

Broome County
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
LEPC MEETING MINUTES
10/16/2025

- Introduction of guests/new members

Attendees:

In Person: Jules Cole, Cait Cavanaugh, Cortni Williams, Dave Eddy, Joshua Nytech, Sierra Kunig, Michael Bender, Gloryangeliz Lugo-Vazquez, Pam Rexter

Online: Kim Saunders, Garrick Henry, Lisa Knewasser, Mike Heide, Dave Tinklepaugh

Guest/New Member: Chris Lupold

- Approval of minutes 8/21/2025: Motion Joshua Nytech, 2nd Sierra Kunig
- New Email Address to contact LEPC: broomelepc@broomecountyny.gov
- Correspondence /Announcements

Old Business

1) Drills and Training Schedule 2025 – Updates and New Events

- *Asset Distribution Exercise – Health Dept/Emergency Services – **Date?** Still Working on this date.*
- Citizen Preparedness Event on October 20th at 2:00 PM
- NYS Mass Casualty Incident Tabletop at the Broome County Health Department on Oct. 22nd
- NYSEG Full Scale Active Shooter Exercise on November 1st
- COAD Tabletop on November 6th
- Broome County Engineering- DAM Failure Tabletop on December 2nd
- *Further details on all courses listed above as well as registration can be found on the DHSES Learning Management System (LMS).*
<https://lmsportal-dhses.ny.gov/AcadisViewer/Login.aspx>

2) Committee Updates:

- **Health, Human and Animal Needs** – Meeting held on 9/18/2025 – Jules Cole (New Chair for the Committee)
 - Monitoring HIV cases, they have seen an increase recently. The health department has been working closely with the State on the monitoring.
 - Broome County has 2 active cases of TB, again working closely with the State and other agencies on the monitoring.
 - Loan Closet at STIC- County departments visiting their facility to know what they can provide during an incident.
- **Drill Planning Committee** – After Action Report – any updates
 - No Updates, nothing was received back on the after-action report. Everything has been completed with the TTX exercise that took place on June 12th. We will start meeting again in the near future for the next exercise.

New Business

3) Amrex wants to donate a tanker for training purposes. MC312, 5,000-gallon tanker.

4) 2025 LEPC PLANS for Committees:

- **Public Safety (Will work on setting up this committee)**
- Health, Human, and Animal Needs
- **Infrastructure (Will work on setting up this committee)**
- Training/Exercises – Drills (Will only have meetings when working on an exercise)

5) Federal Government Shut-down: Effect on Services

- a. **Department of Homeland Security** – Small staff working?
- b. **EPA** – Employees on Furlough as of October 10
- c. **DOT – Continuing:**

- Hazardous materials accident investigations
- Inspections of hazmat shipper, carrier, and testing facilities (and others)
- Hazmat approvals and permits (Emergencies only)
- Payment of emergency preparedness grants
- Enforcement of the HMR, as necessary to address imminent hazards to life and property

DOT has stopped these activities as of October 1:

- Development of hazmat standards and rules
- Non-emergency hazmat approvals and permits
- Hazmat outreach and training grants
- The hazmat registration program and fee collections
- Certain hazardous materials grants for emergency responders and localities

d. **OSHA:** DOL is currently operating under a contingency plan which specifies the “essential” functions of OSHA that will be maintained during a shutdown. The plan limits OSHA enforcement to the following activities:

- Inspection of imminent danger situations;
- Inspection of workplace fatalities and catastrophes;
- Review of whistleblower complaints and subsequent referrals to an appropriate agency of any complaint that identifies a workplace or public safety and/or health condition that poses, or if not referred or acted upon, is reasonably likely to pose, an imminent threat to the safety of human life or the protection of property;
- Follow-up inspections of establishments with high-gravity, serious violations and no abatement; and
- Enforcement activities on open cases needed to meet the Agency’s six-month statutory deadline to issue citations where those cases establish employees are potentially exposed to hazardous conditions that present a high risk of death or serious physical harm.

All other non-essential operations, including ongoing rulemaking activities, cooperative programs, and other OSHA agency functions, will cease for the duration of the shutdown.

e. **National Weather Service:** They continue to function as normal when it comes to interagency meetings/decision support services to partners/etc. during the shutdown. Business as usual for all forecasting and warning operations. The only thing that is in a holding pattern is general public outreach and additional scheduling of Skywarns, which will still happen at some point.

- **NOAA Seasonal Outlook:** We have entered a "Weak La Niña" and this is expected to hold through the first half of winter/possibly fading during second half. Because it is weak, this means it will be just one of many factors and is unlikely to override other factors. We will be offering more details/webinars about our expectations locally for this winter; stay tuned for that. But overall, near normal temperatures and precipitation are anticipated this winter; past winters with a similar setup also suggest near or slightly below average seasonal snowfall. Lake effect could be very active again, like last winter.

- 6) **Upcoming Presentation – EPA to discuss LEPC requirements under the Risk Management Plan Regulations:** Scheduled for December 18, 2025 meeting instead of October due to Government Shutdown.
- Chris Lupold presented on what the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control has started a new risk reduction unit. Started in March of 2025.
 - Working on Fatal fires, what happened, and if there were smoke detectors present. They are working on a dashboard for the county to see, so we can see the tracking of numbers.
 - Also, looking at facilities that may have issues with smoke alarm calls, and doing some education could help.

Next Meeting: December 18, 2025, at Public Safety Facility (and Virtual)

Committee Meetings: November 20, 2025 - Health, Human, and Animal Needs