

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



While I was working on this edition, an interesting e-mail popped up on my screen. The e-mail concerns a rule adopted by the Federal Communications Commission in 1993. I am an amateur radio operator. Although I don't get to participate as much as I like, I am proud to be a "ham" operator. My father was a ham and when he died I petitioned the FCC to assign his call sign to me, a petition that they granted.

I have known about Section 97.113 (a) (3) for many years. This rule states: No amateur radio station shall transmit communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. Additional rules state: No amateur station shall transmit communications for hire or material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules.

The FCC has recently reiterated that public safety workers, including firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and other personnel, may not use Amateur Radio to communicate on behalf of their agencies except during actual emergencies. This means that I can't talk with our amateur radio operators over-the-air about our program activities nor may I use the amateur radio in participation in any drills and exercises involving our agency. It doesn't matter if I'm "off-duty" or on my "lunch hour"; it doesn't matter if my job description doesn't say anything about operating an Amateur Radio. The fact that I'm paid to do this job, prohibits me from talking on Amateur Radio about the activities of this organization. I can still talk on Amateur Radio with emergency management related traffic in emergencies.

Amateur Radio operators play a vital role in our emergency communications and I hope it will remain that way for a long time. These rules won't have any effect on our operations other than to make sure that I stay off the radios when emergency management business is being discussed. In these circumstances, I'm going to rely on you volunteer Amateur Radio Operator folks to do the communicating on those frequencies. I won't be able to talk to you, but I will be listening. I will continue to check in from time to time on club nets, I just won't be able to discuss anything related to emergency management.

Speaking of communications, we wish John Comstock well in his new venture (and adventures) as Communications Officer for Oklahoma County Emergency Management. John did some great work here and we appreciate his efforts very much. I hope to be able to provide you with some news about his successor in the next edition.

The week of September 20-26, 2009 is City of Shawnee Employee Appreciation Week. Let me take this opportunity to thank all of the City of Shawnee employees for their assistance to our department. The support you give our department is a major component of our success.

There is a lot of talk out there about the type A H1N1 virus. We still don't have any information about when Oklahoma will receive its distribution of vaccine or how the final prioritization of groups to receive the vaccine will be determined. We do know that the virus can travel a range of 6 feet from a cough or sneeze and that the virus will last on a surface for a few hours. So again, implementing good hygiene practices is important. Covering your cough or sneeze, frequently washing your hands, and sanitizing surfaces with an anti-viral cleaner are all tasks we should implement. If you have a fever or other symptoms, stay at home.

Until next time, be safe! And for my Amateur Radio friends, 73's!

Don Lynch

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We wish a speedy recovery to Juanita Derryberry, who is having knee replacement surgery later this month.



The National Incident Management System (NIMS) defines preparedness as "a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response."

CITIZENS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY OF GENE BINAU

Eugene Edward Binau (WA5LAE), a member of our Citizens Emergency Management Team, 64, of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, died Wednesday, August 26, 2009, in Tecumseh. Services were held August 31 at New Beginnings Church in Shawnee with Rev. Larry Sparks officiating. Burial followed at Tecumseh Cemetery under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh.

Gene was born November 22, 1944, in Woodward, Oklahoma, to Eli Edward and Lois Launita (Garnett) Binau. He was raised in Buffalo, where he graduated from high school in 1964. He went on to study electronics at Okmulgee Tech. He moved to the Shawnee area in 1966, and has resided in the Shawnee/Tecumseh area since.

On December 3, 1976, he married Linda Steiger in Tecumseh. He worked as a quality control specialist at Tinker Air Force Base until his retirement. He and his wife also owned G & L Gun Shop. He was a member of the Tecumseh Masonic Lodge # 69 A.F. & A.M., a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the McAlester Scottish Rite Consistory and a Knight Commander Court of Honour.

