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Champaign County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 24th, 2026

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 10:30 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 the minutes from November 25, 2025 – Sherry Wooten motioned to approve the previous minutes, and Bill Hough 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 Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant. He explained we are in the first year of a three-year grant cycle. This grant will be funding his training session coming up in Colorado. Some other ideas the grant could be used for are possible computers for HAZMAT, reserve the aircraft training module, and coordinating that module with the airport drill three years from now. John Dwyer did reiterate the module would need to be requested at least a year in advance.
 2. John Dwyer delivered a recap of the training session held last Sunday Feb 22 at ILEAS. He stated Farmersville Fire Deputy Chief and Montgomery County Deputy Chief delivered a session explaining the 2023 I-55 Dust Storm Incident. They talked about the various problems and hurdles and complications they had to deal with, and lessons learned from that situation. John Dwyer reiterated we have had a few incidents locally with dust and smoke reducing visibility on roadways.

John Dwyer spoke about the commodity lists for the railroads in Champaign County and that we do have some very hazardous materials passing through our communities. One of the large commodities moving through the area are corrosives.
 3. John Dwyer stated the county is receiving Tier II reports. There are approx. 150 agencies reporting. Once those reports are collected and the data has been entered, a Google map will be sent out to the fire departments that will contain a list of chemicals at those identified locations.

V. Open Discussion and Wrap up

John Dwyer explained the new Warehouse Safety Act requiring all warehouses to have an emergency plan for severe weather. This comes because of the warehouse collapse following a tornado in Edwardsville that killed several people. Several businesses have submitted their plans, and Amazon will be having a tabletop exercise of their plan in March.

John Dwyer stated a new Illinois law has taken effect, The School Safety Act which requires them to have a plan for HazMat incidents. John has contacted the regional superintendent for schools but has not heard anything yet. He believed the state is supposed to roll out some guidelines this summer.

John Dwyer stated Ameren delivered their annual training last month for underground pipelines. We have a lot of products underground as well as on rail and surface transport.

Bill Hough shared some information about past incidents at their facility and that they practice their emergency plans on a regular basis. Brian Ball shared that CFD has toured their facility on Apollo Drive recently to familiarize company with the hazards present. Jenny shared Urbana Fire has toured their UNFI location on Lincoln Ave recently as well. John Dwyer reiterated it might be good to have the local police agencies involved with those tours as well.

John Dwyer shared that public safety planning for the April marathon has begun. Brian Ball stated radiological monitoring equipment will be deployed this year along with EMS crews supporting this event.

Brian Ball shared CFD is seeking approval to purchase a gas and vapor detection instrument. The device has a library of 5600 different chemicals and can sample multiple chemicals at the same time. He stated the purchase price of this instrument is approx. \$70,000 and will be the only device outside of Chicago.

Brian Ball shared that CFD has a stockpile of firefighting foam that needs to be disposed. The problem is the cost has escalated to \$70/gal and CFD has 1000 gallons. Brian explained he is trying to find alternatives to potentially lower the cost of disposal. Once the disposal of this foam is completed, the department will switch to two 275 foam totes.

Brian Ball shared he sits on a State Committee for HazMat through MABAS and that we have always sent personnel to a Midwest HazMat Conference in Northbrook for approx. 40 years. It has been announced this conference will no longer exist. MABAS is initial conversations on how to replace that conference and provide quality training opportunities.

John Dwyer reminded the group that farming season will begin soon and there will be a lot of farm implement/vehicles on the road. He stated the NTSB report from the Teutopolis Incident stated they were surprised by the amount of anhydrous ammonia transported around the area.

We know anhydrous is used frequently for farming and we see that often on the roadway locally.

VI. Adjournment-Next Meeting – June 30, 2026. Brian Ball made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Hough seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved by all.

Attendees:

John Dwyer – CCEMA

Brian Ball – CFD

Jason Madden – UI EM

Sarah Michaels – CUPHD

Jenny Nargelenes - UNFI

Brett Johnson – CFD/EM

Sherry Wooten – UI EM

Raymond Mucha – CUPHD

Bill Hough – UNFI