



# Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2026

The April 2, 2026 meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held in Room 103 at the Lancaster Public Safety Training Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:03PM by Vice Chairperson Duane Ober. The following were in attendance in-person or via Zoom as noted:

## **Members:**

Zach Gibbons, Lancaster County Dept. of Public Safety – In Person  
Gary Verna, Lebanon County Dept. of Emergency Services – In Person  
Duane Ober (Vice Chairperson), Warwick Emergency Services Commission – In Person  
Eric Bachman, Manheim Township Fire Rescue – In Person  
Christopher DeLong, Lancaster City Bureau of Fire – In Person  
Brett Fassnacht, Lancaster County Dept. of Public Safety – In Person  
Michael Zimmerman, Lancaster County Dept. of Public Safety – In Person  
Ken Weber, Lancaster County Dept. of Public Safety – In Person  
Meredith Jorgensen, WGAL TV8 – Virtual Attendance  
Jay Baringer, Lancaster County Safety Council – Virtual Attendance

## **Guests:**

Randy Gockley, Ephrata Borough Emergency Management Agency  
Frank Splain, Jr., Susquehanna Regional Emergency Management Agency  
Paul Laucks, Susquehanna Regional Emergency Management Agency  
Dan Brown, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority  
Paloma Bolt, Lancaster City Bureau of Fire  
Kyle Wylezik, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Craig Elmer, Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center  
Jason Weikel, Lebanon County Department of Emergency Services  
Todd Hutchinson, Lancaster City Bureau of Fire  
Courtney Cleary, Lancaster County Department of Public Safety  
Delaney Wenger, Lancaster County Department of Public Safety

In accordance with Sunshine Law provisions, the meeting agenda was posted on the Emergency Management website on Monday, March 30, 2026, and a hard copy was posted in the main training center hallway on Monday, March 30, 2026. The meeting proceeded as follows:

1. **Previous Meeting Minutes** – The meeting packet included the February 5, 2026 LEPC Meeting Minutes. The minutes were voted on and approved via email vote by February 19th.
2. **Chemical Reporting and Planning Status** - Zach Gibbons provided a Chemical Reporting and Planning update. The report included the following:
  - a. **SARA Title III Planning Updates** –No changes since February’s meeting.
  - b. **New Planning Facility(ies)** – No changes since February’s meeting.
  - c. **Facility Plan Reactivation** – No changes since February’s meeting.
  - d. **Facility Deletions** – None
  - e. **Boarder County Updates** – No changes since February’s meeting.
  - f. **SARA Facility Status (Current):**

<b>Total Active Facilities</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>Total Plans Approved (Local)</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Total Plans Approved (State)</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Border County Plans</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Border County Plans Approved</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Off-Site Planning Sites</b>	<b>218</b>

**g. Tier II – 2026 as of 03/26/2026:**

<b>Non-Exempt Facilities Reporting</b>	<b>382</b>
<b>Chemicals Assessed</b>	<b>1199 (1167 billable)</b>
<b>Total Fees Assessed</b>	<b>\$99,900</b>
<b>Total Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$21,400</b>

- h. **Special Hazard Off-site Consequence (SHOC) Plans** – Zach advised that there were no changes or updates regarding the SHOC Plans. Below are the SHOC Statistics.

<b>New SHOC Plans</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>SHOC Plan Updates</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>SHOC Plan Status</b>	
<b>LPG Identified Facilities</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>LFG SHOC Plans LEPC Approved</b>	<b>9</b>

3. **Environmental Inquiries and Notices** – Zach Gibbons reported on Open Records

Requests from Environmental Consultants seeking hazardous chemical storage and incident history of properties as part of phased studies for property acquisition. The meeting packet included a list of 30 requests processed since the February LEPC meeting.

4. **Downstream Water Use Notifications** received from facilities that met the notification criteria under the PA Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act of 1989, three new notifications were received since the February Meeting.
5. **HazMat Incidents** –
  - a. Haz Mat Responses -Jason Weikel reported on the hazmat responses that occurred since the February meeting. He reported that there was one call for service, and he outlined the incident response.
  - b. Extremely Hazardous Substance Releases – No releases since February
6. **HazMat Readiness** –
  - a. **HazMat Team Operational Update** – Gary Verna reported that the team completed their HazMat Tech Refresher last month. Gary discussed that a first draft of a mutual aid agreement with Lancaster City Bureau of Fire has been sent to Lancaster City for review. No financials were given due to the lack of calls.
7. **Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center Training Update** – The meeting packet included the 2026 HazMat training spreadsheet with completed classes and roster totals as well as the remaining programs for the year. Ken reported that the HazMat Tech class is still available to register for through the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy.
8. **Old Business** –
  - a. **LEPC Summit** – Zach reported that the LEPC Summit went well and was well attended. The date of February 18, 2027 was suggested as the date for the next summit.
  - b. **Strategic Planning Project** – The kickoff meeting is complete. The process of collecting the requested documentation for the vendor has begun. The project is still on it's timeline.
9. **New Business** –
  - a. **Lunch for Wet Chemistry Class** – Zach made a motion to cover lunch for the Wet Chemistry Class on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The request was for \$1,000 to cover lunch for the students attending the class. The motion was made by Michael Zimmerman and seconded by Eric Bachman. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. **Invoice for Lebanon HazMat Tech Refresher** – Zach presented the invoice for the HazMat Tech Refresher for Lebanon County HazMat. The motion was made by Zach Gibbons to pay for half of the course (\$1,637.50) and seconded by Brett Fassnacht. The motion passed unanimously. Ken Weber and Gary Verna Abstained from voting.
  - c. **Invoice for Lebanon Retainer Fee and Meter Calibration** – Zach presented the invoice that was for Lebanon HazMat's retainer fee and the calibration and maintenance of one of Lancaster's meters. The total for the invoice was \$4,407.32. \$3,333.33 for retainer fees, \$511.84 for administrative fees, and \$562.15 for meter calibration. The motion was made by Eric and seconded by Brett Fassnacht to pay the invoice in its entirety. The motion passed unanimously. Gary Verna abstained from voting.
  - d. **Approval for the HazMat DO Truck Upfit** – Zach presented the upfit of one of the Department of Public Safety's owned pickup trucks to turn it into a HazMat Utility vehicle that would be more suitable for response of Lancaster County Department

of Public Safety qualified staff. Part of the money for this project is in the Hazardous Materials Response Fund (HMRF) grant (\$6,472). The remainder would come from the HazMat Escrow. The total project is not to exceed \$30,000. The motion was made by Gary Verna and seconded by Brett Fassnacht. The motion passed unanimously.

- e. Training Meter Project for HMRF 2026/2027** – Craig Elmer presented on the need to purchase new training meters for hazmat training for first responders. Craig presented the best options for the County, which were the ARG Multigas Simulator and the Senselt Training meter. Craig sought to have these projects added to the grant funding for the upcoming year. The motion was made by Eric Bachman and seconded by Chris DeLong. The motion passed unanimously.
- 10. Public Comment** – Randy Gockley inquired about the role of DEP and spill reporting from the fire department perspective. The LEPC discussed the topic of reporting. The need for improved dispatch protocols was recommended.
- 11. Next Meeting/Schedule** – June 4, 2026, 1PM at Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center
- 12. Adjourn** – Motion made by Duane Ober and seconded by Todd Kirkpatrick

  - a.** The meeting concluded at 1:50 PM.