He was an amateur radio operator for 42 years and regularly participated in emergency communications activities and drills. Additionally, he enjoyed hunting and computers. He loved his dogs, neighbors, friends, and family. Gene always greeted you warmly and enjoyed sharing stories of growing up in western Oklahoma.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Linda Binau of the home; daughters Brenda Binau of Tecumseh and Lori Edwards and her husband Charles of Shawnee; son Charles Edward Binau of Bartlesville; two grandchildren, Josh and Taryn Binau; uncle Forrest Eugene Binau; aunt Mae Wenzel; and numerous cousins.

He will be sorely missed.



About Citizen Corps

Citizen Corps is FEMA's grassroots strategy to bring together government and community leaders to involve citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and resilience.

Citizen Corps asks you to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety.

There are currently **2,404** Councils which serve **225,985,904** people or **79%** of the total U.S. population.

For more information about the Pottawatomie County Citizen Corps Council contact our office.

CEMT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please Note: The September 24, 2009 CEMT meeting has been cancelled because of scheduling conflicts

The next CEMT Meeting will be
November 19, 2009 7:00 pm
Location: Shawnee City Hall



National Preparedness Month | September 2009
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed

Are you ready

Or are you **Ready**®**Get A Kit****Make A Plan****Be Informed****Get Involved**

September 2008 marks the fifth year for National Preparedness Month. A record 3,200 organizations have joined the *Ready* Campaign in promoting emergency preparedness across this country in homes, schools, businesses and communities.

Throughout the year, the *Ready* Campaign promotes individual emergency preparedness. *Ready* is a national public service advertising campaign, produced in partnership with The Advertising Council, which is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

The Campaign's Web sites (www.ready.gov and listo.gov) and toll-free numbers (1-800-BE-READY and 1-888-SE-LISTO) provide Americans with free emergency preparedness information

Proclamations declaring Preparedness Month have been signed by Shawnee Mayor Linda Peterson and by County Commissioners Bob Guinn, Jerry Richards, and Buck Day.

We hope this will inspire you to make sure you have an emergency supply kit, an emergency plan, that you are informed about the different emergencies possible in your area and the appropriate responses as well as getting involved.

Preparing a family emergency plan is simple. You can get started by using a free family emergency plan template available at www.ready.gov. A family emergency plan can help a family to stay in contact if they are separated during an emergency. Sample templates are also available from the emergency management office.

The *Ready Kids* Web site focuses on weather-related emergencies and helps parents educate children, ages 8-12, about emergencies and how they can help their families prepare. The *Ready* Campaign encourages parents to visit the Web site with their children. In addition, the *Ready* Campaign has developed *Ready Kids* in-school materials for teachers, which are available at www.ready.gov or by calling 1-800-BE-READY.

The *Ready* Campaign consulted a number of organizations experienced in education and children's health including the American Psychological Association, American Red Cross, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop *Ready Kids*. Together, these experts agree that it is appropriate to reach children, parents and teachers to discuss potential emergencies and how to be prepared.

In a basic emergency supply kit, the *Ready* Campaign recommends including the following:

- One gallon of water per person per day, for three days – remember to include enough for your pets, too
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water and choose foods your family will eat: ready-to-eat canned meats, peanut butter, protein or fruit bars, dry cereal or granola. Also pack a manual can opener and eating utensils
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Local maps

Ready also encourages an individual to think about the special needs of family members:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children.

Pet owners should assemble an emergency supply kit that includes enough pet food and water for three days, medications and medical records, leashes, ID tags and other appropriate supplies. It's also recommended that pet owners have an emergency plan that considers the needs of their pets and they learn more about the types of emergencies that could happen in their area and the appropriate responses. Pet owners can download a free brochure from the *Ready* Web site at www.ready.gov, or request a copy by calling 1-800-BE-READY.

The *Ready* Campaign consulted with a number of organizations experienced in animal health and well-being to develop *Ready for Pet Owners* information. These organizations include American Kennel Club, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, American Veterinary Medical Association and Humane Society of the United States.

Ready Business is designed to inform owners and managers of small- and medium-sized business about what they can do to prepare their businesses in the event of an emergency. The goal of this program is to raise the business community's awareness of the need for emergency planning and motivate them to: plan to stay in business; talk to their employees; and protect their investment.





