

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

DATE: JUNE 18th, 2025 Quarter 2

CHAIR: Amanda Loach

RECORDER: Andrew Preis

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

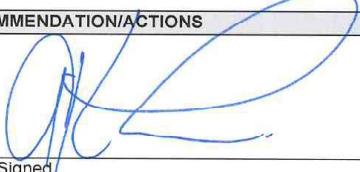
<u>LEPC Voting Members:</u>		<u>Other Agencies Represented:</u>		<u>Other Attendees:</u>	
Chairperson – Amanda Loach/Civil Defense	P				
Doug Lamkin – Building Owner / Manager		Jared Woody, ASD OEM	O		
George Vakalis – SERC / Member-at-Large	P	Kari Wiederkehr, OEM	O		
Alyssa Farrar – Local Environmental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

Agenda Item	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
AGENDA/ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP (Track, Open, Close)
Call to Order and Introductions	Meeting called to order by Chair Loach – 1:05pm		
Welcome and Roll Call	Welcome & Rollcall – Andrew Preis Committee members present: 9/10 (quorum met)		
Safety Minute	- Mount Spurr update, Andrew Preis OEM Program Manager. See notes below.		
Consent Agenda- Approval of previous meeting minutes from 3/19/25	Motion: George Vakalis Second: Brian Dean Result: Unanimous pass		
Consent Agenda- Approval of Agenda for 6/18/25	Motion: Brian Dean Second: George Vakalis Result: Unanimous pass		
Presentation	<p>Presentation slot was ASD Senior Director of Emergency Management Jared Woody, and OEM Exercise Coordinator and Program Manager Kari Wiederkehr presenting on their after action reports from previous week's Preparedness Days training and exercise series.</p> <p>Jared Woody:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3-day training and exercise event called Preparedness Days 2025. - Tuesday training on Standard Response Protocol, Standard Reunification Method (SRP/SRM). Both being adopted for next school year (2025/26). Evacuations, shelter-in-place, fires, hazmat all get governed by these protocols. - Wednesday functional exercise, activated with MOA partners, for an active shooter at King Tech School scenario. - Lots of learning and eye opening, first active 		

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	<p>shooter exercise in quite a while for this jurisdiction. Good partnership building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thursday moved into family reunification tabletop exercise. Setup notionally at Bartlett High School. Lots of feedback walking/talking through the scenario with lots of partners in response and recovery. ASD, MOA EOC, APD, AFD, Red Cross, many other partners participated. - 6-18-25, hot wash meeting, with presentation on positives, ways to improve. Good feedback on how EOCs talk to each other and get information shared. - Overall great events and lots of positive feedback, lots of items to improve on. Hoping to exercise again next year. <p>Kari Wiederkehr:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives: operational coordination between MOA and ASD, information/intel sharing, and activation of the MOA Joint Information System (JIS) Plan. Positive that EOC got to test drive Tablet Command software utilized by AFD during active calls. EOC activated Alaska 2-1-1 for call taking and information sharing. Need to improve information talking points for 2-1-1 for the future. Found some sections and processes in the JIS plan that can be improved. After action review with the MOA exercise contractor for ways to improve for the future. 		
AGENCY REPORTS:			
Community Right to Know Act (CRTK)	<p>Jean Boyda, AFD/CRTK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 449 CRTK reports submitted through the E-Plan online system as of 6-17-25. Certificates of Compliance are being sent out as confirmation of invoice payments are received. 		

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Emergency Plans	Amanda Loach, OEM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full briefing on OEM 2025 Strategic Plan. See presentation slides below. 		
State Emergency Response Committee (SERC)	George Vakalis – Finance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most recent SERC meeting happened in April, short meeting. Mostly covering Mount Spurr information. No update on funding/resources. Many members absent from the meeting. There were some concerns expressed with the changes at the Federal level in the emergency management realm. Encouraged all local jurisdictions to start talking about how emergency management would/should work without Federal oversight, possibly without FEMA in the future. 	Set up a special meeting for the LEPC to discuss funding and future of LEPC funding, FEMA funding, recommendations to the SERC, etc. Before the next SERC meeting in October would be best.	Chair Loach will schedule a meeting and will do so in accordance with Anchorage LEPC bylaws.
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS & EM)	JJ Little, DHS&EM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A 		
Alaska Partners for Infrastructure Protection (APIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New private sector chair person recently announced. 	Hillary Palmer new APIP private chair	Andy will reach out and invite chair persons to future LEPC meetings
Joint Medical Emergency Planning Group (JMEPG)	Lore Olson – Alaska Regional EM, current JMEPG Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pediatric exercise was in March, been working on after action and improvement plan. June's meeting rescheduled for July. 		
Communications: (AWARN/ALMR)	Jason Beach – MOA Comms/Radio Shop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AWARN projects still working. Roll out of APD's next gen handheld radios. Vehicular radios upgrade coming soon. Modification of simulcast AWARN sites happening over the winter into 2026. 		
Anchorage Health Department (AHD)	Katherine Stodgell – AHD EP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steve Johnson reporting out. Participated in the Preparedness Days exercises along with AHD PIO. Winding down the grant year toward end of the month. Grant year ramps back up next month for the next year. 		

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Citizen Corps/CERT	<p>John Huffman – UAA Director EHSRM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CERT team in a run and maintain status keeping everyone involved in routine activities. New EM at UAA, hoping to make CERT more robust. Anthony Picasso new EM. <p>Manch Garhart, Girdwood VFD/CERT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hired part time employee at GFR to run CERT program, trainings, onboarding of new members. 		
MOA Emergency Operations Center	<p>Andrew Preis – Programs Manager, OEM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please see notes below. 		
Ex-Officio member comments	<p>Aviva Braun, NWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A 		
Break	10min break.		
Unfinished Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A 		
New Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the next meeting, will include an agenda item regarding the overall funding issue. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add this to the Q3 agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Kubler, Providence Alaska Medical Center EM. UMED group came together recently from an EM perspective, talked about resource sharing in the UMED district, space, stuff, staff. Looking at establishing an ongoing Teams portal to keep comms open among members. 		
Committee Member Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A 		
ADJOURNMENT:	<p>Motion requested to adjourn meeting</p> <p>Motion: Dean</p> <p>Second: Vakalis</p> <p>Result: Unanimous passed</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at: 2:31pm</p> <p>Next meeting will be Wednesday SEPTEMBER 17th 1pm-3pm Loussac Library Moose Room/MS Teams hybrid</p>		

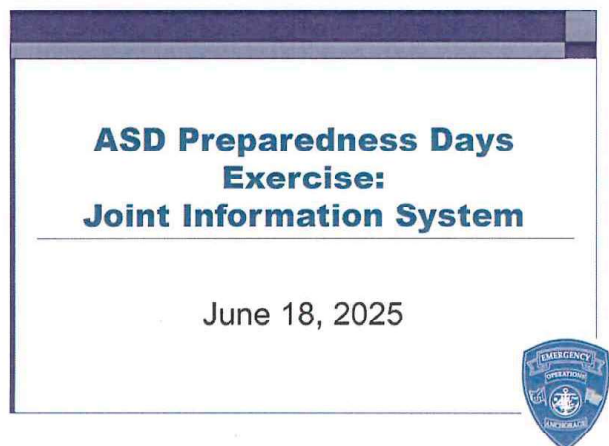
Agenda Item	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
			<div data-bbox="1339 661 1388 693">Date</div> <div data-bbox="1364 598 1599 716">9/18/2025</div>

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Safety Minute notes: Mount Spurr update

- 1.) Alaska Volcano Observatory website
 - a. www.avo.alaska.edu
 - b. Spurr details box – this will show the latest update on Mount Spurr, and the date and time the update was posted
 - c. Volcanoes page – can click on Mount Spurr either on the map or in the list below
 - i. Description, current activity, past activity, images, maps, etc.
 - ii. Shows where Spurr is on the map, and has a map key telling what the yellow triangle means
 - iii. Recent daily update reports
 - d. News page – where you can find most recent information statement, which is a more complete published report the AVO puts out when there is a significant change in conditions to report
- 2.) State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)
 - a. www.ready.alaska.gov
 - b. Mount Spurr volcano frequently asked questions page (FAQ)
 - c. 7 pages of informed solid information put together in collaboration with Alaska Volcano Observatory, National Weather Service, and many other partner agencies

Preparedness Days Training and Exercise Wrap-up slides



Objective 1:

Perform Operational Coordination by collaborating between the Anchorage School District EOC, first responders, and supporting agencies, achieving seamless integration of operational roles.

Strengths:

- MOA EOC sent Liaison Officer (LOFR) to ASD EOC who could relay information quickly & accurately.
- MOA Public Information Officer (PIO) & APD PIO delegated tasks to others within EOC/Joint Information System to facilitate collection & verification of information.
- Tablet Command® provided near live information pertaining to response & supported message development.
- EOC internal communications were on-point.

