



# **SHERIFF DUSTIN D. HEUERMAN**

## **CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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Champaign County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)  
Meeting Minutes  
June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Location: ILEAS Boardroom  
1701 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802  
Time: 10:30 AM

- I. Welcome and Introductions – The meeting was called to order at 10:31 AM by John Dwyer.
- II. Public Comment – There was no public comment, as there was no one from the public at the meeting.
- III. Review and approval of minutes from the February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Sherry Wooten motioned to approve the previous minutes, Chris Hanson seconded that motion, the minutes were approved by all.
- IV. Local incidents, training, exercises, and upcoming events discussion.
  1. John Dwyer talked about Chief Dade, Urbana Fire Department, asking for Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter (ARFF) training after the Willard Airport exercise. He then shared that he hopes to get the ARFF trainer acquired before the next Willard Airport exercise in three years and utilize the EMPG grant to fund it.
  2. John Dwyer then talked about the Tier II reports that have been entered into the CAMEO program and the Google Earth kml file that gives basic information (location, chemicals & 24hr phone number) of entities that have hazardous materials in the county. He said he would share this information with Jon Kelly, ROE 9, so he could see what chemicals are in close proximity to schools. He pointed out that roads and railroads that are close to schools could be potential hazards. Later in the meeting John Dwyer brought up Senate Bill 71 which deals with Emergency Managers in Illinois assisting schools with knowing the hazards near their schools and working on emergency plans with the districts. He stated that Senator Chris Balkema had contacted him about Senate Bill 71. The basic plan is to invite schools to attend the

LEPC, share the CAMEO program with them and talk with them about what is around them. His examples included roads, railroads and pipelines, and what it means to shelter in place or evacuate.

3. Brian Ball brought up a diesel spill incident at the FedEx facility in Champaign. Chris Hanson talked briefly about a box truck carrying a leaking propane cylinder that exploded Addison, Illinois. No national incidents were brought up.
4. John Dwyer asked Chris Hanson if he could get a copy of the two videos from the Teutopolis, Illinois incident. He also asked Brian Ball about anhydrous ammonia training.
5. John Dwyer said the Norfolk Southern Safety Train is still scheduled to be here for training from August 11<sup>th</sup> thru the 15<sup>th</sup>, with one of those days being an exercise for the Champaign Fire Department's hazmat team.
6. Chris Hanson talked about another Senate Bill that would require hazmat training for teachers. He said he had taught a two-hour hazmat class in Martinsville, Illinois. If, or when, that Senate Bill passes, John Dwyer thought that he might be able to host the class at ILEAS thru the EMPG grant funding with Jon Kelly. Jon then invited us to the superintendents meeting before school starts back up in the fall, exact date to be determined.

- V. Open Discussion and Wrap up – John Dwyer said we have done well with the Active Shooter classes in the area. He also stated that CUMTD has been a great support for us in the county. He then brought up the Whole Community Training Summit being held in Champaign on October 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. He stated that the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) was not going to hold a training summit this year and there is talk about a combination summit in April between IEMA and Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA). Brian Ball said that CFD has budgeted for a gas detection device that not only detects but quantifies up to six substances. In addition to that they are going to purchase a device that injects water into a propane tank to stop a leaking propane, provided that the leak is not on top of the tank. He then explained how that would work since water is heavier than propane. John Dwyer said that Parkland College would be participating in a decontamination and reunification exercise on July 24<sup>th</sup>. It would take most of the day and no times have been set yet. He then explained the Clinton Power Plant scenario in which Parkland College would be receiving residents from Dewitt County. Chris Hanson said the U of I is progressing with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and two U of I professors were interested in assisting with that endeavour. He also

talked about a New Jersey Company that were working on Hazmat simulators with augmented reality with graphics. .. talked about the NWS weather fact sheet handout and how Illinois was #1 in the number of tornados last year, with Champaign County being listed as the #4 county with the greatest number of tornados per square mile based on data from 1950-2024. He also said that people should not drive around barricades for any reason. He also stated that the weather alert radios do have the capability to provide information in other languages on the scrawler, but the verbal announcements are only available in English. Susan Monte asked John Dwyer about the Hazard Mitigation Plan and he said that he was awaiting approval from IEMA about the grant. Jenny Nargelenas said they were working with the Champaign Fire Department (CFD) on an exercise that involved an ammonia leak, because the previous one had to be cancelled due to a real-world incident that CFD had to respond to. Chris Hanson said they were planning on beta testing Artificial Intelligence (AI) utilization in the field and on real world incidents. John Dwyer said the NWS was providing a daylong seminar in Peoria on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. He also reminded everyone that the sirens would go off if the “destructive” tag was used on any weather event that would hit any sirens within our boundary. He shared the example from the year before where the “destructive” tag was used by the NWS and our sirens would have gone off more than thirty minutes in advance of when the actual storm hit our area. Stating that the sirens may sound twice before the storm system would be in our area and that the sirens never indicate an all clear. Steve Lyddon, from Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security (CISA), offered to work with any businesses or offices in the area. Saying that he has been working with Faith based organizations and non-government organizations (NGOs) recently and that FEMA funding might be delayed a month. He also said that there is a Rural Railroad course (AWR 147) being taught up north in Joliet on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Sarah Michaels said “Don’t touch birds, alive or dead!” as the bird flu is an ever growing issue. John Dwyer said that there is a NWS storm spotter training opportunity on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 starting at 6:30 PM until 9:00 PM at the ILEAS Training Center Auditorium.

- VI. Adjournment-Next Meeting— September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Chris Hanson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Randy Fouts seconded that motion, and the adjournment was approved by all.

Attendees:

John Dwyer-CCEMA  
John Riegel-CCEMA  
Brian Ball-CFD  
Randy Fouts-CUMTD

Sherry Wooten-UIEM  
Richard Williams-IEMA-OHS  
Jon Kelly-ROE 9  
Chris Hanson-U of I Hazmat