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Champaign County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 30th, 2026
Location: ILEAS Boardroom
1701 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802
Time: 10:30 AM

- I. Welcome and Introductions – The meeting was called to order at 10:32 AM by John Dwyer.
- II. Public Comment – There was no public comment as there was no one from the public at the meeting.
- III. Review and approval of the minutes from February 24, 2026, Sarah Michaels motioned to approve the previous minutes, and Craig Maulden seconded that motion. The minutes were approved by all.
- IV. Local Incidents, Training, Exercises, and Upcoming Events Discussion.
 1. John Dwyer talked about the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant. He said we do have it; however, the county is on the do not pay list because the audit had been delayed. It was done two weeks ago but it has not been cleared by the state. Once we are cleared, we can start billing towards the grant. Through the railroad we can pay back fill overtime for fire fighters when they go out to training in Pueblo, Colorado. It does require a lot of documentation but it's something that can be done. He said he had talked with Brain Ball about funding exercises, although it's very restrictive on what we can do with it but there is different training that can be done. It's roughly \$6,000-\$7,000, and we did have in years past enough funding to bring in the aircraft simulation hazmat trainer for the airport exercise in 2028. He will talk with the fire chief, John Cumbee, and see if he wants to do that.
 2. a. John Dwyer talked about local incidents, Rantoul Foods had a "pig spill", a few oil spills, and Champaign Fire has not responded outside of the county that he was aware of. He said we were lucky that we have not had any hazmat related to any of the storms that we have had.
b. On March 10-12th he went to Pueblo, Colorado for Unified command workshop with state, federal, local and railroad entities. They went out to the training site where their mock train derailment that he had seen before. They are looking at better ways to communicate incident command structure and things to look for in a railroad incident. He said it was a good three days and learned more about grant funding, backfills and potential funding down the road.

- c. CN was going to do their first responder training in May but with all the storms it will be pushed back to August at some time.
3. He said that the Tier II reports have been shared with all the county fire chiefs.

V. Open Discussion and Wrap up

Luke Legate from Exxon Mobile talked about an online training course pipeline safety course that is for certification that is 100% free. They also send a lot of fire fighters to TEEX at College Station, Texas, where they do a two-day pipeline training course and they have grants to get the fire fighters down there. Once they get to TEEX they take care of the hotel and meal costs. They do about four courses a year and bring in people from as far away as Canada. The next course will be offered in September. John Dwyer then invited him to the local fire chief's meeting to share this information. Champaign county has the second largest gathering of pipelines in the states. John Dwyer then asked Craig Maulden how the exercise went at Rantoul Foods the previous month. Craig said it went fairly well, mostly the issue was with the alarm system in the facility. John Dwyer then said he knows UNFI would like to do an exercise and Jenny Nargelenas said they are required to do a full-scale drill by March 15th, 2027, and they have two sites. John said that Brad Miller's company, First Pro, does exercises using AI and is more than happy to help. John asked about facility safety with the storms and Jenny mentioned that the tornado that came close to the facility and took part of a roof from a neighboring facility that ended up in their lot. They have had to shelter in place multiple times and they have an aging system at the Urbana site. They have amplified megaphones they can use if the system does not work. John said the tornado was not identified as a tornado until the national weather service came out to investigate. John also talked about a system that can be tied into a PA system to send alert messages in a facility. He mentioned companies that can help set up a system to alert people via phones and voice over internet. Brad mentioned that he could add a cost for improvements to the tabletop exercise that would help with the notification system issues. Brad also mentioned the new Warehouse Safety Act requiring all warehouses to have an emergency plan for severe weather. Jenny also wants to re-evaluate where they should shelter during a tornado. John discussed safe locations that should be thought of for sheltering locations and the reasons behind those. Aaron Miller said he has talked with Brian Ball and will get with him after the holidays for a walk-through tour of the facility. John mentioned that employees could download the FEMA app that would alert them to severe weather, which might help if employees were allowed to have their phones on them during work hours. Susan Monte talked about the phased plan to work with grant funds for household hazardous waste collection facility. That process may take one to two years and there is a glimmer of hope for a federal source of funding in the future. The timeline might be 2028-2029 for such a facility. Susan asked John about the grant for the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. John said that FEMA is starting to pull the funding for the plans. Champaign county's plan expired December 2025, but John put in for multiple grant programs to update the plan and got word earlier in June that the grant has been awarded but the County is still on the do not pay list. John mentioned that he made the county aware that this is an issue and that funding may get pulled due to the audit situation. John continues to look for other grants that could be utilized. Brad Miller shared that the Weather-Wise app is a good app that has a robust alerting system. There is a free version or a \$10 a month version with live streaming capabilities. John Dwyer talked about Rantoul Foods not having to shut down during COVID and the mess that it would have caused otherwise. CUPHD

assisted with PPE for the facility which allowed them to continue to operate. Craig mentioned that the Village of Rantoul shut off their power over the weekend and they are still shut down due to the damage that caused. John suggested talking directly to the Village Administrator and not to public works. Brad offered to work with Craig on a tabletop exercise that would help the Village of Rantoul realize the impact on the economy that the power issues cause for Rantoul Foods.

Adjournment-Next Meeting – September 29th, 2026. Sarah Michaels made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenny Nargelenas seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved by all, 11:03.

Attendees:

John Dwyer – CCEMA

Brad Miller – CCSAR/First Pro

Sarah Michaels – CUPHD

Aaron Miller – Kraft Heinz

Craig Maulden – Rantoul Foods

John Riegel – CCEMA

Luke Legate – Exxon Mobile

Raymond Mucha – CUPHD

Jenny Nargelenas – UNFI

Susan Monte – CCES