



Shire of Northam

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MINUTES

LEMC MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2008 AT FESA HOUSE 79 NEWCASTLE ROAD, NORTHAM COMMENCING AT 10:00AM

1. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance

Bert Llewellyn	Chairperson	Shire of Northam
Linton Mincherton		FESA
Yvette Grigg		FESA
Phil Swain		Shire of Northam
Jeanne Lawler		Main Roads WA
Ulo Rumjantsev		Shire of Northam
Ron van Welie		Shire of Northam
Peter McLean		Wheatbelt Police
Greg McDonald		Wheatbelt Police
Colin Brown		FESA
Julie Brown		FESA, SES &DCP
Steven Douglas		SJA
Drew Richardson		SJA
Bronwyn Pitter		Northam Hospital
Alan Kietzmann		DEC

Apologies

Phil Steven	Shire of Northam
Harry Lauk	Dept of Agriculture & Food
Jennifer Lee	Department of Health
Dave Flaherty	Northam Police
George Tiedke	Western Power
Terry Brooks	Department of Water

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting open at 10:07am.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 August 2008 were acknowledged by the Chairperson.

Moved: Yvette Grigg

Seconded: Linton Mincherton

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Julie Brown advised that she had forwarded apologies for the last meeting and was not receiving minutes and agenda's as the contact for the Department of Child Protection. Phil Swain to update contact details for Phil Steven.

4. UPDATES – MEMBER LISTING

The separate sheets for Committee Members, and the broader list of Contacts were circulated during the meeting for updating. The amended listings are circulated with these minutes.

5. General Business

Desktop Exercise – Bushfire Incident

Colin Brown gave a brief overview of the legislative requirements for the LEMC and the formation of an Incident Management Group in response to an incident of the type described.

Colin Brown outlined a scenario where 3 fires have broken out - 1 near Toodyay (800 hectares), 1 North East of Northam (600 hectares) and 1 at Grass Valley (1200 Hectares). FESA and local fire services have responded and are fighting the 2 fires within the Northam region. A request to establish an Incident Management Group has been made to the LEMC Coordinator. Recovery and Welfare Committees will also need to be established as the incident progresses. The following is a general summary of issues presented and discussions regarding the scenario.

Incident/Task Description	Notes from Response Discussions
10am, Formation of IMG and identifying Incident Manager	General discussion regarding FESA formation of Incident Coordination. It was resolved that Police would chair the IMG and membership would include Shire, Health Department, Police MRD, Hospital, Water Corp, Western Power, DCP, SES, St John Ambulance, DEC, FESA.
Toodyay – Northam Road Closed & Great East Hwy Closed Bypass at Northam	FESA has capacity to close roads, not to approve redirection of traffic, Concerns were expressed about liability issues with traffic management.

and smoke effecting secondary roads between highway and Town	Scenario. Traffic planning may take a number of hours. Main Roads would assign contractors for Highway Traffic Management. Shire would be reluctant to undertake traffic management without independent contract advice.
Fire Spread to Rubbish Tip setting fire to tyres. Black smoke moving over town and affecting hospital and FESA office	Shire would use earthmoving equipment to control fire. Hospital equipped with air flow control to prevent entry to air handling systems. Should be controllable. It would be necessary to notify DEC relating to the licence conditions for the site, with that agency going on standby to investigate pollution (air monitoring etc) from the fire. Discussion regarding media response and appropriate action and spokesperson.
Advice that the Toodyay fire is now in the National Park	This would require various inter-agency involvement e.g. DEC but does not influence the activities of the IMG
The 3 fires could link up within the next 3 hours	Whilst this increases the scale of the incident it is predominantly an issue for FESA and fire brigades in responding to the fires themselves
The water supply from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie could be jeopardised due to an electrical fault	This would require various inter-agency involvement e.g. Western Power but does not influence the activities of the IMG at this stage. Longer term water supply issues could invoke other Act provisions
4 serious burn victims and 10 fire fighters suffering heat exhaustion are being brought to the hospital	This would require recall to duty of all Hospital emergency staff and additional ambulance provision. This would be handled by St Johns Ambulance. The burns cases would probably be beyond the capacity of the hospital and helicopter or other transfer to Perth may be needed. Issues such as visibility, alternate routes for vehicles etc would need to be considered. Predominantly agency roles.
Westnet Rail have a train within the area carrying hazardous chemicals and with zero visibility due to smoke	Westnet response should have prevented any trains moving into the area affected by smoke. This may result in DEC involvement and liaison with Westnet Rail. All freight movements would need to be stopped further east at Cunderdin or Meckering. With the magnitude of the incident it would be necessary for the SEMCC to meet by this stage and issues such as longer term effects on freight movement and media response in accordance with WESPLAN.
The Tip site has caught fire again and is causing a large plume of black smoke to move over Town	Operationally this would probably result in the tip being treated as a separate HAZMAT incident. FESA Shire and DEC involvement needed to manage incident IMG response may be needed to assist advice to residents
Stock losses including badly	Liaison with Rangers, Farmers and Police to shoot

injured animals are reported	affected animals may be required and veterinary assistance if necessary
The Minister has requested a report on recovery plans	IMG would need to seek input from Recovery Committee and Welfare Committee to report to the Minister
Dead stock have been reported in the Avon River	This would require some inter-agency involvement e.g. Shire Rangers if possible but does not directly influence the activities of the IMG
20 People from Grass Valley need to be evacuated including primary school aged children an infant and aged persons	IMG would need to seek assistance of Welfare Committee regarding suitable facilities in the Plan. Issues may include child safety and protection, religious, racial etc. It may be necessary to use several facilities to meet all needs.
3 Unidentified Males found dead in burnt out vehicle. Members of public present wanting to know what has happened, who they are.	This is a Police matter and media liaison needs to be handled with care. It is likely that identification will take some time and bodies will have to be referred to Perth for autopsy.
Avon Valley Residency – May need evacuating with 20 wheelchair bound and 20 stretchered residents	This would be a major evacuation exercise and would require significant coordination. Reference to the welfare plan to review available beds in outlying hospitals.

The exercise finished with an overview of the outcomes and members submitting a feedback relating to the same.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was tabled by the St John Ambulance relating to an inter-agency multi casualty exercise proposed for November. The exercise will involve Police FESA Northam Hospital and possible SES and will be conducted at the air-strip

7. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting will be held on the tentative date of 10 March 2009 at a venue to be confirmed.

Proposal for that meeting include;

- i) Inviting someone from the Avon Descent Committee to next LEMC meeting, to discuss their Emergency Plans.
- ii) Evacuation Plans – Aged Residencies.

Julie Brown and Bronwyn Pitter requested that they be included in any discussions relating to evacuation plans for the aged care facilities.

9. CLOSE

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and Colin Brown for his contribution in running the desktop exercise.

The meeting closed at 12.16pm.