

Local Emergency Planning Committee

November 1, 2011

Cherokee County Local Emergency Planning Committee monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairwoman Holly Capron.

Members in attendance were:

Judy Leighty – LEPC Treasurer

Larry Hiatt – Columbus News – Report

Mary Burke – St. John’s Maude Norton Hospital

Art Mallory – Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office / Emergency Management

Holly Capron – Cherokee County L.E.P.C.

Wayne Elliott – Cherokee County 911 and Mapping

Dusty Groves – Cherokee County Emergency Management / Health Department / C.E.R.T.

Jason Allison – Cherokee County Emergency Management

Betha Elliott – Cherokee County Health Department

Carl Hayes – Cherokee County Health Department

Art Blick – Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.)

David Groves – Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office

Toni Speith – Cherokee County C.E.R.T.

Jim Mitchell – Hallowell Manufacturing

Terry Clugston – Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office

Dr. Kurtis Gregory – Columbus Vet Clinic

Gene Bates – HAM radio operator

Mr. Jim Mitchell, with Hallowell Manufacturing, presented a short video outlining the proper precautions to take with an incident involving explosive materials. Mr. Mitchell

also stated that their corporation primarily ships 1.1 explosives followed by 1.5 grade explosives. They also receive 1.3 grade explosives at their plant.

Sheriff David Groves updated the organization with the Drug Take Back Event, which was held on Saturday, October 29, 2011 in Columbus, Galena and Baxter Springs. In total, 168 pounds of unused or expired medications were collected and turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for proper disposal.

It was also noted that Cherokee County has held three drug take back events over the past year and a half with more than 425 pounds of medications collected.

There was also discussion about an upcoming training exercise being conducted by Empire District Electric Company. Several agencies at the LEPC meeting plan to attend and participate.

Emergency Manager Jason Allison discussed the three year plan that was created at last month's meeting. Director Allison also disseminated the plan to all those in attendance this month.

Total ticket sales for the storm shelter raffle were \$2,200.00. The remaining cost of the shelter has been paid by Carpino Ford. The winner of the shelter was Bill DeHart.

Director Allison also updated the group of the Mother Road Marathon, which was held on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and the Halloween Safe Walk that was held in Columbus on October 31, 2011.

Both events were held without any reported problems.

It was also noted that the City of Roseland will be hosting an open house for their new community storm shelter on November 1, 2011, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Director Allison advised the LEPC that they had received approval to go forward with the 10 storm sirens for the county. Bids will go out on November 2, 2011.

Cherokee County Health Department Administrator Betha Elliott stated that 110 flu shots were administered during their recent drive-thru flu clinic. That was an impressive response considering that the Health Department had already given over 800 flu shots prior to the event.

Administrator Elliott also mentioned that there will be a flood exercise in Ft. Scott on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, starting at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Larry Hollis will be giving a presentation on Agri-Terrorism at the Cherokee County 4-H Building.

Administrator Elliott also discussed radiation issues that may affect Cherokee County. She noted that not only the hospitals, vet clinics and dentists offices may deal with

radiation issues stemming from x-rays, but also noted that several manufacturing plants in Cherokee County use the same methods in their production process.

Even more discussion was given to affects of short term and long term exposure to radiation.

Gene Bates, who has significant experience with radioactive materials, and was present at the meeting, was able to provide some insight regarding potential threats of radiological and biological means.

Cherokee County Community Emergency Response Team Coordinator Art Blick advised the group that CERT was involved in the recent E-WASTE project and would be attending Safety Officer Training during the week of November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Carl Hayes, with the Cherokee County Health Department was able to provide the LEPC with additional information on the recent E-WASTE project. Mr. Hayes reported that 12,000 pounds of waste was collected, with a total from all recent E-WASTE collection events in Cherokee County bringing in over 77,000 pounds.

The next regularly scheduled LEPC meeting will be held on December 6, 2011 at noon.