

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

DATE: SEPTEMBER 17th, 2025 Q. 3

CHAIR: Amanda Loach

RECORDER: Andrew Preis

MEMBERS PRESENT (*P = Present, O = Online, A=Absent, AE=Absent/excused*)

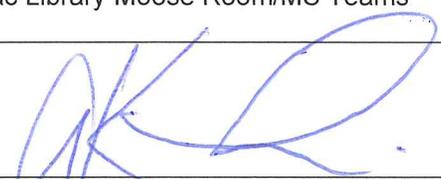
<u>LEPC Voting Members:</u>		<u>Other Agencies Represented:</u>		<u>Other Attendees:</u>	
Chairperson – Amanda Loach/Civil Defense	P				
Doug Lamkin – Building Owner / Manager	A				
George Vakalis – SERC / Member-at-Large	P	Kari Wiederkehr, OEM	P		
Alyssa Farrar – Local Environmental	O	Kathy Shea, ADEC	P		
Manch Garhart – First Aid / EMS	O	Anthony Picasso, UAA EM	O		
Ashley Lally - Member at Large	A	Dean Cox, Eagle River CERT	P		
Lore Olson – Hospitals	O				
John Huffman – Local Disaster Planning / CERT	A				
Brian Dean – AFD Fire Marshal	P				
Brian Wilson – APD Captain/Law Enforcement	O				
<u>Support Staff:</u>					
Sean MacKenzie-OEM (Kari filled in)	P				
Andrew Preis-OEM	P				
<u>Ex-Officio Members (non-voting):</u>					
Aviva Braun - Weather	O				
<u>Reporting Agencies:</u>					
Community Right to Know (CRTK) - Jean Boyda	O				
State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)	P	George Vakalis			
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) – JJ Little	A				
Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP) – Hillary Palmer / Benjamin Hartlieb	AE	(OEM staff will reach out to invite)			
Joint Medical Emergency Planning Group (JMEPG) – Michael Kubler	A				
Communications (AWARN/ALMR) Jason Beach	O				
Anchorage Health Department (AHD) – Katherine Stodgell	O				
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT/Citizen Corp), John Huffman, Manch Garhart	A				
Emergency Operations Center, Andrew Preis OEM	P				

Agenda Item	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
Call to Order and Introductions	Meeting called to order by Chair Loach – 1:01pm		
Welcome and Roll Call	Welcome & Rollcall – Andrew Preis Committee members present: 6/10 (quorum met)		
Safety Minute	- Kari Wiederkehr, OEM Program Manager. Great Alaska Shakeout 2025.	Slides will be included in the final meeting minutes	
Consent Agenda- Approval of previous meeting minutes from 6/18/25	Motion: George Vakalis Second: Brian Dean Result: motion passes, unanimous		
Consent Agenda- Approval of Agenda for 9/17/25	Motion: George Vakalis Second: Brian Dean Result: motion to approve agenda with proposed changes passes, unanimous	Proposed changes to the agenda include: adding the safety minute presentation, excluding presentation timeslot for this meeting, adding discussion item in “new business” regarding potential Anchorage LEPC logo	
Presentation	- No presentation this quarter		
AGENCY REPORTS:			
Community Right to Know Act (CRTK)	Jean Boyda, AFD/CRTK. - No current updates		
Emergency Plans	Amanda Loach, OEM - Read out the update in the meeting. Notes will be included in the meeting notes	Notes will be included in the final meeting minutes	
State Emergency Response Committee (SERC)	- George Vakalis. No new updates. There has not been a regular SERC meeting since the last Anchorage LEPC quarterly meeting. Next SERC meeting scheduled 10-24-2025		
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS & EM)	JJ Little, DHS&EM - N/A		

