

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
REGION III
Minutes

Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 1400 hours

Butte County DESS

765 East Avenue

Chico CA, 95926

- I. **Call to Order** – Gary Cantwell, Chair – 1400 hours
 - a. Introductions in-person attendees
 - b. Rowen (first), Purvis (second) moved to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.

- II. **CalOES Update – Brian Mancebo of CalOES-HazMat Unit.**
 - a. Spill regulations draft sent to EPA for review
 - b. Following several proposed bills in legislature related to lithium-ion batteries including AB 1285, AB 696, AB 855, SB 234
 - c. Erika created a request for additional 2024 ERG orders
 - d. Continuing Challenge is September 2-5 in Sacramento. Grants are still available if interested in attending.
 - e. HMEP grant update: Funding approved for three years; however, due to late notice the state was unable to process subgrant applications. Instead, locals are encouraged to utilize CSTI training that was funded. Extensions to older grant years have been approved and notified sub applicants.

- III. **LEPC Region III membership**
 - a. Gary discussed vacancies including Public Health. Gary will reach out to the proposed Public Health staff to see if they are interested.

- IV. **Subcommittee Reports- Gary Cantwell**
 - A. CSTI Training – Chief Fry
 - a. Chief Fry introduced a new member of the staff, Mike, who will be organizing fire training needs. Mike is experienced in hazmat. He will be working on a training needs assessment that will support the planning cycle.
 - b. The following functional areas will be supported through training: Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Maritime HazMat, ICS, Swift Water flood.
 - B. Upcoming Regional Training
 - a. Jennifer reported that the RDMHS program is scheduling several regional trainings including Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT), railroad hazmat with Union Pacific, and Medical Health Operations Center Support Activities (MHOCSA). MHOCSA is scheduled for August 11 & 12 in Sutter County. For more information on these trainings, contact Jennifer James or Mary Thomas at SSV-EMS.
 - C. Regional HazMat Response Teams
 - o Butte County HazMat (Patrick Purvis) - Nothing to report
 - o Shasta-Cascade HazMat Response Team (Jay Sumerlin) – Not present

- Jasen, Cal-OES, brought up an incident in Siskiyou that involved hazmat on a marijuana grow resulting in several law enforcement personnel ill and taken to area hospitals. SCHMRT did not respond. He will follow up with Chief Tobias regarding the incident.
- Yuba-Sutter HazMat Response Team (Gary Cantwell) – Nothing to report

V. Agency Reports

- A. **CalOES** (Inland Region) – Robert Goyeneche
 - a. Introduced Shane Emery who has joined the Inland staff. He will be the ESC for Butte and Sutter counties.
 - b. Moderate fires in the northern portion of the region in remote areas.
 - c. Robert further discussed the hazmat on the marijuana grow in Siskiyou. The chemicals encountered were not labeled, foreign. They have been unable to identify them, and it is making it difficult to treat the illness in the exposed law enforcement. The unlabeled, foreign chemicals at grows are being utilized across the state.
- B. **Industry** (Railroad/PG&E) – (UP Railroad)
 - a. Annual inspections of railcars assist with holding shippers accountable for the contents. So far, 4600 cars have been inspected this year. The annual goal is to inspect 5600 cars.
 - b. On July 2, 2025, there was a derailment of 7 cars in Butte County. The cars were holding grain. The cleanup took approximately 30 hours.
- C. **California Highway Patrol** – (CHP) Not present
- D. **Transportation** – (Mike Norton-Cal-Trans) Not present
- E. **Dept. of Toxic Substances Control** – (Brian Abeel-DTSC) Not present
- F. **Regional Water Quality Control Board** – (George Low-RWQCB) Not present
- G. **OSPR** – (Hailey Cole-Ca DFW-OSPR) Not present
- H. **S-SV EMS** – (Jennifer James-S-SV EMS)
 - a. Several rural hospitals are working to restart their Hospital Emergency Response Teams for decontamination response. The hospitals are conducting trainings and replacing outdated equipment.
- I. **Tribal** – (CalOES Tribal Coordination) Not present
- J. **Military** – (Quentin Graham, Sierra Army Depot/Eric Maresh, Beale Air Force Base) No Report
- K. **CUPA Board** – (Gary Cantwell-Yuba Co. Environmental Health/CUPA)
 - a. Discussed metal shredders regulation bill. No metal shredders in our region.
- L. **Homeland Security** – Not present
- M. **Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center** – Not present
- N. **Ca Dept of Public Health** – (CDPH)
 - a. Environmental Health will be conducting the ETHER Awareness Training in Lakeport (Lake County October 7 and 8, 2025, and two ETHER courses in Fresno November 3-6, 2025. A ETHER Ex functional exercise is being developed and scheduled for March 2026, likely in Napa County.
- O. **CalEPA** – (Allison Wilder-CalEPA)
 - a. Cal-EPA continues to support the recovery from the LA Fires and the Moss Landing incidents.
 - b. Cal-EPA is available to assist Yolo County with the fireworks incident.
 - c. Developing a flyer to further promote the Continuing Challenge.

VI. Chairperson's Report

- a. Gary reported that he will be stepping down from the position of LEPC Chair. Gary was thanked for his service and dedication to the region by several participants.
- b. A new representative from a local agency is needed to take over the role of LEPC chair. *Any nominees should reach out to Vice-Chair, Amy Travis, or Reuben Armenta/Robert Goyeneche, Cal-OES.*

VII. Public Comments - None

VIII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at Red Bluff Community Center at 1400 hours

IX. Adjournment 1445 hours