

Local Emergency Planning Committee Tabletop Exercise

Thursday, February 14, 2019 @ 09:00 AM

Town of East Longmeadow's EOC

1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

General Description

The Town of East Longmeadow has a population of 16,000 and is located west of Hampden, to the south of Springfield, north of Enfield/Somers and east of Longmeadow.

The major roadways serving the community are routes 83, 220 and 186. Interstate 91 is approximately 10 minutes west and runs north to south. The Mass Pike, 90, is approximately 20 north and runs west to east.

Government/Emergency Operations

The Town of East Longmeadow has a Town Council form of government with the Town Manager in charge of day-to-day operations. The Town Manager has appointed the Fire Chief as the Emergency Management Director (EMD), who is responsible for developing integrated emergency and disaster plans and procedures to guide responses to all potential natural man-made hazards. The Fire Chief/EMD is also to responsible direct emergency response and recovery efforts. The EOC staff positions are assigned with key department head such as; the Police Chief, Superintendent of Public Works, Superintendent of Schools, Director of Council on Aging, Director of Public Health, IT Director, and ELCAT Director. Trained volunteers may also fill staffing. A state liaison from MEMA would normally be dispatched to the town EOC if it were activated. Health Alliances with Baystate Health and the American Red Cross would augment the town EOC as approved by the Town Manager, based on the emergency at hand.

The Town of East Longmeadow has a full-time Fire, Police, DPW, Emergency Management Director and Public Health,

The Town of East Longmeadow's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is located in the East Longmeadow Fire Department's training room building located at 150 Somers Road near the center rotary of the town.

Industry:

The town of is the home of several industries including Cartamundi, Lenox, Plastipak, and Suddekor.

Facility and Faculty Area Background

Cartamundi is a 1,200,000 square foot manufacturing company that specializes in board games and Play Doh. It is located at 443 Shaker Road (Rt 220) in the industrial park with several single-family homes directly across the street from the company. The company's safety manager is an active member of the East Longmeadow LEPC. Several other companies are located in the industrial park that also deal with hazardous materials. The other companies are estimated to employ 300 people.

The Buckeye pipeline runs south to north just west of Cartamundi in close proximity to the rail trail. This pipeline carries liquid petroleum products such as gasoline and jet fuel. The pipeline is operated by Buckeye Partners.

Schools have not been released for the day. East Longmeadow High School is located one mile north of the incident. The Arbors Kids Day Care is located 1/8 mile west of the facility on Industrial Drive.

2. SCENARIO TIME/WEATHER CONDITIONS

It is Tuesday at 1:00PM with temperature moderate for this time of year 49 degrees with 5 to 10 MPH wind blowing towards an easterly direction. The sun is shining and clouds dot the sky. These weather conditions are expected to remain the same until dusk.

However, there is a slight chance of late day snow showers. Evening temperatures are expected to fall into the low 20s. The forecast for the next few days is expected to stay fair and sunny with the temperatures in the low 30s during the day and low 20s at night with dry conditions.

3. PRE-EXERCISE CONDITIONS

It is a normal business day for the Town of East Longmeadow.

4. EXERCISE SCENARIO

At 1:45 the sound of a loud explosion can be heard and felt at the fire department. Moments later the sound of the town's Emergency Communication Center's 911 lines ring continuously and police, fire, and EMS personnel begin to respond. The Fire Chief/EMD responds with the initial fire response.

Message 1 East Longmeadow's Emergency Communication Center dispatches fire/EMS, police, and AMR for reported explosion at Cartamundi, 443 Shaker Road.

Message 2 The Cartamundi's Safety Manager escapes the blast but he is feeling ill and injured. Fire department personnel locate him and ask if he knows what happened. He recalls that he took a phone call seconds before the blast from an unidentified

caller. The caller stated that he deliberately placed a chemical bomb at the base Play Doh silos to blow up the facility. The Safety Manager didn't have time to warn the employees or call the police. Fire personnel relay this information to dispatch.

