

TIPPECANOE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 2, 2015

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room of the Tippecanoe County Office Building. Advisory Council members present were Chairman Garry Smith, Commissioner Tracy Brown, Smokey Anderson, John Basham, Dan Duncan, Perry Martin, Dan Marvin, David Reagan, and Ron Wright. Also present were TEMA Intern Sean Fleming, Indiana Department of Homeland Security District IV Coordinator Sharon Gerlach, Grant Facilitator Sharon Hutchison, TEMA member Marty Webb, and Recording Secretary Tillie Hennigar. Members Brian Phillips and Jeff Butz were absent.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
April 7, 2015

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2015 regular meeting, second by Ron Wright; motion carried.

TEMA Director Anderson introduced Sean Fleming who is an Intern putting in 300 hours this summer. He is from Shadeland and his Dad, Dennis used to be the Fire Chief in Shadeland. Sean is a student at Tiffen University in Ohio.

TEMA ACTIVITY - "Smokey Anderson"

Director Anderson reported the activity and projects completed since the April meeting and also upcoming projects they are currently working on.

- TIPPEX is a HAZ MAT exercise that Lilly used to do; now Evonik does about every other year. The exercise will be on June 16 and involve several agencies outside of Evonik with patients transferred to the hospital. The exercise is an LEPC requirement.
- The radio system for Tippecanoe County and the State are being upgraded. By December, all radios will need to be reprogrammed and upgraded to work on the new system. The project is huge - all radios have to be read by a computer or by some keystrokes and all the information has to be delivered to Ra-Comm. When completed, it will be a much better system than the current one.
- The Stars and Stripes Concert is coming up July 4th.
- Recently, as a County, a 3-day State funded EOC operations training was held at the Armory.
- He and Tyler attended the International HAZ MAT Conference last week.
- Tyler left yesterday for a seminar on Bakken Crude Oil in Atlanta. Bakken Crude comes out of the Dakotas and is almost clear and very flammable. It comes into play when the railroad passes through Tippecanoe County with the crude oil via CSX Railroad up to five times a week.
- Tippecanoe County was recently recertified as a *Storm-Ready County* by meeting several requirements by the National Weather Service such as Spotters. The Certification is good for three (or four) years.
- The number of storm/shelter inspections has declined; however, a large one was completed within the last month at Westminister Village with West Lafayette Fire. Tomorrow, they will have a full scale exercise with the 400+ residents.

- Working with Commissioner Brown and the established group on a safety plan for the Courthouse, Tippecanoe County Office Building, and all the County facilities. The plan is modeled closely after Purdue's.
- Marty took the MOC and equipment to Camp Tecumseh to assist with the Hoosier Burn Camp.
- Since it is summer, there are a variety of things TEMA does daily.

Dave Reagan said he understood the radios could be used on a certain frequency of Simplex. Director Anderson said currently there are five or six conventional frequencies to use and not go through a repeater. The new ones have an additional 30 on the 700/800 megahertz radios. There is a whole list through EMS, Fire, Law, and tactical 700 frequencies to use; they all have the ability to go direct or through the repeater.

Chairman Smith said in regard to rail cars, ten years ago there was two interchanges made within the Norfolk and Southern – one in Illinois and one in Butler, Indiana. The purpose was to reroute rail traffic out of Chicago. A friend of his was the Regional Director of the FRA and had available a rail car to bring into your community to simulate a petro chemical spill. Director Anderson said Norfolk and Southern has brought one in at least twice since he has been in office. John Basham asked if we have training for radioactive material transports through Lafayette. Director Anderson said TEMA is not notified when they are traveling through Lafayette. Although it does happen, it is the least common occurrence. The information they have received suggests it is easy to deal with once you know what you have compared to a vapor cloud with no control.

Dan Duncan thanked TEMA for the quick response and the great resources provided for the situation at Caterpillar involving a contaminated trailer/container. Director Anderson said it is the second instance in 4 ½ years; it doesn't happen often.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Director Anderson said the budget is on track.

SIRENS

Director Anderson said in April Chairman Smith wanted to establish a final plan for warning sirens. In talking to Commissioners Brown and Byers and also Marty Webb, maintaining the 72 sirens we currently have is important to keep those in working order. Adding extra sirens is not necessary unless there is a special exception such as an elementary school, an outdoor sports complex, or a park with a great number of people outdoors; efforts should be focused on other methods of education.

Commissioner Brown said we have been involved with Nixel for five to six years. At the beginning of the year, notification was received regarding changes to the fee structure and some of the bells and whistles. Nixel is putting together a proposal. Taking Nixel away and looking at any company involved in the process of notification in a time of emergency, almost all the platforms are self-enrollment. The wired telephone is a dinosaur with the wired lines on the decline and the tremendous growth of smart phones. It is time to take another look at the services Nixel offers and do a cost comparison with some other companies. Information received from another source indicates that Nixel has not grown as anticipated. An Amber Alert takes very specific criteria to get the alert. Commissioner Brown suggested looking at a package with all government entities.

Commissioner Brown asked Director Anderson if TEMA is on the Subdivision process through Area Plan to receive notification when a new subdivision is on line or being developed. Director Anderson said "no", not to the extent the Sheriff Department does. Commissioner Brown said they need to talk with

Sallie about adding TEMA to the list. The recent activity of Area Plan added a substantial number of rezoned lots around Harrison High School.

