create a Tsunami and the most likely inundation levels in Sitka. The results showed it is very unlikely there would be a Tsunami wave in Sitka Sound that would cause massive damage in Sitka. (There was no scenario involving local landslides.) Looking at maps projected on the screen, the highest wave predicted was not very high, eight or ten feet above sea level. The main question then becomes the walking time and distance it would take to get to a recommended elevation (approximately 35 feet). The most critical thing is the individual/family knowing where they will go and having enough supplies to maintain themselves at the location. Various sites used in the past that people evacuated to were discussed, as well as hazards experienced at Harbor Mountain Road.

The objective today is to present the maps developed. In future meetings members can consider the options and begin to plan for those residents most vulnerable. Chief Warren emphasized the effort will be to engage in partnerships with groups that can assist if evacuation is necessary, as there are not enough staff should evacuation become necessary. Chief Warren would like to take up the topic again in the Fall 2021, and consider focused community groups since the understanding and participation of the public is crucial. Chief Warren emphasized the advisory scope of the effort and any plan that will be developed.

I. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

J. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA/DATE(S)

Regular Meeting Date: monthly on the 2nd Thursday at noon beginning in September 2021, following a summer recess in July and August 2021.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **September 9, 2021** at noon. Attendance in-person at Harrigan Centennial Hall or via zoom link.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 1:06pm.