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Alaska Partners for Infrastructure Protection (APIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A 	OEM staff to reach out and invite co-chairs of APIP to attend future meetings.	This has been done.
Joint Medical Emergency Planning Group (JMEPG)	<p>Lore Olson – Current member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No updates. Chairperson position is currently in flux. 	Edit agenda to include current chair of JMEPG, when decided. OEM staff to reach out and invite new chair person to future meetings.	
Communications: (AWARN/ALMR)	<p>Jason Beach – MOA Comms/Radio Shop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AWARN radio network projects are in the works, building upgrades, and fortifying the system. 		
Anchorage Health Department (AHD)	<p>Katherine Stodgell – AHD EP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business as usual, working on filling a couple of job openings. Staff person recently attended and participated in a conference in Seattle. 		
Citizen Corps/CERT	<p>John Huffman – UAA Director EHSRM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anthony Picasso, UAA EM reported out for Mr. Huffman. They are instructing a CERT basics class 10/14-16 for general public. PIO Basics course 11/11-13. Courses are on ACADIS for registrations. <p>Manch Garhart, Girdwood VFD/CERT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steve, CERT POC for Girdwood. Continuing trainings, working on basic life support (BLS) certifications for CERT members. <p>Dean Cox, Eagle River CERT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certified by the DHS&EM recently. Have been working on getting up to speed on how the CERT might be activated, and what the expectations would be during an activation. Have handheld radios, and recently performed a good radio check. 		
MOA Emergency Operations Center	<p>Andrew Preis – Program Manager, OEM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notes will be included in the final meeting minutes below for reference 	Notes will be included in the final meeting minutes	
Ex-Officio member comments	<p>Aviva Braun, NWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of her team were recently brought in to Anchorage EOC and UAA EOC for the presidential summit. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NWS is working on creating a fix for the tsunami warning issues. - Should be a new tsunami.gov website coming up this spring. - Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) alert phrasing being worked on and edited for clarity and effectiveness. 		
Break	N/A		
Unfinished Business:	<p>Funding letter discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anchorage LEPC recently hosted/held a special meeting of members to draft a follow up letter of concerns regarding funding for LEPCs and overall emergency management. - Discussion on funding letter for submission to the State LEPCA/SERC bodies at the semiannual regular meeting October 24, 2025. - This is an update to the letter that the Anchorage LEPC submitted to the same groups in October, 2023. - Anchorage LEPC needs to decide who to send the letter to, in addition to the above-mentioned groups. - The MOA administration is currently prioritizing their legislative priorities for 2026, and OEM needs direction or advisement from the Anchorage LEPC if they want this included in OEM's submission to the administration for consideration. - George Vakalis, thought the letter hit the mark. Stated that normally communications from an LEPC go directly to the SERC. Could also copy Anchorage-based legislators, and LEPCA as recipients. - Brian Dean commented that support for Anchorage is even more critical, due to the fact that when resources are short or overwhelmed in other smaller communities who also don't receive funding, it is typical for the burden to fall on Anchorage as the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OEM staff to send the letter to the State SERC (in the TO: line) to SERC chair people. - Other agencies to be on the copy include MOA administration, MOA Assembly, Anchorage-based State Legislators. Can also consider copying Federal delegation as well. 	

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	<p>largest city presumed to have abundant resources. This is particularly evident in the medical care realm.</p> <p>Motion presented to approve the letter as written, and be sent to the agencies mentioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motion – George Vakalis - Second – Brian Dean - 7 committee members voted in favor - 0 members voted against - Motion passes, unanimous 		
New Business:	<p>Anchorage LEPC logo discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sample logos offered up during the meeting for discussion during the meeting. (samples will be included) 	<p>Sample logos that were presented will be included in the final meeting minutes below.</p> <p>OEM staff to work up an additional one or two sample logos, and present them in a survey for a final vote at the next quarterly meeting.</p>	
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kathy Shea, reported the next APIP meeting is tomorrow Thursday 9/18/25, 10am-12noon - Dean Cox, Eagle River CERT, requested the CEOP be routed through community councils for comment before final approval. 		
Committee Member Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None 		
ADJOURNMENT:	<p>Motion requested to adjourn meeting</p> <p>Motion: George Vakalis</p> <p>Second: Brian Dean</p> <p>Result: Motion passes, unanimous</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at: 2:07pm</p> <p>Next meeting will be Wednesday DECEMBER 10th 1pm-3pm Loussac Library Moose Room/MS Teams hybrid</p>		



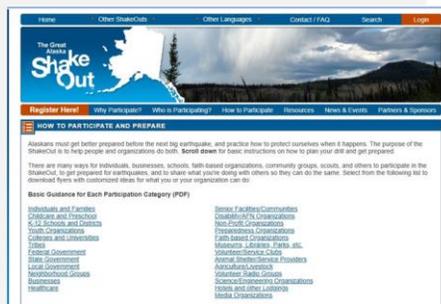
 Signed

3/24/2026

 Date

Safety Minute Presentation: 2025 Great Alaska Shakeout earthquake drill

Municipality of Anchorage
LEPC Safety Minute
September 16, 2025

Register for the First Time

Renew or Update Registration

Other Situations (Change contact, multiple locations, etc.)

Benefits of Registration:

- Be counted in the largest ever earthquake drill
- Be listed with other participants in your area (optional)
- Be an example that motivates others to participate & prepare
- Have peace of mind that you, your family, your co-workers and millions of others will be better prepared to survive and recover quickly from the next damaging earthquake!

Team with registration? Please e-mail info@shakeout.org

• <https://www.shakeout.org/alaska/howtoparticipate/>




Shake OutTM

Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills





SHAKEOUT RESOURCES

The materials on this page are available to you or your organization to support your participation in the ShakeOut and to promote awareness and preparedness.

