

The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting Minutes - October 8, 2012 - 6:00 p.m. City Hall, 1840 Second Street Columbia City, Oregon 97018

Members Present:

Gary Hudson, Acting Vice-Chair
Richard Leanna
Kelly Niles
Michael McGlothlin, Chief of Police
Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder

Guests Present:

Ron Youngberg, Division Chief, Columbia River Fire & Rescue

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 pm

Emergency Response and Preparation Discussion - Chemical Events: The Group discussed a September 14, 2012 ammonia release at the Dyno Nobel facility, and the impact it had upon Columbia City residents on the east side of Highway 30. The Group also reviewed the ammonia release reports Dyno Nobel has filed with the EPA since 2005. Chief McGlothlin has submitted a request to the 9-1-1 Center for records associated with past ammonia reports, and those records should be available for the next meeting.

The Group discussed emergency response procedures and past response experiences with Chief Youngberg at length, and focused on some improvements that are still needed in terms of communications, access, and coordination during reportable chemical release events.

The group also discussed the special challenges that would be associated with a significant chemical event, such as how to get the word out to the public to evacuate the area, or to stay put and shelter in place, with only a few minutes to

spare in the event of a significant chemical release.

The Group discussed other significant events involving anhydrous ammonia that have occurred, such as the train derailment in Minot, North Dakota and the chemical explosions in Henderson, Nevada. Vice-Chair Hudson suggested that those communities may have learned some lessons and implemented some things as a result of their past experiences that would be helpful to us.

Leahnette said Alicia Kahl, Environmental Coordinator for Dyno Nobel, has offered to attend a meeting with representatives from Public Health, the Fire Department and Columbia City to review plume modeling that was done for the Dyno Nobel facility, and to resume discussions about coordinating an emergency response exercise. It was the consensus of the Group that Leahnette coordinate a meeting with Alicia.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.