



SHERIFF DUSTIN D. HEUERMAN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Champaign County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Meeting Minutes
November 25th, 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 September 29th, 2025 – Brett Johnson motioned to approve the previous minutes, Dshawn Herrera seconded that motion, the minutes were approved by all.
- IV. Local incidents, training, exercises, and upcoming events discussion.
 1. John Dwyer talked about the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant and trying to get the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter (ARFF) trainer here at some point. He mentioned that the timing might not coincide with the airport drill, but it would be good training for the area.
 2. John Dwyer said that the local Amazon warehouse the safety area was located in the center of the very large facility. This was a topic of discussion due to the Saint Louis tornado event last

summer and the Edwardsville tornado that hit the Amazon facility killing six people in December of 2021.

3. Brett Johnson talked about the hazmat drill at the city of Champaign with the Champaign Fire Department participation.
 4. John Dwyer said that there is talks about using a E-Environmental in this area, and Champaign Fire Department is looking to do the same. E-Environmental is a company that deals with hazmat situations. Dshawn Herrera said that CN was currently working on getting an agreement with that company. He also talked about lessons learned from an CN train derailment of ethanol cars and the first responders that were in level A suits but standing knee deep in the product.
 5. John Dwyer reminded everyone that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) had released the investigation report from the Teutopolis anhydrous ammonia incident. One of the topics the report talked about was the vapor vs cloud dynamic.
 6. John Dwyer shared that there will be a lesson learned presentation of the Interstate 55 Dust Storm on January 26th, at 5:30 pm at ILEAS. There will be two speakers during the presentation and discussions about issues that arose from traffic leaving the interstate and utilizing the local county roads that couldn't handle the increased traffic in the smaller towns.
 7. Richard Williams shared that there was an anhydrous ammonia spill in Sangamon County.
- V. John Dwyer shared the 2026 LEPC meeting dates: February 24th, June 30th, September 29th and November 24th. Motion to approve 2026 LEPC meeting dates - Brett Johnson, motioned to approve, Dshawn Herrera seconded, the motion was approved by all.
- VI. Open Discussion and Wrap up – John Dwyer stated that we are starting to receive Tier II reports from local business. Randy Fouts shared that one of MTD hydrogen buses had to be towed off the interstate. Apparently, the bus lost “fuel” at the 12% mark as the bus driver was trying to get the bus back to the facility. John Dwyer shared that he attended a site visit and training at the Peoples Gas Manlove Field facility, and only a few people had attended that training. Dshawn Herrera mentioned that the Canadian Northern (CN) railroad will be installing crossing arms in the

champaign county area. John Dwyer thanked Dshawn and CN for the training that occurred this past August. We had over 100 participants and a successful hazmat training opportunity for the Champaign Fire Department Hazmat team. Dshawn Herrera shared that the CN was experimenting with electric trains on a specific Pennsylvania route that's about one-hundred-miles long. He does not see electric training operations occurring in our area for the foreseeable future. He also shared another train incident in Mississippi involving benzine. He stated that the operations should not start until the foam is on site. In another incident CN had multiple hopper cars carrying palatized food that turned into "concrete", and it was hard to extinguish blocks of the congealed products. Randy Fouts reminded everyone that MTD would not be operating on Thanksgiving Day. He also shared that a new practice for the hydrogen buses would be to bring them in for refueling when they got down to 30%. Richard Williams shared that the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Region 7 meeting was going to be held on December 4th at ILEAS, and everyone was welcome to attend. John Dwyer said that we were still in drought conditions and during the harvest season we had several field fires that prompted locating water trucks in areas near farm and field operations. Dshawn Herrera shared another train derailment to learn from, June 3rd, 2016, in Mosier, Oregon which you can find on YouTube. He said that Indigenous Affairs are involved in derailments and train incidents in Canada.

- VII. Adjournment-Next Meeting— February 24th, 2026 – Brett Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Randy Fouts seconded that motion, and the adjournment was approved by all.

Attendees:

John Dwyer-CCEMA
John Riegel-CCEMA
Brett Johnson-CFD
Randy Fouts-C-UMTD

Raymond Mucha-C-UPHD
Richard Williams-IEMA
Dshawn Herrera-CN