

Seminar Details

Seminar: Transportation Awareness – will involve transportation representatives giving presentations to attendees and will include Over-The-Road (OTR), Railroad, Pipelines, and Aviation. Operation LifeSaver is also part of the seminar.

Location: TBD, Wichita KS

Facilitators: Led by transportation representatives, moderated by LEPC and Emergency Management leadership.

Audience: All members of the LEPC, concerned citizens of Sedgwick County

Workshop Details

Workshop: Attendees will receive presentations with hands on training regarding Emergency Planning, Exercise Overview, and Continuity of Operations. A packet containing helpful tools will be provided to attendees. A morning and afternoon session is expected due to the anticipated number of attendees.

Location: Wesley Medical Center, Wichita KS

Facilitators: Monitored and directed by Emergency Management and LEPC leadership best qualified to discuss topics.

Audience: All members of the LEPC, concerned citizens of Sedgwick County

Tabletop Exercise Details

Background Information

This scenario is based within the Sedgwick County area of South Central Kansas. It is designed as such to be reasonably possible at a location near any identified business operating within the county. The scenario, as it progresses, will be formulated such that any representative present during the tabletop will be able to adapt their location to meet the requirements of the event.

Incident Scenario

It is 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 2. The temperature is a mild 68 degrees, and the wind is from the south-southwest at 5 miles per hour, both of which are unusual for this time of year. Many of the residents are outside enjoying the nice weather. Children at the nearby Elementary School are enjoying outdoor recess time.

MESSAGE 1

The Communications Center has just received a call from the security guard at the water treatment plant. There has been a release of chlorine outside the facility. The alarm is sounding. The security guard at the plant does not know if the release is contained and tells the dispatcher that employees are evacuating.

MESSAGE 2

The first fire company arrives at the scene at 11:42 a.m. to find a cloud along the ground. The wind direction is taking the cloud toward the area near the participants business.

Firefighters notice that the building is placarded with an NFPA 704 Diamond with the markings 4-0-0. There is also an "OXY" in the white area of the diamond.

MESSAGE 3

It is now 11:54 a.m. The Incident Commander (IC) has talked to the water plant manager who confirms a leak in a 1-ton chlorine container. The container was punctured when a fork truck operator inadvertently struck it. The operator and two coworkers are unaccounted for. The elementary school principal calls to ask what is needed to protect the students, faculty, and staff.

The Communications Center has informed the IC that it has dispatched all available personnel. The estimated time of arrival for the HazMat team is 32 minutes.

MESSAGE 4

It is now 12 p.m. The wind speed has increased to 10 miles per hour and remains from the south-southwest.

Six evacuated workers are having trouble breathing and are complaining of burning of the eyes and throat.

Firefighters have reported that they can see that three persons are down in the cloud and appear to be unconscious.

MESSAGE 5

It is now 12:15 p.m., and the HazMat team arrives at the scene.

The chair of the County Commissioners arrives. The supervisor is concerned about the residents and contamination of the nearby river and ground water.

MESSAGE 6

By 12:30 p.m., media representatives begin arriving at the perimeter and are attempting to interview responders. They have requested a spokesperson from the fire department to meet them and appear on camera. They want to know the degree of danger to the school students, the people in the village, and livestock in the area.

The Communications Center has notified the IC that it is receiving numerous calls from downwind locations complaining of eye, nose, and throat irritation.

MESSAGE 7

It is 1:25 p.m. The chlorine cloud appears to be dissipating.

The crew at the elementary school reports a density of .4 part per million (ppm) of chlorine around the school. The concentration at the edge of the cold zone is .25 ppm.

A cleanup contractor has been called and is expected onsite in the morning.

MESSAGE 8

It is 3 p.m.

The bodies of the three workers at the plant have been retrieved. All others have been accounted for, treated, and released.

The National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts that a cold front will be passing through within the next several hours and with that will come a return to more normal temperatures. The wind is expected to shift to the northwest and increase to 15 to 20 miles per hour, dissipating the remaining chlorine.

Contaminant levels are now at .15 ppm throughout the area.

Location: Sedgwick County Extension Office or Wesley Medical Center, Wichita KS

Facilitators: Monitored and directed by Emergency Management and LEPC leadership best qualified to discuss topics.

Audience: All members of the LEPC, concerned citizens of Sedgwick County

Full Scale Drill Details

Background Information

Wichita is the largest city in the U.S. state of Kansas. Located in south-central Kansas on the Arkansas River, Wichita is the county seat of Sedgwick County and the principal city of the Wichita metropolitan area whose estimated population in 2015 was 644,610. As of 2017, the city of Wichita had an estimated population of 391,586. The city has two primary hospitals. The city has several rail lines that transverse the city from a variety of directions. Several of the main lines travel directly through the center of town in close proximity to several major businesses. The city has a bustling historical district that draws visitors from all across the state.

Incident Scenario

It is 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 28. The temperature is an unusually warm 80 degrees, with a light southerly wind. Old Town's Fall Art Fest is in full swing, with the historical district hosting a renowned art show featuring novice and accomplished artists. In addition to art, the festival also features gourmet food tasting and light harvest-style fare. Crafters, artisans, food vendors, and Historical Society members in costumes representing the city's heyday populate the eight-block downtown area. Several streets are blocked for an antique car show, and Wichita Fire Department is hosting a display of antique fire trucks. The city has contracted several bus companies to shuttle visitors to and from remote parking areas. This being an election year, the Governor of Kansas, along with a State Senator and the district's State Representative, will ensure a large crowd on the steps of the City Building at the corner of Central and Main, as they appear for an old-fashioned political rally, scheduled for 3 p.m. Special police details have been established at the downtown railroad grade crossings to ensure motorist and pedestrian safety.

