

LEPC CHRONICLE

Prince of Wales 2014 Preparedness Fair - Stacey Mank and Brian Templin

On September 5th and 6th the Southern Southeast LEPC (SSLEPC), along with numerous local first responders, state agencies, tribal organizations, federal agencies and area volunteers put on the first ever preparedness fair at the Craig Tribal Hall in Craig. The event was based on the theme "Plan – Pack – Prepare" and emphasized personal and family preparedness. The fair was organized by the SSLEPC and directed by Stacey Mank (DHSS – Public Health Nurse).

On Friday over 150 Prince of Wales 3rd – 5th graders, teachers and school staff representing four school districts and five different schools showed up to participate in a series of hands on classes and demonstrations geared toward personal and family preparedness. Students were broken into groups of 10 – 12 kids each and rotated through the event getting the opportunity to learn about family emergency kits from Alaska Public Health Nursing; what to do if lost in the woods by the Alaska State Troopers; boat safety and personal flotation from the Alaska Office of Boating Safety; local fall edi-

bles from the local SEARHC Clinic; earthquake Drop-Cover-Hold drills by Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and how to make and use an emergency stretcher from the US Forest Service. In addition to all of the sessions students got a chance to tour the island's Metropolitan Medical Response System Shelter, Alaska State Trooper vehicles, the Ketchikan Volunteer Search and Rescue Communications Unit, ambulances and fire trucks all parked in the parking lot of the tribal hall. One of the highlights for the kids was the working dog demonstration by Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad.

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*Bring in guest speakers or have
disaster themes to keep LEPC
meetings interesting.*

Don't overlook donations and volunteers in your community when you are working on LEPC events. By leveraging volunteers, donations from local vendors, tribal partnerships and commitments from local, state and federal partners the Southern Southeast LEPC put on a preparedness event for less than \$1,000 – almost all of which was used to provide starter "go kits" for 150 students and teachers who attended the event.

– Brian Templin, LEPCA Co-Chair

LEPCs In Action



Someone you want to recognize? Send your message to Mariel Fonteyn at mariel.fonteyn@alaska.gov or 907-428-7024

LEPCS AROUND THE STATE

- Nome LEPC handed out safety vests at their recent fair; the vests have been seen in use throughout the community.
- North Slope Borough LEPC is continuing to grow their LEPC and has completed one SCERP so far.
- Northwest Arctic Borough LEPC has a weekly radio spot to discuss preparedness.
- Petersburg is working to convert their disaster response plan to an EOP.
- Sitka held a mass fatality workshop and is in the process of elevating the local dam, a process that has created ongoing water concerns for the town.
- Valdez has implemented ALICE training for their schools and hospitals
- Fairbanks held another successful preparedness expo; they are partnering with UAF to provide training to people over 50 in the community.
- Matsu has reduced meeting frequency to every other month and tries to have a specific topic and guest speaker for each meeting
- Copper River worked with RuralCAP and UAF to get preparedness training to their 7th and 8th graders.
- Anchorage held a youth summit with their sister city in Japan and partnered with AARP to hold a successful preparedness expo.
- Juneau updated bylaws to include a vulnerable populations representative seat. Planning has begun for 2015 biennial preparedness expo.
- Ketchikan held a successful full-scale airport exercise; their CERT program is growing and gaining community support.
- Kenai Peninsula Borough is working closely with industry partners to develop joint exercises; working with local amateur radio partners to address communications deficiencies.

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Lunch was prepared and served by the local Red Cross Disaster Kitchen team with food donated by the local Alaska Commercial stores. Every kid left with lots of good information, a fun day and a start to their very own emergency kit.

Friday night the community was invited to visit booths and hear Cindy Wortman, a local resident who survived more than a month in the Prince of Wales wilderness with her family after their boat sank off the coast in February of 1979. The family's story was documented in the book *Almost Too Late* by Elmo Wortman. The family's story inspired the movie *Anything to Survive* which was released in 1990. Cindy's talk on the psychology of survival was fascinating. Cindy shared with the crowd that one of the things she credits her survival to is the simple fact that she never saw the outcome otherwise – she survived in large part because she believed she would.

On Saturday the community was invited to attend hands on classes on boat maintenance, local edibles, cold water survival and CPR. Kids and adults were also invited to attend Kids Don't Float sessions at the Craig Aquatic Center.

The entire fair was done using donations and commitments from other agencies. The LEPC spent a total of \$1,000 for the entire weekend and there was no charge for any session or class (other than the CPR class). LEPC funds were used to purchase items (bags, mini first aid kits and water bottles) that were included in the "starter emergency kits" that were distributed to every student. The kits also included flashlights, emergency whistles, space blankets and family emergency planning information. Leveraging volunteers, donations from local vendors, tribal partnerships and commitments from state and federal partners was critical to the success of the SSLEPC's first preparedness fair. The LEPC has decided to do a public fair biannually and to conduct a fair dedicated to helping prepare Prince of Wales Island communities for organized emergency response on the off years. We are looking forward to working with communities in 2015 and another public fair in 2016.

For more information about the Prince of Wales preparedness fair please feel free to contact Brian Templin, SSLEPC Chair at planner@craigak.com or Stacey Mank, Public Health Nurse at stacey.mank@alaska.gov.

Something you want in the newsletter? Contact Mariel Fonteyn at mariel.fonteyn@alaska.gov or 907-428-7024