The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) establishes requirements for Federal, State and local governments, Indian Tribes, and industry regarding emergency planning and "Community Right-to-Know" reporting on hazardous and toxic chemicals. The Community Right-to-Know provisions help increase the public's knowledge and access to information on chemicals at individual facilities, their uses, and releases into the environment. States and communities, working with facilities, can use the information to improve chemical safety and protect public health and the environment.

Many will remember the derailment of a train in Waverly, Tennessee in 1978 that caused an approximate 27,871 gallons of liquid propane to leak from a derailed tank car. Two days after the derailment an increase in pressure caused a dented area in the tank car to rupture and the vapor plume traveled until it found a source of ignition causing an explosion that left 16 dead and over 100 people injured.

Still, others will remember the accidental release of Methyl Isocyanate from a Bhopal, India Union Carbide facility in December 1984, which resulted in 2000 deaths and over 200,000 injuries.

Because of the risk of hazardous materials incidents and because local governments will be completely on their own in the first stages of almost any hazardous materials incident, the United States Congress passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) to help ensure that communities maintain a continuing preparedness capacity.

EPCRA has four major provisions:

- ◆ Emergency Planning (Sections 301-303)
- ◆ Emergency Release Notification (Section 304)
- ◆ Hazardous Chemical Storage Reporting Requirements (Sections 311-312)
- ◆ Toxic Chemical Release Inventory (Section 313)

EPCRA Section 301 requires that the Governor designate a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). In Oklahoma this is called the Oklahoma Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Commission (OHMERC).

The OHMERC designated local planning districts and appointed local emergency planning committees (LEPCs). County boundaries were used as geographical boundaries for establishing the local planning districts. Exceptions to these boundaries include the City limits of Oklahoma City and Tulsa which are part of the Oklahoma and Tulsa County planning districts and Vance Air Force Base, Tinker Air Force Base, and Fort Sill, which are their own planning districts. While county borders were used to designate districts and the LEPCs are called "County LEPCs", they are not a part of county government. Rather, they are special districts. The LEPC must include elected State and local officials; police; fire; civil defense; public health professionals; environmental; hospital; and transportation officials as well as representatives of facilities subject to planning.

Community emergency response plans for chemical incidents are required to be developed under Section 303. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes and periodically updates its list of "Extremely Hazardous Substances." Currently, there are 356 substances listed. Any facility that produces, uses, or stores any of the chemicals listed in a quantity greater than its threshold planning quantity is subject to the emergency planning requirements. These facilities must notify the SERC and the LEPC within 60 days after they first receive a shipment or produce the substance on site.

The Pottawatomie County LEPC chose to adopt the Emergency Operations Plan developed by the City of Shawnee and Pottawatomie County as the base document for its plan. To this EOP site-specific appendices are developed for each facility which cover the EPCRA planning elements. These elements are:

- ◆ Identification of facilities and transportation routes of extremely hazardous substances
- Description of emergency response procedures, on and off site
- Designation of a community coordinator and facility emergency coordinator(s) to implement the plan
- Outline of emergency notification procedures
- Description of how to determine the probable affected area and population by releases
- Description of local emergency equipment and facilities and the persons responsible for them
- Outline of evacuation plans
- A training program for emergency responders (including schedules)
- Methods and schedules for exercising emergency response plans

Under Section 304 of EPCRA, facilities must immediately notify the LEPC and the SERC if there is a release into the environment of a hazardous substance that is equal to or exceeds the minimum reportable quantity set in the EPA regulations. This requirement covers the “Extremely Hazardous Substances” list as well as more than 700 hazardous substances subject to the emergency notification requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

We have established a toll-free number for spill/release reporting to the LEPC. The number is 1-866-273-5272. Locally the number is (405) 273-5272. This number is answered by emergency management staff during business hours and after hours, the number is answered by the Shawnee Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

Under Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, employers must maintain a material safety data sheet (MSDS) for any hazardous chemicals stored or used in the work place. Approximately 500,000 products have MSDSs.

EPCRA Section 311 requires facilities that have MSDSs for chemicals held above certain quantities to submit either copies of their MSDSs or a list of MSDS chemicals to the SERC, LEPC and the local fire department.

Facilities covered under Section 311 must, under section 312 submit annually an emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form to the LEPC, the SERC, and the local fire department. These forms must be submitted on or before March 1 each year. Facilities provide either a Tier I or Tier II report form.

The OHMERC has issued rules requiring facilities to submit Tier I and Tier II reports electronically to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The DEQ sends an electronic database to the LEPC and the LEPC prints paper copies and distributes to each fire department serving Pottawatomie County.

EPCRA Section 313 requires certain facilities to complete a Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Form annually for specified chemicals. The form must be submitted to EPA and the State on July 1 and covers releases and other waste management of toxic chemicals that occurred during the preceding calendar year. The EPA maintains a national database of these reports which can be accessed by the LEPC.

All information submitted to the LEPC is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the
Emergency Management Office



THE POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Pottawatomie County Local Emergency Planning Committee was formed on September 23, 1987 and has been one of the more active LEPCs in Oklahoma ever since.

The LEPC meets at 2:00 P.M. on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Most meetings are held at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center in Shawnee. Public notice is given if a meeting location is changed. All are welcome to attend.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the threat of a pandemic disease outbreak, and the natural disasters along the Gulf Coast of the United States, a myriad of Federal and state programs; funding requirements; and legal mandates related to disaster and emergency preparedness and response were set upon local communities to implement. It made sense to combine our efforts into a coordinated vehicle to achieve our goals rather than establish several working groups with many of the same people attending. The LEPC was chosen as that vehicle because it is in the best position to assist all of us in Pottawatomie County with that coordinated effort.

Because there was no authority granted under State Statutes for the LEPC to receive and disburse funds, the City of Shawnee provides this service to the LEPC.

LEPC OFFICERS

Chairperson: Karen Lyall, Exxon Mobil Chemical

Vice-Chair: Melvin Potter, Tecumseh Emergency Management and Pott. Co. E-9-1-1

Secretary: Tina Johnson, Pott. Co. Health Dept.

Treasurer: Jennifer Dawson, Shawnee/ Pott. Co. Emergency Management

Public Information Officer: Alan Hamilton, TDK

Community Coordinator and Technical Information Officer: Don Lynch, Shawnee/Pott. Co. Emergency Management

Outreach Coordinator: Daniel Keiffer, Eaton Corp.

The Pottawatomie County LEPC continues to administer an outreach campaign known as "We Have A Little Emergency" or WHALE. This campaign involves distributing information cards and stickers to persons with small children in the community. The information cards should be completed with emergency contact data and placed under a child's car seat.

About six months ago, the LEPC was approached by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, to consider applying for the "Safe Community" designation. The LEPC agreed to lead the initiative for Shawnee and we have now completed the written application of the designation process. The next step is a visit to Shawnee, by the World Health Organization's officials, which will likely happen before the end of the year. Should that visit be favorable, we would expect our designation to be granted in early Spring of 2010.

The LEPC has been training local organizations, such as schools, businesses and faith-based entities on how to prepare their own pandemic flu plan. The purpose for this effort is to inform select groups of the potential concerns in the event of a pandemic event and to request their volunteer support for operating MIPS points of distribution (POD). McCloud, Earlsboro, Wanette, and Shawnee Public Schools have Pandemic Flu Plans. The LEPC continues to contact other school districts and provide them with information to assist in preparing their plans.

P. O Box 1448
Shawnee, Ok 74802-1448

Phone: 405-878-1650
Fax: 405-878-1643

Editor: Don Lynch
Vol. Assistant: Juanita Derryberry



www.shawneeok.org

PASS IT ON . . .

Please forward this newsletter on to individuals in your address book that you feel would like to have this information.

A FAMOUS QUOTATION

“The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot”

Michael Altshuler

(Creator of Power Dynamics– The Ultimate Achievement Program)

From WALKTHETALK.com