

LEPC 2018 Report

Pat LaVelle

During 2018, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met four times and completed various grant requirements in the process. The LEPC, which consists of emergency responders, businesses, healthcare, and media completed hazardous materials off-site response plans for ten organizations, revised our hazardous materials strategic plan, and were fortunate to see several demonstrations from Eau Claire Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Response Team. Eau Claire Fire Department is one of two Type 1 HazMat teams in Wisconsin and receives assistance from the LEPC and Emergency Management via a grant for computer and hazardous materials equipment.

In addition to the tasks mentioned above, the LEPC was made aware of a variety of hazardous materials training opportunities that occurred throughout Eau Claire County. This includes the annual pipeline safety training in April 2018, a functional exercise with the City of Altoona and Union Pacific Railroad, an internal drill that was conducted by Hutchinson Tech, and various incident command courses that are offered annually.

As 2019 continues, the LEPC is excited to have our first ever media member on the committee! We hope that having this role filled will help us find creative ways to promote the LEPC and identify outcomes from hazardous materials events throughout the country and better relate it to how Eau Claire will handle an incident. The committee remains short of full membership which leads to struggles with meeting quorum especially when traveling outside of the City of Eau Claire, but the members that are on the committee remain extremely engaged with everything we do.