

WARREN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

July 17, 1997

Members Present

John J. Farrell, Deputy Director
Office of Natural Disaster & Civil Defense

Philip J. Arthur
Environmental Control Manager
Finch Pruyn & Company, Inc.

John Ellingsworth
Glens Falls Fire Dept.

Marvin Lemery, Administrator
Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement

James Canavan, Coordinator
Emergency Medical Services

Max Reichen, Occupational Health and Training Manager
Finch Pruyn

Herbert E. Riedel
Senior Citizens Council

Fred Lamy
Warren County Sheriff's Dept.

Chief Richard Carey
Glens Falls Police Dept.

Steve Craig
New York State Police

Pat Auer for
Joan Grishkot, Director
Health Services

Joan Dillon
Secretary LEPC

Guests

Lt. William Sickinger
New York State Police

Al Dewey, Director
Saratoga County Emergency Services

Lt. James Piper
Warren County Sheriff's Dept.

John David
Glens Falls Fire Dept.

Members Absent

Charles McCabe
Ames Goldsmith, Inc.

Scott Sopczyk, Director
Greater Glens Falls Transit System

William Trombley
Adirondack Chapter, American Red Cross

David Capron, Plant Engineer
NAMIC

Sgt. Robert Hebert
New York State Police

Andrew J. Roden
Environmental Representative

James G. Marshall, Publisher/Editor
The Post Star

Bob Desiderio, M.D.
Dept. of Emergency Medicine, Glens Falls Hospital

Laura Stebbins
Dept. of Emergency Medicine, Glens Falls Hospital

David Cedarstrom
The Chronicle

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

The Chairman turned the meeting over to Phil Arthur, Vice Chairman, as host. All present identified themselves and their agency. Phil passed out copies of the proposed scenario (copy attached) which will hopefully meet all of our needs. He and Max had discussed whether we wanted to use actual conditions or if set them. If we want this to be strictly a Warren County incident we will have to set them because if it were an actual incident the wind could take it into Saratoga or Washington Counties.

Max Reichen then took over the discussion and asked how we wanted to handle it. It was decided that we would like to keep it simple and have Saratoga and Washington Counties as observers rather than active participants. The release will be kept on site with the potential of going off-site thereby involving others through the alerting process.

The date of the table top was set as September 23 at 12:00 noon at Finch, Pruyn. The date for the full scale exercise will be decided at the critique of the table top.

We then discussed the incident itself and the order of response. Everyone read through the scenario. Max discussed the Finch Pruyn response team and the time sequences necessary. He estimated that it would be at least one hour before they would be able to attempt to stop the leak. It is likely that the Fire and EMS people would also be there to assess the situation.

We further discussed the role of others in the assessment and response phases. Agencies such as Warren County Sheriff's Dept. and the State Police would only participate if asked or if potential for large off-site response was necessary. Everyone else would be observers and will be helpful in the critique process.

Our next concern was how many victims we should expect and how serious their injuries would be. There would be at least two people going to the hospital initially, those closest to the car. How they would be rescued, etc. was discussed. Jim Canavan said that he was sure that the hospital would want to participate as they also need several drills per year, and that they may need 10-12 people to tax their system. The Emergency Center has the ability to page all doctors if necessary. He will meet with the hospital and find out how far they want to go. He will also contact Empire Ambulance and see if they want to participate. He will advise us at our next meeting.

The emergency plans of all agencies were discussed for notification, evacuation, etc.

It was decided that we would do a news release giving information about the full scale exercise after the table top.

Phil Arthur, Marv Lemery, Jim Canavan and the Glens Falls Fire Department decided to hold a mini-meeting at the Glens Falls Firehouse just for the emergency services people on August 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Dillon
Secretary

Finch Pruyn Emergency Response Table Top Exercise

Location:

Tank car position #8 Anhydrous Ammonia Tank Car - 90 Tons

Temperature Actual

Wind speed Actual

Wind Direction Actual

At approximately 3:15 PM on ~~September~~ ^{October (day to be established)} 1997 a mill pipefitter is making a connection to the Anhydrous Ammonia car.

As the pipefitter is tightening the connection on the three inch liquid discharge valve, the valve fails allowing a three inch hole in the top of the car to vent. This is connected to the liquid tube that travels to the bottom of the car for unloading liquid. The pressure on this ammonia car is approximately 137 psi. The car has an excess flow valve that would normally shut off the flow, but this fails to set properly. Immediately a large white cloud forms from the liquid shooting out of the opening.

The safety man on the job is standing approximately 25 feet away with radio in hand. He makes an immediate call for help to the foreman of the pulp mill.

The Bleach Plant Operator simultaneously receives an activation of ammonia ambient chemical sensors. The siren in the pulp mill is activated by the bleach plant operator requiring evacuation of non-essential personal to the Pulp Mill Maintenance Shop or the Oakland Ave Guard Station.

Initially, two victims are overcome with ammonia vapors. The pipefitter and the safety man. Upon arrival, the pulp mill foreman sees a large white cloud gassing off from the liquid pool that is growing underneath the rail car. The foreman is unable to approach the area and he calls via radio, for the activation of the Chemical emergency response plan.

The responding foreman from the pulp mill is the on scene commander for Finch Pruyn. He initially requires evacuation of the pulp mill, woodroom and waste treatment. Following the Chemical Emergency response plan, he asks security to call 911 for fire and medical as well as notifying our response team via of pagers.

The pulp mill foreman initial size up of the situation is as follows:

Two men visibly down, one on the rail car and one on the ground. The anhydrous ammonia railcar is spraying liquid out the top, which is running down the tracks and pooling length wise about 20 feet along the tracks. The initial estimation is that the leak is releasing approximately five gallons of liquid ammonia per minute. A large white vapor cloud forms from the liquid and is blowing with the wind.