[Drill Manuals and Other Planning Documents](#)

[Multimedia](#)

[Posters/Flyers](#)

[Additional Flyers](#)

[Web and Social Media Banners](#)

Drill Manuals and Other Planning Documents

Powerpoints for leading ShakeOut Drills (Online or In-Person)
For grades K-4, grades 5-12, higher education, and all other organizations; plus a version in Spanish)

Workplaces

[ShakeOut Drill Manual for Businesses /DNE](#)

<https://www.shakeout.org/alaska/resources/>



Presentation on the Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan update process:

This Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP) is designed to provide general information about how the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) will prepare for, respond to, and recover from large-scale incidents within the Greater Anchorage Area (Anchorage).

The CEOP incorporates and complies with the principles and requirements found in state and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 version 3.0.

It is designed to conform to the requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Following NIMS guidance, this CEOP incorporates the use of the Incident Command System (ICS), mutual aid, and multi-agency and interagency coordination.

It contains a Base Plan, Functional Annexes, Hazard Appendices, and Attachments.

It is published on the OEM website.

In July, OEM launched the Emergency Management Stakeholder Review Workgroup. It has been meeting every two weeks to review and update various sections of the EOP.

To date, 20 different areas of the EOP have been updated and are being reviewed to ensure compliance with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

The updated EOP will include the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Standard Operating Guide, the Joint Information System Guide, the Emergency Alert System Procedures, the Continuity of Operations Plan, the Continuity of Government Plan, and six new Annexes.

The project is scheduled to conclude at the end of October. Following this, we will brief the Municipal Manager and then route the EOP for the Mayor's signature and Assembly notification.

This is a little refresher / background on the EOP and the current status of the EOP update.

Emergency Operations Center quarterly update:

Mount Spurr planning update for OEM:

- Alert level "NORMAL" and aviation color code "GREEN"

Tsunami Warning incident:

9/17/2025

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- July 16, tsunami warning issued for a 7.3M earthquake south of Sand Point off the coast of the Alaska Peninsula
- The issuance of this tsunami warning triggered a number of phones in Anchorage, due to bleed over in alerting zones
- Anchorage area was NOT directly alerted, as the initial and ongoing analysis was that there would be no impacts to any part of the MOA
- Amanda and I spent that afternoon putting messaging out to Anchorage telling people the tsunami warning was not meant for Anchorage area
 - o Socials, Rave message to subscribers, and notifications to MOA leadership
- Takeaways:
 - o NWS is working diligently on solutions to this well-known issue
 - o Public should always be prepared for disasters at all times
 - o Put together go kits, evac plans, communications plans, know where to get updated intel during events

IPAWS Test Message from State EOC:

- July 23rd, State EOC sent an IPAWS message that said “just a test”
- OEM was able to confirm with SEOC that the message went out to the public by mistake
- This incident highlighted a smart phone feature that allows people to turn on and off emergency alerts, in particular test messages, like in this incident. Some phones got the message, others didn’t because of these settings
 - o For iPhone, settings menu, select notifications, scroll to bottom, adjust/toggle settings
 - o For Androids, settings menu, select notifications, select wireless emergency alerts, adjust/toggle settings

Kamchatka, Russia Earthquake:

- July 29th, 8.8M earthquake struck off the coast of Kamchatka, Russia triggering tsunami alerts around the whole pacific coastline
- Areas of Alaska were alerted to the possibility of tsunami threat, including as close to Anchorage as the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB was under a tsunami watch, but never ramped up to a warning
- The MOA was never included in any of the alerting areas, but OEM was closely monitoring

Alaska Summit 2025:

- Weekend of Saturday August 9-10 OEM became aware of the possibility of a visit to Anchorage by US and Russian presidents
- Anticipated for Friday August 15
- Monday morning OEM was advised by UAA they had received a request from the White House for housing support for upwards of 500-600 members of the Russian delegation and media, US delegation and media, and international press core
- OEM entered into planning and coordination mode with members of the MOA leadership and other internal partners, external cooperating agencies, and PIOs/communicators from a number of different organizations and departments
- By Wednesday August 13, the EOC was activated in order to increase information sharing, coordination, and advanced planning
- Initial Incident Action Plan was produced for the week for EOC use

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- Friday August 15th was the day of the landings, meeting, and press conference. The EOC was set up with various news feeds and other planning documents on the big displays
- Welcomed in liaisons from State Health, State EOC, Red Cross, and National Weather Service Anchorage Forecast Office to increase situational awareness and information sharing
- From the EOC perspective, the summit went off without any hitches, and both VIPs took off and left by mid afternoon
- An after action survey was shared with all internal and external partners at the end of the day

Proposed Anchorage LEPC logos for discussion:



