



**Lincoln County  
Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2025, 9am**

Newcastle Fire Station Community Room (86 River Rd) and via Teams

**Welcome and Introductions**

John Oakes  
Don Gleason  
Nick Anastasio  
Emily Huber  
Frank DeMers  
Rand Maker  
Erin Bean  
Stuart Blanchard  
Scott Sutter  
Mark Anderson  
Amanda Jacobs  
Rose Mooney  
Emma McKearney (online)

**Minutes**

- a) July 18, 2024: *Quorum was not met to approve the minutes from the last meeting.*

**Clerk's Report**

- a) Public Notice of Meeting Information: EMA will be putting a public meeting notice in the LCN for the July meeting as well as on social media and our website ([lincolncountyema.net](http://lincolncountyema.net))

**Treasurer's Report**

- a) Current Balance: \$10,085.53
  - a. Operating: \$5,311.69
  - b. Training: \$4,773.84

- c. Discussion: None of the budget has been used for training this year. Funds need to be used by September. In the past, the training budget line has been used for hazmat operations courses, but Lincoln County doesn't have a hazmat response team anymore. If Lincoln County required a hazmat response, DEP would be contacted and there are hazmat response teams in Portland, Lewiston/Auburn, and Waterville. There are DEP offices in Portland, Augusta, Bangor, and Presque Isle. LEPC discussed using the training funds for electric vehicle fires, large battery storage, propane response trainings that would benefit multiple fire departments. Anyone is able to request these training funds. The LEPC discussed exploring the use of some operations funds for public education on recycling batteries and electronics. Kevin discussed municipalities exploring a registry of battery back-ups with the town offices to support emergency response and electric vehicle ordinances. LEPC discussed AFFF take back and disposal processes. EMA will follow up with MEMA for guidance.

### **EMA Report**

- a) New Staff Introductions: Frank, Preparedness Coordinator, has been working with schools on drills and training. Earlier this week, Wiscasset Middle-High School and Wiscasset Elementary School conducted evacuation drills. EMA has been working with Damariscotta Fire Department and Great Salt Bay to conduct a similar drill next week. LEPC was encouraged to call EMA anytime.
- b) FEMA changes: Homeland Security Funds have been turned back on, but this year's grant has not been released yet. Funding is regularly drying up, and BRIC is completely cut right now. This is an ever-changing environment. Emily discussed potential FEMA changes, there's uncertainty around what things could look like at the state and local level if FEMA dissolved. EMA is ready to adapt to the changes. Lincoln County is already local emergency management focused. The largest concern is funding if more things fall on local emergency managers. FEMA reimbursements have had significant wait times for receiving funding. Many communities waited two years for funding from the May Day 2023 storm. Kevin reported that Newcastle has yet to receive funding.
- c) Other: The National Weather Service has been unofficially calling storms similar to the storms experienced in Lincoln County in January 2024, Sou'Easters. This is an unofficial term which more accurately represents the wind direction during these types of storms. The NWS continues to work with local and county emergency managers for better preparedness. Trainings that are funded by FEMA and the government are often scheduled and canceled at the last minute, sometimes without notice even if it's online.
- d) SERC Updates: Currently, there's nothing pressing from SERC. Emily explained the SERC. SERC works with state response teams, provides funding for LEPCs,

and has regular meetings similar to LEPC where larger Tier 2 companies are engaged. Funding from SERC is based on population and number of Tier 2 reporting facilities.

- e) EAP Review and Exercises: Lincoln County is starting to work on the County EOP and is in the beginning stages of engaging municipalities in supporting them in updating their local EOPs. Many EOPs haven't been updated in a long time. Updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan is underway, and EMA is kicking off the towns' portions at the upcoming Local Directors meeting this week. The HMP is due in 2026, so the rest of the year will be largely focused on this for local emergency managers. LEPC discussed concerns regarding commercial marijuana grow operations. Municipalities don't always know about the facilities, but they pose a significant risk to communities.

## **Presentation**

- a) None scheduled

## **Discussion**

### **Incident Updates/Regional News**

Newcastle: In January, a vehicle crashed into a poll and caused about 50 gallons of fuel to spill. DEP was contacted as there was concern about how close the incident was to Damariscotta Lake.

## **New Business**

- a) Membership and Recruitment
  - a. LEPC Applications Received: *Quorum was not met to approve the minutes from the last meeting.* Emily explained the reason behind the application to join the LEPC and the need to have memberships approved by the SERC (State Emergency Response Commission). EMA will give the applications already received, and any others, to SERC for approval at their next meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Recruitment: Lincoln County LEPC is working on revamping the committee. Anyone from the County is welcome to participate in the committee and meetings.
- b) Scheduling LEPC Meetings for the Rest of the Year: Current and interested members discussed meeting times and agreed that the second Wednesday at 9am works for the group. The LEPC will explore adding additional meetings as necessary. The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2025, at 9am at Dead River (684 Route 1, Newcastle).
- c) Facility Reporting Update

## **Old Business**

**Upcoming Meeting Information**

July 9, 2025, at Dead River in Newcastle (685 River Rd)

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:09am.