A four-engine freight train northbound and pulling 42 cars, hauling everything from fiberboard to hazardous materials, has entered Wichita's southern city limits and is proceeding at 20 miles per hour toward the downtown elevated portion of the track line. The train collides with a four-door car filled with passengers trying to cross over the tracks to the festival. Spectators hear the screech of the locomotive's wheels as the emergency brakes are applied. They watch, as if in slow motion, as several cars of the train begin to derail and the automobile is pushed down the tracks.

MESSAGE 1

It is 12:33 p.m. A police officer on traffic detail radios to the Dispatch Center that a train has collided with a car at the south side of the downtown area. The officer tells the dispatcher that a cloud of greenish smoke is coming from beneath a derailed car.

Some people in the area are running toward the scene of the accident to see what is happening.

MESSAGE 2

At 12:35 p.m., the Communications Center is receiving many calls from the downtown area stating that a greenish-yellow cloud is coming from the train wreck. There are many reports of people having difficulty breathing and some appear to be unconscious.

Other reports are coming in of fatalities in the car and perhaps on the train. A local news reporter attending the festival is describing people running from the downtown area with hands folded over their faces coughing violently.

First responders approach the area to find a large cloud emanating from the wreckage and people rushing away from the scene indicating they smell a bleach like odor.

MESSAGE 3

At 12:47 p.m., the HazMat team discovers there are 6 fatalities and 15 people who need immediate assistance.

The chemical continues to leak and appears to be the result of a catastrophic rupture to the pressurized tank.

Reports of major telephone and electrical outages.

Traffic on the surrounding streets comes to a halt as motorists are trying to navigate through the area.

People are showing up at emergency rooms and other medical facilities complaining of burning eyes and nose, lung irritation and inflammation, sore throats, difficulty breathing, wheezing, coughing up yellow or green sputum, nose bleeds, headaches and dizziness, depression, and anxiety.

MESSAGE 4

The time is now 12:55 p.m. Crowds of panicking visitors are attempting to leave the area and seek shelter and information.

The city Dispatch Center informs the IC of the expected 1:30 p.m. arrival of a northbound freight train.

Responders assisting with the evacuation report that there are numerous people who need special transportation (i.e. wheelchair bound, on oxygen, bed ridden, hearing and visually impaired,)

The mayor wants to know what he should tell residents in his upcoming news briefing.

Specifically, the mayor wants to know the number of fatalities and injured, what chemical is involved, what people are to do, who is at fault, and how long will it be until people can go back in the area

The leak is proving to be a real challenge and projections are that it is going to take at least another 24 hours before there is significant change in the toxicity of the air.

A fight has ensued among motorists who are frustrated at having to sit in a huge traffic backup.

MESSAGE 5

By 2 p.m., the IC has received copies of the train's contents. The ruptured tank car contains 180,000 pounds of chlorine. According to the list, two cars behind the chlorine car are involved in the derailment. One car contains 205,180 pounds of potassium hydroxide and the other contains 20,000 pounds of sodium chlorate.

The railroad company response team arrives at 2:30 p.m. to help with the leak containment and offloading.

There is much concern about the release of chlorine into the ground water because of the magnitude of the leak at the site of the rupture.

Hospitals are reporting that they cannot take any more patients.

A responder reports that there is a puncture in his suit and he needs a backup.

The evacuation of special needs groups is progressing slowly.

The leak continues even with best efforts to stop it.

MESSAGE 6

At 5:30 p.m., news media are gathering at the perimeter of the scene.

It is determined by responders who examined the wreckage that the other derailed cars, while damaged, are not compromised.

PIOs from the various government and private organizations involved in the response are freelancing and putting out conflicting information.

Many people are showing up at the scene and want to know about loved ones that they speculate were in the area at the time of the accident.

Response personnel from EPA, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), and Federal Railroad Administration begin arriving at the scene around 6 p.m. and each one wants to speak with the IC.

Several reports are coming into the Dispatch Center concerning pets that are wheezing and having difficulty breathing.

It is now estimated that it will be at least 3 days before people can return to their homes. Victims are complaining that they do not want to stay in shelters nor leave their pets behind. They are asking if the company should not do something about this situation as it is not their fault they had to leave their homes.

Representatives from surrounding jurisdictions have dispatched unsolicited resources to the scene and are interfering with response operations.

MESSAGE 7

At 9:05 p.m., the city officials want to know if it is time to request a Federal Disaster Declaration. It is expected it will be 48 hours until the air will reach safe levels and the costs of responding to the event are escalating.

There is a rumor circulating that the railroad company has representatives at the scene dispensing emergency assistance money. The crowds are growing and the lines are getting long.

A responder brings it to the IC's attention that the monitors in use are not designed to show actual levels of chlorine in the ambient air.

Concerns are being voiced about chlorine infiltrating dwellings in the area. The school system has also requested the fire department thoroughly inspect each school following the incident.

The direction of the wind has changed and the speed has increased to 20 mph. Heavy rains have started to fall. People outside of the immediate evacuation area are now calling 911 to report greenish-yellow clouds approaching their homes. The command post and a shelter are located in this direction.

MESSAGE 8

It is 11:15 p.m. and first responders are in need of additional supplies for decontaminating personnel and equipment.

Issues are being raised by responders and the public regarding the long-term effects of chlorine exposure.

The railroad company has contacted the IC to let him know the clean-up contractor has arrived. The contractors would like to know if there are any local disposal sites in the area.

At midnight, the IC is advised that there has been a small accident during the off-loading procedure releasing an additional amount of chlorine.

Location: TBD along with various participant locations, Wichita KS

Facilitators: Monitored and directed by Emergency Management and LEPC leadership best qualified to discuss topics.

Audience: All members of the LEPC, concerned citizens of Sedgwick County