Minutes

Monthly Meeting       Wednesday – January 18, 2023       Time 9:00 – 10:30

LOCATION:

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205

Attendees: Tim Archer, Sharon Colby, Stephanie Crawford, Joe Fields, Pete Hartmann, Sean Thompson, Summer Rose, Janna Olson, Jim Adams, Damaris Deschner, Kohlman Lowry.

Welcome: Chair Tim Archer

Old business:

Dec. LEPC/Holly Energy. Leak occurred, Oct. on the manifold. No shut down of the main pipeline and still determining the amount spilled.

New Business:

Pete: Site visit: Alternate EOC determination for SCC. Armories are being built in Liberty Lake and Richland for WA National Guard Homeland Response Force and WA Emergency Management Dept.- East for the Cascadia event and other eventual disasters affecting E/WA. 25 state agencies have identified Spokane as the go-to for future operations after a catastrophic disaster on the West Side.

Presentation: Natural Gas – Home explosion in North Idaho.

Jim Adams, Lincoln Co. Fire Chief, Fire Investigator
Jim gave us background on several house explosions due to Natural Gas that had migrated from a leak outside of each home and made it’s way into spaces of these homes where testing for gas isn’t usually done. One issue that’s being studied is the idea that gas is also moving through soil in ways that were unknown until recently. More study is needed to mitigate future tragedies from gas leaks outside of homes/businesses.

Updates:

Elected Officials – Sharon Colby
Concerns/budget. Parts issues/inflation/fuel. Keeping up with new construction and career Fire Fighters are considering forming a union.

State Officials – Pete Hartmann, Sean Thompson, John Geppert, Moody Harmon
Ecology: looking for FTE for the region/safety officer position. Emergency equipment grant pushed to fall of 2023. 90-day window for applications. Sean can help with questions or other assistance.

DOT: passes have been a challenge due to weather. EM meeting in Olympia to assess facilities and gaps for disaster planning. Training/exercise for EOC’s in all three regions within the state. April will work with the Ham radio operators to relay information during disasters.

**Emergency Management** – Gerry Bozarth

**Water Resources** – Tim Archer, Shane Sheppard, Kelly Williquette, Todd Henry

**Fire Services** – Tim Archer

**Hospital** – Darrell Ruby

Summer Rose at CHAS: looking to hire a Training & Exercise person. The goal is for CHAS to develop large number of TTX’s for all clinics.

**Media** – Vacant

**Health** – Mike LaScuola

**1st Aid/EMS** – Vacant

**Transportation** – STA: battery busses, approaching first responders on how they work, how to deenergize, etc. 10 all-electric busses will be on the road soon.

**Law Enforcement** – Lt. Chuck Arnold,

**Community Groups** – Vacant

**Facilities & Pipelines** – Chris Church, Amy Smith

Next Meeting
February 15, 2023