Improvements:

- Limited familiarity with JIS Plan within EOC & was stated that APD PIO had no familiarity with the plan.
- MOA EOC PIOs did not have a direct link with ASD EOC or APD PIO, slowing communications.
- Most communication was via phone call or text instead of established Microsoft Teams & email channels.
- APD LOFR requested for support & communications at MOA EOC but APD was unable to provide one.
- MOA EOC/JIS had to pull information from ASD EOC/APD PIO rather than having it pushed to them.

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Objective 2:

Provide coordination with and direction to 911 dispatch facilities within the Municipality to ensure continuity of operations despite the occurrence of a large scale incident, including providing sources of information and referral.

Strengths:

- EOC 201 brief was conducted quickly and provided direction and identified unmet needs.
- Once activated, JIS team was effective in supporting the ongoing operations & reunification efforts.
- 2-1-1 activation was quick at request of MOA EOC.
- MOA & APD PIOs preplanned messaging & amplified APD messaging until further guidance was received.

Improvements:

- 2-1-1 had to request information for call center multiple times. Information was being released to public simultaneously with or prior to 2-1-1 notification.



Objective 3:

Demonstrate situational assessment capabilities by ensuring participants can accurately assess incidents and prioritizations.

Strengths:

- Support for dispatch/9-1-1 was adequate to relieve the incident related volume.
- Dispatch leveraged immediate access to information for points of contact, JIS/PIO contact, reunification and staging locations.

Improvements:

- APD's lack of familiarity with the JIS plan and capabilities limited JIS response and activities until late in the response.
- Lack of coordination in social media messaging, releasable information, and updates between the ASD EOC and MOA EOC.



Objective 4:

Conduct coordination during the incident between hospitals and other healthcare partners regarding patient status and information needs.

Strengths:

- HCC provided prompt updates to bed status for surrounding hospitals in case of MCI.
- APD and MOA PIOs drafted messaging to deter overcrowding hospitals and provide directions for the FAG/reunification center.
- EOC leveraged delegation of authority to activate the JIS in the absence of APD request.

Improvements:

- Lack of awareness of JIS capabilities hindered their participation in supporting the operations.
- Lack of coordination in social media messaging, releasable information, and updates between the ASD EOC and MOA EOC.



MOA Office of Emergency Management

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EMAP in the Strategic Plan

Purpose

Pursuant to the functions and responsibilities of AMIC 3.80.010 and national emergency standards set forth by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), the OEM Strategic Plan identifies specific goals tied to the mission and vision of the organization and program. This includes establishment and enhancement of plans and procedures that delineate essential services, emergency expectations of partners, and above all provide for the safekeeping of the residents, facilities, and environment in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Filters which we utilize for resource and decision management

- Best practices in Emergency Management as stated in Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Emergency Management Standard

2025 Strategies (to name a couple...)

Develop and complete improvement plan of compliance with Emergency Management Standard through Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) by January 2026.

Identify resources and complete a planning project to address planning deficiencies identified in the 2024 Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) baseline assessment (such as appropriate hazard and functional expertise, prevention, resource management, EOC procedural development, etc.)

(OEM Strategic Plan V4, p2 and p 10, Sigard and dated 2/11/2025)



Overview of the EMAP

- Peer assessors assess the degree to which an Emergency Management Program achieves compliance with the criteria established in the Emergency Management Standard
- EMAP Accreditation process provides a mechanism for critical, objective, and constructive review



Overview of the EMAP

- Voluntary, non-governmental process of self-assessment and external independent peer review
- Evaluates against the Emergency Management Standard and Emergency Management Program's:
 - organization,
 - resources,
 - plans,
 - processes,
 - procedures, and
 - capabilities

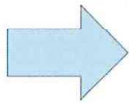
The Emergency Management Standard

- Rigorous, industry standard for Emergency Management Programs
- Scalable based on the size and complexity of the jurisdiction
- Flexible in design so that Emergency Management Programs of varying sizes, populations, risks, and resources can use it as a blueprint for improvement and attain compliance
- Defines "what" a high-quality Emergency Management Program is rather than "how" any particular function or activity is conducted



Emergency Management Standard

73 elements



Chapter 1: Administration	
Chapter 2: Definitions	
Chapter 3: Emergency Management Program	
3.1: Program Administration and Evaluation	
3.2: Coordination	
3.3: Advisory Committee	
3.4: Administration and Finance	
3.5: Laws and Authorities	
Chapter 4: Emergency Management Program Elements	
4.1: Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, and Consequence Analysis	
4.2: Hazard Mitigation	
4.3: Prevention	
4.4: Continuity Planning and Procedures	
4.5: Operational Planning and Procedures	
4.6: Incident Management	
4.7: Resource Management, Mutual Aid and Logistics	
4.8: Communications and Warning	
4.9: Facilities	
4.10: Training	
4.11: Exercises, Evaluations, and Corrective Actions	
4.12: Emergency Public Information and Education	

Application of 'The Emergency Management Standard'

"Emergency Management Program" a system that provides for the management and coordination of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities for all hazards. The system encompasses all organizations, agencies, departments, and individuals having responsibilities for these activities.

