

Thurston County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

MINUTES

October 23, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Thurston County EM via Microsoft Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Mike Buchanan at 2:40 p.m.
2. **Attendance:** A quorum was present.

LEPC Members:

Mike Buchanan, Vice Chair, City of Olympia
Cal Bray, Chehalis Tribe
Chris Caprio, WA EMD
Ed Taylor, City of Lacey
Mike Cerovski, TC Fire Chiefs Association

Courtney Serad, WA State Dept. of Ecology
Shawn Crimmins, City of Tumwater
Kyle Bustad, TCEM
Jonnica Elkins, TCOMM 911
Paul Brewster, TRPC

LEPC Coordinator:

Brandon Cheney, TCEM

Guests:

Kim Gubbe, Thurston PUD
Dylan White, SPSCC
Mark Henry, WA State DOH
Scott Smitherman, Providence Swedish
Jennifer Schmidt, Lacey Fire Dept.
Emily Schoendorf, TCEM
Michelle Price, TCEM

3. **Approval of Agenda**
A motion to approve the agenda was not made.
4. **Approval of July 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes**
Ed Taylor moved to approve the July 24th Meeting Minutes, Chris Caprio seconded, and the motion carried. Meeting Minutes are approved.
5. **Public Comment:**
No comments from the Public
6. **Announcements:**
 - i. Thurston County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
 - Formerly known as the Thurston County Disaster Assistance Council.
 - Relaunched as a community-based organization for coordination among nonprofit, private, and volunteer agencies during disasters.
 - Information available on [Thurston County Emergency Management's website](#).
 - ii. Union Pacific Hazardous Materials Training Resources
 - Quarterly newsletter and training opportunities available online, including free virtual and in-person hazmat response training for first responders.

- Both Union Pacific and BNSF offer similar railcar preparedness programs and resources.
- Both carriers can provide commodity flow studies upon request to identify typical hazardous shipments through Thurston County. This data, while proprietary and only provided on a need-to-know basis, can support HAZMAT preparedness planning.

iii. **Clean Energy Initiative**

- Scott Lancaster (WSP) announced a new statewide Clean Energy Initiative focusing on education and safety related to clean energy technology (solar, wind, hydrogen, battery storage systems, etc.).
- Survey link distributed for participation; all are encouraged to take the survey; online and in-person training will be available.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

i. **Proposed 2026 LEPC Meeting Schedule**

- January 22nd, April 23rd, July 23rd, October 22nd
- Proposed continuation of quarterly meetings, traditionally the third Thursday of the first month of each quarter at 1:00 PM.
- Members supported continuing the current schedule.
- Action: Brandon to send calendar invites (“Save the Date”) for all 2026 meetings.

ii. **LEPC Officer Elections**

- Vice Chair Mike Buchanan announced retirement effective December 31, 2025, at which point he will step down as Vice Chair
- Nominations for Vice Chair to be accepted until the January 22, 2026, meeting, when elections will be held. Please send all nominations to brandon.cheney@co.thurston.wa.us and ljohnson@mclanefire.org

9. Subcommittees & Standing Reports

i. **Emergency Support Function #10 Oil & Hazardous Materials – Brandon Cheney, TCEM**

- The Thurston County 2025 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) was updated and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.
- The revised ESF 10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials Annex) now integrates the LEPC Hazardous Materials Response Plan as an appendix. [Here is the link to review the plan and ESF #10 annex](#)
- Discussion held on potentially combining the two documents under one plan in 2026.
- A working group will be proposed at the January meeting to review both plans.

ii. **Hazardous Materials Incident & Spills Report Review – Courtney Serad, WA ECY**

- 41 incidents reported in Thurston County last quarter.

- Increased activity compared to the same quarter in 2024, especially in Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater.
 - Key incidents:
 - September 21: Semi-truck crash spilled ~30 gallons of fuel into Capital Lake via storm drains; delayed notification caused response challenges.
 - September 2 & 18: Multiple cases of food trucks dumping cooking oil into storm drains downtown. Ecology is coordinating with Public Works, Health, and Code Enforcement to address recurring cooking oil disposal violations.
- iii. Tier II Reporting – Chris Caprio and Brandon Cheney
- Tier II reporting season begins soon; reports due by March 1, 2026.
 - 2024 data is now available in E-Plan and will be integrated into a GIS layer for Thurston County Emergency Management.
 - Access to E-Plan requires creating an account and need-to-know vetting; contact Diane or Brandon for help setting up an account.
- iv. State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Update – Chris Caprio, WA EMD
- Next SERC meeting: November 5, 2025 (virtual).
 - Federal funding delays due to government shutdown, but Attorney General clarified that sanctuary state provisions will not affect grants that currently fund SERC activities
 - Future funding levels remain uncertain pending federal budget resolution.

10. Good of the Order/Closing Remarks

- i. Mark Henry (DOH): Ongoing radiological emergency preparedness exercises at Columbia Generating Station and Tri-Cities hospitals; several recent radioactive materials incidents across the State involving moisture-density gauges.

11. Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.