

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LEMC)

MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING HELD

12 JUNE 2012

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MINUTES OF THE LEMC MEETING HELD AT THE SHIRE OF LAVERTON COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON 12 JUNE 2012, COMMENCING AT 10.00AM.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

Deputy Chairman, Mr Peter Crawford declared the meeting open at 10.00am and welcomed all those in attendance.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

2.1 PRESENT

Mr Peter Crawford	Shire of Laverton
Snr Sgt John Lehane	Laverton Police
Mr Mac Johnston	FESA
Ms Tiffany Farlow	LVFRS
Ms Elissa Stout	Laverton Hospital
Mr Alan Price	Crescent Gold
Mr Matt Morgan	Lynas Corporation
Ms Laurinda Hill	LVFRS
Dave Symons	AngloGold Ashanti
Tony Grant	AngloGold Ashanti

2.2 APOLOGIES

Cr Robert Wedge	Shire of Laverton
Mr Gareth Neczypor	Lynas Corporation
Ms Neri Vekemans	Department for Child Protection
Mrs Lynda Barnes	Shire of Laverton
Mr Karl Overing	Barrick

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Alan Price, Seconded Tiffany Farlow

That the Minutes of the LEMC meeting held on 6 March 2012 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 10/0

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXERCISE

The Emergency Exercise for today is labelled “*Laverton Community*” and is a table top exercise depicting a heavy vehicle rolling onto its side and spilling chemical.

The Officer in Charge of the Laverton Police station, Snr Sgt John Lehane assumed the role of Exercise Facilitator in the absence of Mr Karl Overing.

EVACUATION FOCUS:

Who makes the decision to evacuate?

This decision to evacuate would be made by the Hazard Management Agency - HMA (in this exercise that would be FESA) unless an 'Emergency Situation' or 'State of Emergency' is declared.

- As far as possible, community members should decide whether to stay or go when threatened by an emergency.
- The decision to enforce evacuation will only be made by the HMA when the members of the community at risk do not have the capability to make an informed decision or when it is evident that loss of life or injury is imminent.
- A HMA may only enforce a mandatory evacuation where it has the legislative power to do so. If it does not have the legislative powers to evacuate, the HMA can only *recommend* that evacuation take place.

(Section 67 & 71 Emergency Management Act 2005, and SEMC Policy Statement Number 4.7).

How is the evacuation process activated?

The HMA (FESA in this instance) may request an evacuation in consultation with the community and police can act in an assistance role.

Whenever evacuation is being considered, the Department of Child Protection must be consulted during the planning stages. Why?

The Department of Child Protection is responsible for not only the safety and welfare of children but for the entire family. They are empowered under legislation to this degree.

Who is responsible to manage the evacuation?

HMA

Who nominates the Evacuation Centre and why?

Local Welfare coordinator of the Department of Child Protection in consultation with the Local Emergency Coordinator and the HMA

What is the process for opening the Evacuation Centre?

The Shire is responsible for opening the evacuation centre as they are the agency which owns the properties.

Who will maintain the Centre while it is open?

The Shire in conjunction with DCP.

CO-ORDINATION FOCUS:

Whose responsibility is it to convene the Incident Support Group?

FESA would convene the ISG

What is the trigger for the Incident Support Group being formed?

The trigger for this to occur would be for FESA to declare a Level 2 incident.

What agencies should be represented on the Incident Support Group for this emergency?

Controlling agencies that are called to assist the HMA.

Where will the Incident Support Group meet and how often

The preferred centre would be the Shire Council Chambers due to its having all necessary facilities to manage a Level 2 incident of this nature. The regularity of meetings will be determined by the HMA depending on the nature of the incident

Who is the Local Recovery Co-ordinator and when should they be invited to attend the Incident Support Group?

The Executive Manager Technical Services of the Shire is the Local Recovery Coordinator and would be present from the beginning.

EVACUATION CENTER FOCUS:

Where are the evacuation centres for Laverton?

The Shire hall, the sports oval and the race course.

How will people get to the evacuation centre?

This would be handled by ambulance, buses or private cars.

Who is responsible to set up the Evacuation Centre?

The Local Welfare Liaison Officer is the Manager Community Development of the Shire.

How will we manage the patients that are on machines?

Patients would generally be able to be accommodated providing that electric power was available, be it by mains or generator supplied.

COMMUNICATION FOCUS:

Has a Media Liaison Officer been appointed? Under what protocols and/or arrangements?

The HMA (FESA) have their own Media Liaison Officer. Other agencies would be directed on media releases by the incident controller.

What communication strategies are in place to inform the selected community on the evacuation and if the general community will be evacuated?

Various methods could be engaged, ie, radio broadcasts, Telstra, SMS.

Have you considered how you would communicate this information if there was a loss of power?

Door knocking, bull horns.

What steps has the Incident Support Group taken to ensure consistency of messages across all agencies, when providing public information?

As above, media releases would originate from a single source to ensure consistency of message.

SUMMARY:

The exercise provided answers to most questions but also raised many more that need to be addressed in the future to ensure that all facets of emergency responses are met. Two of the most important are:

- Communications Strategy: Snr Sgt Lehane will liaise with all agencies and formulate this item. Some ideas were fridge magnets to advise residents of contacts, procedures, siren, etc.
- Resource List: To be updated, all agencies to attend to this matter.
- Evacuation Centres: There should be further investigation into this matter to ensure that a centre could be located outside of the town area should the existing ones become compromised.

It was generally felt that the exercise had been a success and that the agencies were able to cope with such an emergency, albeit with some outside assistance.

5.2 LAVERTON AIRPORT:

The Shire will consider (in the next Budget) utilising a consultant to manage the Laverton airport to ensure all compliance matters are being attended to.

5.3 Laverton Airport Refuelling Facility:

The new refuelling facility at the Laverton airport is now fully operational.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- LVFRS will consider a battery backup for their siren.
- Important that all agencies update their resource lists and forward them to:

Ms Linda Barnes, Executive Assistant execassist@laverton.wa.gov.au

7. NEXT MEETING

The dates of the future meetings during the year are:

Tuesday 7 August 2012

Tuesday 6 November 2012

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.40 am

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