

# The City of Columbia City

*In Columbia County on the Columbia River*



**Hazard Mitigation Planning Group  
Meeting Minutes - November 19, 2012 - 6:00 p.m.  
Dyno Nobel Training Facility  
63149 Columbia River Highway**

**Members Present:**

Josh Fromm, Team Leader  
Gary Hudson  
Richard Leanna  
Frank Hupp  
Jay Tappan, Fire Chief  
Ron Youngberg, Division Chief  
Lorne Clark, Plant Manager  
Alicia Kahl, Environmental Coordinator  
Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder

**Emergency Response and Preparation Discussion - Chemical Events:** Alicia walked the group through a Power Point presentation that provided a brief overview of the Dyno Nobel facility, their safety procedures and equipment, the chemicals they use, the products they manufacture, and the health effects of ammonia. The presentation included some chemical release scenarios - the first was a worst case scenario, and the second was an alternative case scenario - also known as a more likely scenario. Alicia said both scenarios were modeled using criteria established by the EPA with regard to the release quantity, height of the release, time of day, ambient temperature, wind speed, duration of the release, etc.

Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of the CAN system because many households no longer have landlines, and citizens need to specifically register their cell phones with the CAN system in order to receive the message. In addition, many people screen their calls using caller ID and won't answer their phones if they don't recognize the number, which results in the CAN message dumping into a voicemail box. Members agreed that the CAN system appears to

no longer be an effective way of notifying citizens quickly in the event of an emergency. Leahnette said a siren system may be the most effective method of notification.

Division Chief Youngberg said there are also some communication gaps between Dyno Nobel, 9-1-1 and the Fire Department that need to be addressed. Specifically, 9-1-1 needs to always notify the Fire Department in the event of any reportable release, and someone from Dyno Nobel needs to be appointed as a point of contact to communicate with the emergency responders when they arrive on scene. The group agreed to work on communication improvements. The group also discussed moving forward with planning a table top emergency response exercise involving an anhydrous ammonia release from the plant.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.