

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
MINUTES

April 29, 2016
Anchorage, Alaska

I. Call to order - Chairperson

Chair Bob Doehl called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

A. Roll Call was taken.

Members Present:

Bob Doehl (Chair)	Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs
Kristen Ryan, (Co-Chair)	Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Fred Parady (telephonic)	Dept. of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Joe Thomas	Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development
Jill Klein	Dept. of Fish and Game
Jay Butler	Dept. of Health & Social Services
Dean Brown	Dept. of Natural Resources
Steve Adams	Dept. of Public Safety
Mike Coffey	Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
Abner Hoage	Local Government
Casey Cook	Local Government
George Vakalis	Urban LEPC
Clint Brooks	Urban LEPC
Tom Vaden	Rural LEPC
Brian Templin	Rural LEPC
James Butler III	Public Member at Large

Members Absent:

None

Ex Officio Members Present:

Don Jurewicz	Alaskan Command
Ramona VanCleve	FEMA
CDR James Binniker	USCG
Scott Jordan (telephonic)	Department of Administration
Jo Dawson (telephonic)	Department of Education & Early Dev.

Guests Present:

Michael F. O'Hare, Director, DHS&EM
Merry Carlson (telephonic), SERC Work Plan Committee Chairperson

Matt Leveque, SERC Interoperable Communications Chairperson
Daniel Nelson, SERC Citizen Corp Committee Chairperson
Paul Valley, DHS&EM, SERC All-Hazards Plan Review Committee Chairperson
Kim Weibl, DHS&EM, SERC Coordinator
Ronald DesJardin, Training Committee Chairperson
Ernie Misewitz, City of Fairbanks
Tom Wilder, DHS-PSA
Harry Patkotek, North Slope Borough
M. Mitchell, USCA
Deneen Nichols, AFD
John James, ASAF
S.N. Wilson, AKNG
Chris Noel, Denali Borough
Jack Maker, Kodiak LEC
Zac Schasteen, Unalaska LEPC
Sandy Dixon, Petersburg LEPC
Arlen D. McCloskey, Wrangell
Dickie Moto, Northwest Arctic Borough
Brad M. Reich, Northwest Arctic Borough
Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC
Michelle Brown, Juneau LEPC
Linda Van Houten, Northern Southeast LEPC
Buzz Scher, ASHSC
Sally Cox, DCRA
Stuart Greydanus, Port of Anchorage
Lisa Russon, Alert Sense, Inc.

B. It was concluded that a quorum was present.

C. Administrative Announcements – SERC Coordinator

II. Welcome and Introductions.

A. Opening Comments by Chairperson and Co-Chairperson –

Chair Doehl welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. Member Introductions and Opening Comments

Members introduced themselves during roll call.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes – October 9, 2015

Mr. Vaden MOVED to accept the minutes of October 9, 2015 as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. There were no corrections. There were no objections.

IV. Public Comment

There was no one signed up for public comment.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of and Changes to the Agenda –

Mr. Vakalis MOVED approval of the agenda as amended. Mr. Vaden seconded the motion. There were no objections.

B. LEPC Appointments –

Mr. Vakalis MOVED to accept the LEPC appointments found at tab 5. Mr. James Butler seconded the motion. There were no objections.

C. Approval of Fall 2016 Meeting Date (from October 7, 2016 to October 21, 2016) –

Mr. Vakalis MOVED to approve the 2009 SERC meeting schedule. Mr. Templin seconded the motion. There were no objections.

VI. Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Report

A. DHS&EM Updates – Mr. Michael O’Hare, Director reported that winter was light and break up is commencing recordly early. River Watch operations are occurring currently. There is concern about the fire season. They will be supporting their partners at DNR. The Division is working through the focus and initiatives based upon Governor Walker’s and Commissioner Hummel’s direction for rural community resilience and rural community engagement. They will be working on community engagement with their National Guard partners and the Alaska State Defense Force Militia partners. They are also focused on the Arctic. He has charged his staff to work with those who are working in the Arctic together to work collaboratively. The Alaska Shield exercise was a very successful law enforcement, counter-terrorism, anti-terrorism exercise with a cyber security twist. They were planning that there will now be one preparedness conference in Anchorage in the spring. They will then have more regional preparedness workshops in hub communities with their spoke communities. He reported that the Alaska Shield exercise will now occur every three years. This will allow the Division to focus on other training and exercise opportunities in local communities as well as agencies. In addition they are working with those communities in peril that have been identified, working with state and federal partners at FEMA to understand what is needed and what is a good model for working with these communities in peril. In response to Mr. James Butler, Mr. O’Hare stated that they have a very supportive governor and lieutenant governor, commissioner and deputy commissioner of the Division’s mission. They have had budget talks about doing things a little leaner. They have not taken a big hit on their budget.