- ☐ By virtue of the definition, the Standards look at all aspects of the program. And includes both internal and external stakeholders, processes, plans, and procedures.
- ☐ Emergency Management Program determines how compliance with the Emergency Management Standard will best be demonstrated



Benefits

- ☐ Credibility
- ☐ Accountability
- ☐ Sustainability



Levels of Effort

- ☐ Executive-Level Commitment
 - Acknowledgement, Support, and Buy-In
 - Financial Support
 - Buy-In
 - Review & Finalize Plans
 - Mandate Programmatic Changes
- ☐ Program Stakeholders (LEPC is Here!!)
 - Help with Accomplishing required tasks
 - Documentation compliance
- ☐ Emergency Management Department
 - Administers the Emergency Management Program
 - Facilitates the Accreditation Management



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Where is Anchorage in the EMAP Process?

2023

- 8/2023 Contacted EMAP team for program support
- 12/2023 Applied and approved for a FEMA grant for a baseline assessment

2024

- 5/2024 OEM staff trained for self assessment and certified as assessors for other communities
- 8/2024 OEM completed documentation for self assessment of Anchorage program
- 9/2024 On-site evaluation by EMAP team with preliminary finding of **26% compliance**
- 10/2024 Continuous improvement of program and draft of overall improvement plan



2025

- 3/2025 Received final assessment report with **51% compliance**
- 4/2025 EMAP Commission approves Anchorage for conditional accreditation. We are the first program in Alaska to get this far!
- WE ARE ALL HERE! Improvement Priorities: Admin, Finance, Legal and Autonomous, Protection, Resource Management, Public Information**

2026

- 1/2026 Deadline for improvement actions completion
- 4/2026 Targeting full accreditation approval by EMAP Commission



Andy's EOC Update notes on EOC activities in last quarter:

Mount Spurr planning update for OEM

- Alert level "advisory" and aviation color code "yellow"
- MOA EOC was activated at a Level 2 for approx. 2 months for increased operational planning, collaboration with partners, and increased information sharing
- 5 sector meetings were reported last quarter as being in the works, those happened in late March in order to bring public and private sector stakeholders together to share critical information related to those different sectors regarding potential ashfall event
- Sectors included:
 - o Transportation
 - o IT/Comms
 - o Public health
 - o Safety/security
 - o Utilities
- Planning efforts continued through April, with multiple operational periods, multiple incident action plans, and a comprehensive situation report

6/18/2025

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Agenda Item	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large effort to procure PPE for 22 different municipal departments. Orders divided up and delivered. Included N95 masks, protective goggles and goggle wipes, nitrile gloves, and ziplock bags - Latest information statement shared by the AVO on May 28 included the following updated information regarding unrest at Mount Spurr: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The magma intrusion beneath Mount Spurr has stalled, and the likelihood of an eruption continues to gradually decline o The volcano remains at an elevated state of unrest, and an explosive eruption like those that occurred in 1953 and 1992 is still possible o We expect additional increases in seismic activity, gas emissions, surface deformation, and surface heating prior to an eruption, if one were to occur. These changes may provide days to weeks of warning o Full report can be found on the Alaska Volcano Observatory website at https://avo.alaska.edu/news/view/spurr-information-statement-may-28th-2025 - Ongoing coordination with south central emergency managers, the AVO, and other partners to make sure we are up on all the latest intel 		

Preparedness Days exercise and training series:

- OEM staff and many partner agencies and departments participated in a training and exercise series put on by the EM office at Anchorage School District, regarding active school shooter-type events
- The trainings received was on the new response protocol being adopted and trained at the Anchorage School District. Training put on by the I Love You Guys Foundation
- The EOC notionally activated the day after the training for an active school shooter exercise, testing recently adopted public information and joint information plans
 - o Participation from OEM, AHD, APD, AFD, AK VOADS, Mayor's Office comms team, ASD
- Third day was another exercise, focused on a newly adopted protocol for family reunification efforts following such an event
- Lots of good planning, communications, collaborations came out of the training and exercises, with some good lessons learned and ways to improve