Director Anderson said Everbridge bought Nixel and Montgomery County went with them at \$2,000 per month, White County is similar at \$2,000 or less; based on population. He said he could not justify the \$40,000 annual fee for Tippecanoe County. He does like the idea of reverse 911 and other things they do.

Commissioner Brown said the Executive Director from Indiana 911 will be in town for an informational meeting tomorrow dealing with the new funding formulas (the State statute that goes into effect July 1). It would probably be a good time for a discussion about the Board's future plans are for notification. At one point, there was talk about the State 911 Board taking on a role with a statewide plan to avoid having 92 counties and different types of notifications.

Director Anderson said the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) is sent from the cell tower as a blank message. Every capable phone gets the message – if you are in Florida and there is a hurricane warning; you get the warning message. The National Weather Service sends out some but he doesn't believe our area is fully covered. If the criteria are met at the EOC, a message could be sent or the EOC could contact the National Weather Service and have them send it.

Ron Wright said the Red Cross recently released a series of new apps, one of which is a tornado app. It has some great information such as how to prepare, how to recover, and how to respond. It also has a notification feature to alarm just like a siren if the National Weather Service has sent a notification. Purdue has been pushing that notification out; it's better to have multiple notifications then relying on one. The app also has information regarding the number of tornadoes in our area. The app is *Red Cross Tornado*.

Dave Reagan said the information just discussed should be added to the pamphlet, especially for the new students coming into Purdue. Director Anderson said it should also be on the EMA website.

Commissioner Brown said with Apple systems, there are Government Alerts in Notifications. Currently there are two – Amber and Emergency. Ron Wright said they can be turned off, except for Presidential Alerts.

A discussion was held about Nixel - the number of participants, the information to segregate, and the information people are and are not interested in receiving.

Director Anderson said the siren at the Veterans Home was down and has now been repaired. All sirens are now working and Federal Signal has started the maintenance process of checking half of the sirens.

Chairman Smith said he wanted a Policy by the Board of the direction taken with the sirens. It appears the Board is in agreement of NOT expanding the siren coverage, allowing other means of notification, with exceptions such as a new school or a new subdivision without coverage. Director Anderson said if there is an area with zero coverage and a lot of outdoor use; the option of adding a siren needs to remain. An Ordinance and/or having a developer/builder participate with siren additions have been discussed in the past and went nowhere. Chairman Smith said there are some counties that have an Ordinance. Commissioner Brown will get with APC to discuss the process of a new development and when TEMA needs to be involved.

Director Anderson said the new sirens cover a mile diameter. If a subdivision is built next to an existing one, it might be covered and one builder would have to participate and another would not. John Basham

said the developer should be part of the cost; a few thousand dollars is a drop-in-the-bucket for a contractor when putting in infrastructure.

Director Anderson said the continued cost is \$244 a month for the City sirens; another siren is a 3 phase siren cost \$15 a month. Most of the sirens are on school properties, other government facilities and they absorb the cost. There are seven sirens with batteries that convert AC to DC and are very expensive.

Dave Reagan said the siren locations are included on the GIS maps.

Chairman Smith said everyone agrees the electronic notification provides more bang for the buck.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY – Sharon Gerlach

District IV Coordinator Gerlach covered the process that will begin this Thursday for Homeland Security Assessment:

- A meeting will be held for Readiness Training Identification Preparedness Process (RTIPP).
- Every County will be assessed for their particular capabilities. There are 31 Core Capabilities and the focus will be on seven to start with.
- Each County is in the process of identifying a team to assess their County. The team will consist of various people; a list of recommendations from different agencies of those who can talk about and put together a plan for where the County is and what it needs to raise or build capabilities.

Sharon continued to say all grant funds will be driven by the County report that was developed. As an example, if funds (from a grant) are needed for equipment, sirens, training, etc.; the report will support a need for the funds. The report will drive a lot of initiatives. The meeting on Thursday will advise the EMA Directors of what they need to do and how to assess it. The assessment period starting July 1st will include ten basic standards. Most of the requirements are from FEMA and eight of ten must be met. At this point, Counties will receive 50% or nothing. The RTIPP process will take the entire next year and once it is put into place there is a section of WEB EOC where all the data will be entered. The intent is to rate the Counties on the assessment to get the 50% reimbursement. It will be based on the plan and direction of each County and how well the plan is followed. The change is huge but Sharon thinks it will be good; everyone has been very receptive so far.

CIVIL AIR PATROL – Dave Reagan

Dave Reagan said this Sunday the Civil Air Patrol will have a *Change of Command* ceremony at the Armory. Brenda Phillips recently completed a National Staff College School at Maxwell Air Force Base and was promoted to Lt. Colonel and will come in as the Field Commander. As one of her challenges, the State has charged her to make better contact with the local EMS in addition to providing support groups to the military. Although, there is not an airplane in the area, the promise is that one will be easier to get. Currently, the ground team is made up of young kids; they are trying to add more adults. There are about ten adults on the roster with only four or five that are good ground team quality; however, they are nationally ranked.

Dave continued to say he will return to the command area side to get the Civil Air Patrol going again and help rebuild their reputation. John Basham said he was involved with the TIPPEX event about 18-20 years ago and it is very authentic.

As there was no other business, Dave Reagan moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.