VII. Local Emergency Planning Committee Association

Mr. Dave Miller, LEPCA Co-Chairperson, reported on the meeting of the LEPCA. He thought the week of training had been great. The members of the LEPCA came in a day early and worked on their new funding model for the LEPCs. They voted on it at their meeting and passed it. The LEPC reports at the meeting were very informative. He invited the members of the SERC to stop by and introduce themselves to the local fire departments and the LEPC members when they visit different communities.

VIII. Local Emergency Planning Committee Status Reports –

(None)

IX. Old Business

- A. Finance Committee – Mr. George Vakalis, Chairperson, reported that the midyear review was done of the grants. At that time, 13 LEPCs were less than 45 percent spent of their grant funds. They were required to come up with a spending plan for the rest of the year. The plans have been received and if followed, the LEPCs will spend the funds that were allocated to them. The grant application period for the LEPCs for the next grant period will open in May. Jay Gamble will be representing DEC on the committee. There is one other vacancy that is in the process of being filled.
- B. Training Committee – Mr. Ronald DesJardin, Chairperson, stated that the training plan was a reflection of what the jurisdictions, state agencies, and federal partners wanted. Since Alaska Shield was a homeland type terror event, which was stepping away from natural disaster, they had to procure training that was unlike anything they had done in the previous six years. Highlights include 191 applications for national trainings. The state offered 60 courses in Alaska. The number of people on the training contact list increased from 125 to 335. He stated that he is posting training classes that other agencies are offering. With them all on one calendar, they can share resources and open up seats to other agencies to attend. They brought up 14 national training courses to Alaska in the past year. The committee continues to work on the final draft of the Type 3 All Hazards Guide. They put together a PowerPoint to train local jurisdictions on what that task book would look like. They will start writing the 2017 to 2019 training and exercise plan starting in May. In response to Mr. Cook, Mr. DesJardin stated that the PowerPoint is currently in draft. It needs to go through the Division leadership. He expects it to be available within four weeks.
- C. Work Plan Committee – Ms. Merry Carlson, Chairperson, stated that revisions to the work plan were to align the planning work that is taking place with the overarching goal for the SERC. They are awaiting the final approval of the work plan.
- D. Interoperable Communications Committee - Mr. Matt Leveque, Chairperson, reported that he is now the statewide interoperability coordinator and Governor Walker's single point of contact to the First Net Responder Authority. He stated that he has met with DPS Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer and Deputy Chief of Staff John Hosey regarding reinvigoration of Alaska Information Analysis Center (AKIAC) and a different approach to interoperable communications governance in the state. Primarily the conversations have been about Alaska land mobile radio funding as well as if there were greater collaboration and coordination among state departments and other agencies that perhaps some of the issues related to funding of interoperable communications would not have been such a surprise. At the end of February Governor Walker wrote a letter to the National Governors Association requesting that Alaska be grouped into one of five states selected for participation in a policy academy on interoperable communications. Alaska was selected. The state team will be meeting in Idaho with the other four states and members from the National Governors Association, and DHS Office of Emergency Communication to try to work through two things for Alaska: (1) what would be the way forward with respect to interoperable communications coordination and governance; and (2) could we get to a point

where we could have a living, breathing state communications interoperability plan which would guide investments made by state departments, by DHS&EM with respect to grant programs, and be a way for the state agencies and municipal governments, non-governmental associations to better chart a path forward. They hope to have an in-state meeting of a larger stakeholder group facilitated by the National Governors Association and the Office of Emergency Communication in mid July. In about September they would have refined what the products of that meeting are and be able to present to the Administration what might be the best way forward or possible ways forward for reinvigoration of an Interoperable Communications Committee or governance body. Mr. Cook stated he was more concerned with the operability of the system and wanted to make sure that was not left behind. Mr. Leveque stated that is a larger picture of the operability at large that they have not yet addressed. They do not a mechanism for auditing code plugs. Ms. Brown stated that maintenance needs to be continued. In addition, over time these systems change and she wanted to know if there was something in the foreseeable future that they are thinking may replace ALMR that might require an investment. Mr. Leveque stated that there are a lot of issues and there is confusion about whether ALMR is a modern or not a modern system. Here are states and municipal governs that are installing ALMR now in the form that it looks like in Alaska with a slightly updated operating system. ALMR continues to be a state-of-the-art operating system. There are alternatives. The question is what is public safety grade, Firstnet.gov is a national public safety data network, a wireless LTE network which is projected to be installed. An RFP is out to close the end of May. The President and Congress have charged the Federal Government to create a public safety cellular network that is LTE. He expects it will take a long time to introduce to states and to push it out into areas that are not currently served.