- Message 3** Residents from are calling 911 and are anxious about the first sound of the blast and the white cloud overhead over. They complain that they smell something and aren't feeling well.
- Message 4** People in the area are attempting to flee by car or on foot. Cars are blocking access to the scene for other responding emergency service vehicles. Gridlock conditions exist in the area. Curious on lookers are attempting to enter the area to see the explosion site and structural damage.
- Message 5** The Incident Commander (IC) and the Incident Command Post near the scene requests and receive Tier II documentation with its listed Chemical Inventory. It lists chemicals of concern: "polyethylene polymer, polypropylene polymer, & polystyrene polymer".
- Message 6** The white cloud is still spreading and appears to be heading in the direction of the residential neighborhood across the street. Mr. Smith who lives within a mile from the blast site calls 911. At the same time the sun is still shining brightly over the East Longmeadow High School on the other side of town with the high school students being dismissed for the day.
- Message 7** One-half hour into the incident a large fireball explodes near the blast site. The Safety Manager immediately notifies the fire department that there is large natural gas line that runs from underground vertically to the roof of the facility to feed the facilities rooftop-heating units.
- Message 8** The Incident Commander requests more units of Police and Fire beyond the capacity of the current mutual aid systems. All available resources are in use and he is requesting assistance because responders will need to be relieved for rest.
- Message 9** The Operations Section Chief has told the IC that DPW has no more barriers or equipment for access control. This is relayed to the EOC.
- Message 10** News stations WWLP, Western Mass News, and NECN have arrived on-scene and have parked their satellite broadcasting trucks at the intersection of Shaker Road & Chestnut Street. They are demanding access to the scene for video and information to broadcast on the 5:00 PM news. Several reporters have taken off on foot with their cameramen to gain access to the scene.
- Message 11** An employee of Cartamundi overheard the conversation between the injured Safety Manager and the firefighter concerning the threat to destroy the company prior to the blast. He is speaking with the reporter from and telling the reporter that someone deliberately caused the blast and had threatened to do it again soon.

- Message 12** The Incident Commander requests that a warning message be disseminated to the public for protection and evacuation away from this incident now that an evacuation zone has been established. The Massachusetts State Police Fire Investigation & Bomb Squad and the Massachusetts Hazardous Materials Team has arrived but has not entered the isolation zone to determine what if any potential hazardous materials released.
- Message 13** 911 is inundated with calls seeking information about the crisis, with calls from citizens trying to locate displaced family members, citizens needing directions to exit the city safely and with calls from citizens who are encountering emergencies at home. Dispatchers relay that they cannot keep up with all of the calls.
- Message 14** WWLP is broadcasting information received from an alleged unnamed official source that the town has not been keeping up with normal police and fire calls and gives an example of a domestic abuse call that went unanswered for 20 minutes. The reporter is stating that the domestic abuse partner was severely beaten and an earlier response by the police could have prevented severe injuries. 911 recordings prove that the response time was normal and was far less than the information in the broadcast.
- Message 15** Many outside mutual aid responders, state and outside agencies have worked for many hours at this point at both the scene and the EOC. They are tired and hungry and need to be relieved from duty to get some rest.
- Message 16** Emergency Service vehicles need refueling. City reserves are running low.
- Message 17** Electrical wires are dangling after a Verizon repair truck boom lift struck them while repairing telephone lines in the area. Electrical and phone services are now out in the area of Denslow Road. No one was injured.
- Message 18** WWLP reporters and a cameraman have arrived at the EOC and are attempting to enter to get the latest information from officials. They believe the town manager is in the building and want to interview her.
- Message 19** The Massachusetts State Police Fire Investigation & Bomb Squad and the Massachusetts Hazardous Materials Team relays to the IC that they have:
- Made entry to the isolation zone.
 - Seen 12 bodies in the facility and 24 more inside the isolation zone.
 - Cleared the area for any secondary devices.
 - View incredible damage to Cartamundi and the building directly behind the facility.
 - They also report the blast has exposed to pipeline the runs along the bike trail.

The IC sends that report to the EOC. MEMA is asking the city for a report of casualties and estimated property damages and the status of available morgue services.

- Message 20** On-scene personnel need portable water for drinking and cooling off. They also need portable toilets. Incident Command is requesting that these be provided and is asking if the MEMA can provide them.
- Message 21** The Hazardous Materials Response Team relays to the IC that they have tested the area of the blast and do not detect any hazardous materials.
- Message 22** The incident is now 12-hours old and crews will be relieved with fresh crews. While there is no longer any immediate threat there is a criminal investigation beginning, a large area power outage, a large natural gas outage, and much debris scattered over a one-block area from the facility. Telephone poles have been knocked over and roadways are covered in debris and tangled wires. The EOC works with all agencies to develop an operational plan for the clean up and recovery.