- E. Citizen Corps Committees – Mr. Daniel Nelson, Kenai Peninsula Borough Citizen Corp Coordinator, discussed the background of the program. He has received several status reports from communities with Citizen Corps programs. Ketchikan has a CERT program and a Medical Reserve Corps program. Willow has a CERT team formed through a non-profit. They were very busy last year with the Sockeye Fire. Juneau has a CERT program with about 120 trained volunteers. They have started some cross training with the Red Cross. The Kenai Peninsula Borough completed two CERT classes with about 25 graduates from both the Anchor Point and Soldotna area. They have given some training to ramp up for wildfire season. A new course they have developed is evacuation training. One of the impediments to training, in addition to funding, is having certified trainers. In response to Co-Chair Ryan, Mr. Nelson stated he was not familiar with any oil response training for volunteers. That would be something they would have to develop.
- F. All-Hazards Plan Review Committee – Mr. Paul Valley, Chairperson, discussed the background of the committee. It is charged with bringing together subject matter experts from various state agencies, federal agencies and DOD to review emergency management and emergency preparedness plans. Since the last conference the committee has reviewed four Small Community Emergency Response Plans (SCERP): Nightmute, Ninilchik, Wales, and Kenny Lake. Three other communities updated their SCERPs. There are 55 active SCERPs and 33 that are working. The State’s Emergency Operations Plan underwent its four-year major revision. It is currently at the commissioner level. On an annual basis the committee is charged with completing a threat and hazard identification and risk assessment. This is a federally-required process to identify capabilities and gaps. That process was completed in December.

- G. Disaster Search and Rescue Committee – Mr. Jeff Lafferty, Chairperson – There was no report.
- H. Statewide Mutual Aid Compact – Mr. Jim Butler III, Chairperson, reported the committee has been working on a Type 3 all hazard qualification and planning system. It also involves providing authority to the Title 29 entities to contract between themselves and not have to run through the state. There are people at the municipal level that are exploring how those agreements might look. The credentialing committee is working on making sure that the descriptions of positions make sense and that there is a competency component. Documenting would be through position task books which they are also working on. He stated that one of the wild cards is the transition process, which is going from what has been locally driven, local assessment, to being more standardized across municipal and state lines. The committee will be working with different people to figure out how to transition people who have current skill sets that maybe do not have the qualification component completed. They will work through the grandfathering process to make sure people are not inadvertently excluded to bring their skills to the table. Another key component is to make sure that the Type 3 teams can set up a good foundation so that when an overhead team comes in, they can help support or augment and it is somewhat seamless. He hoped at the next meeting they can have a more formal presentation that explains the outreach and the integration of what the community input is.

X New Business

- A. Tier II electronic database update – Ms. Deneen Nichols, MOA AFD, introduced herself. She expressed her gratitude to all those who were involved in making electronic reporting a reality. There are benefits both for the fire department and the facilities. In the past they did not do much with the data. It was available to firefighters in case of an emergency. For example, there was no way to pull data together for a specific area code. She thought that in a year or two they will be able to write scripts to extract such information. She used to have to do data entry into CAMEO for all 475 forms they received. With the new system they do not have as many data entry problems as each facility enters its own information into the database. It reduces the number of incomplete forms. It allows the facility to update their form rather than starting from scratch each year. In response to Co-Chair Ryan, Ms. Deneen stated that when she receives requests for access to the information, she sends them to the state level. She does not release information.
- B. Alaska Community Coastal Protection Project – Ms. Sally Russell Cox, DCRA, stated the project focuses on three communities that are threatened by the impacts of natural hazards and climate change: Kivilina, Shishmaref, and Shaktoolik. The project if funded through a grant from the Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program. It was modeled after work she had done with the Village of Newtok which is currently actively relocating to a new village site, Mertarvik. The objective of the project is to increase community resilience to the impacts of natural hazards. There are three essential components: strong community leadership, agency support and collaboration, and careful effective planning. The end product is a resiliency strategy called the strategic management plan which provides the blueprint for future activities. Community leadership is key to the process. Government agencies and regional organizations have technical expertise and resources to assist the community. She gave an overview of the process.
- C. 7.1 Iniskin Earthquake – Mr. Buzz Scher, Chair of the Alaska Seismic Hazard Safety

Commission, gave some background on the commission. He then reported on the January 24th, 2016 earthquake and discussed earthquakes in general as well as why seismically we have earthquakes in Southcentral. The take away was that damage from an earthquake depended not only on magnitude, but also distance from the epicenter. The depth that it occurs at and the geological composition of the ground are also important. He added that while this was not tested in this earthquake, there is no question that earthquake resilient design and construction saves lives and costs. In response to Ms. Van Cleve, Mr. Scher stated that the power released by a magnitude 7 released roughly 30 times more energy than a magnitude 6 would. In response to Ms. Brown, Mr. Scher agreed that every earthquake has some time of effect on metal fatigue. The Commission made a recommendation expressing the value of putting instruments in building so the health of the building can be judged after an event. With respect to reports to be published on the earthquake, they hope more will be. There was not enough damage created that outside groups to mobilize crews to go and look at things. There are people looking at the ground motion part of it. Mr. Jay Butler stated that within hours of the earthquake his group was checking with hospitals around the state. The problem that was identified in several facilities was elevators out of service and required resetting. He asked if that was a common effect across the state and is there a need for more people who know how to reset the elevators. Mr. Scher stated that was new information to him. Unfortunately, there was no way to archive this type of information. In response to Ms. Ryan, Mr. Scher stated that the houses that burned down were covered by their homeowner's insurance which had a fire policy on it. If a house is damaged due to ground cracking or spreading or shaking and you do not have earthquake insurance, it is not covered under a homeowner's policy.

- D. Logistics – Mr. Stuart Greydanus, Deputy Director, Port of Anchorage, discussed the importance of the port as a hub for the supply line of goods for the rest of the state and how they get to the port and then are distributed from the port. He stated that they were not really a destination, but it is a link in a long supply chain that extends from the Lower 48 to about 85 percent of Alaskans. The port is an intermodal transport hub. Approximately 50 to 55 percent of all cargo stays in Anchorage. 10 to 15 percent is trucked to Kenai. 20 percent is trucked to the Mat-Su. 15 percent is trucked to Fairbanks and the Interior. Cargo is also loaded onto barges, airplanes and rail cars and shipped throughout the state. He also discussed the port infrastructure. It is also a critical piece of national defense infrastructure. The port is vulnerable to a seismic event. One of the things the port practices is what they would do in a seismic event. In 2014, they participated in a joint logistics over-the-shore exercise where a seismic event took out half the dock, half of the cargo capability, and half of the petroleum. They worked closely with basically the entire state of Alaska and the military to simulate bringing in 300 containers onto the port. They also set up fuel bladders where they simulated pumping fuel from the water to the shore. Lessons learned from the exercise include that it was a very, very slow operation. If anything happens to the port, you will not get cargo in in a fast fashion. He also discussed the modernization project. Due to the condition of some port components, they have to do something. The dock is rotten, particularly at the mud line. He stated that even a partial closure of the dock would be devastating to both the people and the economy of Alaska. Until they can convince the Legislature that the port is an investment they need to fund, they are installing jackets on the most critical piles. There are about 1,423 steel piles that are seriously deteriorated. Behind the dock there is a huge wall of silt has built up over the years. If they were to experience liquefaction from a seismic event, there is a potential for all of that silt to slough

down and break the piles. There is also the potential it could fill the channel where the ships would tie up to discharge their cargo.

- E. LEPC Classification, Standards & Funding – Brian Templin & Dave Miller, Co-Chairs LEPCA. Mr. Templin stated that on Monday all the LEPCs met to discuss issues the Division asked them to address, primarily having to do with distribution of funding and classification of various levels of LEPCs. There are currently 21 LEPCs operating in the state representing both rural and urban communities. The state currently appropriates about \$300,000 annually with about \$275,000 is passed through to the LEPCs who use those funds to leverage local funds, etc., to do local planning, training, exercises, outreach, and emergency programs management. Based on recommendations from the Division and the LEPCs' discussion on Monday, they came up with a distribution scheme that could be applied regardless of the level of funding and regardless of the number of LEPCs in each level. Starting with the next funding cycle for the LEPCs they will be moving to a six-tiered system and a set proportion of funds to each tier. The Division is going to gather additional information in terms of how to classify new LEPCs into the correct baseline levels, such as demographics, amount of hazardous material, locations of communities, population, and other factors. The biggest change will be to bring the funding numbers closer between the levels. In two years the proportion between levels will change to even all of the levels, to make the change from one level to another less significant. Mr. Vakalis explained how they set up the original formula that would take into account the hazards associated with the various LEPC areas, to include population densities. There was also more money available back then.

XI Other State Agency and Ex-officio Reports –

FEMA – Ms. Ramona Van Cleve reported that Thomas Wilder has left FEMA to assume a PSA position. USA Jobs will be announcing that vacancy. They have hired a new logistics person for warehousing.

DCCED – Mr. Fred Parady stated they have a working subcommittee of the Disaster Policy Cabinet. The idea is to try to develop some additional tools for disaster response. They have been working with food insecurity issues to see if there is some creativity that could be brought into state statute. Other areas are emergency disasters, erosion issues, and slow moving climate disasters in addition to food insecurity. They are trying to get their arms around the bigger picture.

Alaska Command – Mr. Don Jurewicz thanked DHS&EM for the Alaska Shield training event. He discussed Operation Colony Glacier. 52 service members were lost on the glacier due to an air force aircraft crash in 1952. The operation will resume in June. During periods when they have people on the glacier there will be a temporary flight restriction. o date 31 of the 52 service members have been identified from the remains that have been recovered. Mr. Jurewicz reported on Cascadia Rising exercise based on the Cascadia subduction zone rupturing near Washington and Oregon. It would potentially impact Alaska, so they will be activating their staff to look at some of the impacts that might be felt. He also reported that there is a group called Business Executives for National Security (BENS). General Norton Swartz is bringing a group of these executives to Alaska. They feel that as private sector partners, they feel they may be able to offer alternative solutions for national security challenges. He then discussed some personnel changes. The new commander who has been nominated is Major General Kenneth Wilsbach. For Region 10, the new FEMA region

defense coordinating officer will be Col. Davis.

DEC – Co-Chair Kristen Ryan reported they are going through some budget reductions that are primarily impacting their general fund programs, i.e. food safety, the water discharge permitting programs, and public drinking water system oversight program. The Division of Spill Prevention and Response is not experiencing any additional cuts. They are looking area planning and ways to consolidate them and make them more efficient. They will work with the LEPCs as they do that. They are revising their drill and exercise program. They have about 120 community spill response agreements with various communities and they are revising that program.

XII Informational Items

- A. SERC Policies and Procedures Manual 2014
- B. SERC Work Plan FY 2017/2018
- C. Notice to SERC members that the 2016/2019 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant package will be submitted to the US Department of Transportation (US DOT) by DHS&EM. The submission deadline is May 2, 2016. Members may contact the SERC coordinator if you would like to review it.

XIII. Public Comment

Mr. Casey Cook stated the Miller's Reach 20-year commemoration event will be happening at Station 8-1 in Big Lake June 11, 11 a.m. through 3 p.m. The next weekend will be the one-year anniversary of the Sockeye Fire with an event scheduled June 18th, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

XIV. Commission Member Closing Comments

Chair Doehl stated that the next meeting will be Friday, October 21st, 2016 in Anchorage. He thanked the DHS&EM staff for their work in putting the meeting together. Ms. Brown thought they had excellent presentations at the meeting. The on-going quality and depth of the work done by the staff is excellent. She reminded everyone that fire season has arrived. They are getting lightening all the way through the Tanana Valley and just beginning the fire season there, which is unusual this early. So far there have been 80 fires, all human caused. That will change as lightening starts becoming the major fire source in the Interior. They do not expect a fire year like last year, but are expecting an active fire year. Be fire wise.

XVI. Adjournment

Mr. Vakalis MOVED to adjourn. Mr. Jay Butler seconded the motion. MOTION passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.