



Missouri Emergency Response Commission
2302 Militia Drive PO Box 3133
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
573-751-1700

Missouri Emergency Response Commission Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 2:00 P.M. October 9, 2025

Location:

Wyndham Executive Center
2200 Interstate 70 Dr. SW Columbia, MO 65203

WebEx Call In: (650) 479-3207

Meeting number (access code): 2863 823 6914

Meeting password: jiKmRbSh638

Welcome/Introductions

Chris Berndt, Cory Jorgensen, Sean Counihan, Stephanie Norton, Greg Landwehr, Sara Allen, Lana Nelson, Kim Brundage, Alexandra Fisher, Lisa Jobe, Patrick Seamands, Lesley Rone, Leann Hoelscher, Terry Cassil, Tim Taylor, Pete Martin, Lisa Cardone, Shreve Bentley, Brett Roedel, John Trower, Tom Bergman, Stephen McLane, Tim Gablehouse, Karen Eagleson, Nikol Enyart, Will Johnson

Minutes from the previous meeting 7-31-25

Motion to Approve: Lisa Cardone

Second: Sean Counihan

Motion carried Minutes Approved

Approval of Consent Agenda

Add a bullet item under new business-Policy rules and procedures added by Pete Martin.

Motion to Approve: Sean Counihan

Second: Tim Taylor

Motion carried- consent agenda approved

Old Business:

- Bylaws- bylaws that were reviewed were not the most current bylaws. The 2018 version is the version you were working on. There is a more current version. MERC staff took previous recommendations and changes to current version. We will table this and go through it at a later meeting.
- LEPC/LEPD grant update- Pete Martin- Application was released and closed on September 26th. We had 20 applications for \$1.1 million. We only received \$500,000 to give out. Pete is currently working on cutting \$610,000. One thing he is looking at is that he's trying to look at providing 3 options to the selection committee. CEPF applications have to come in to make sure they are all compliant. Hoping to have a decision made by next Friday. Hazmat teams, foams and physicals will have priority. Fire equipment supplemental items may not make the cut because those would be more for fire rather than Hazmat.

- Stephen McLane brought up the issue of Lithium-Ion batteries (bulk storage) to see if people who have bulk storage of Lithium-Ion batteries should have to file a Tier II. The hazard associated with Lithium batteries seems to warrant the need for Tier II filing. From the federal side, it takes an act of congress to add things to the list of reportable quantities. Missouri sort of did this with petroleum products. There are millions of pounds of lithium batteries in our communities that our responders need to know about. Karen did some research on this. Several states are reporting Li/Ion as waste. Only one state currently has legislation in place where they report 500 lbs. of Li/Ion batteries on Tier II and that's Louisiana. The big question is what is the threshold? Are we going to make every convenience store report any batteries on the shelf? Tim Gablehouse commented that a lot of states are considering threshold levels. They're considering: 1. Consumer misuse of batteries, scooters, drills, etc. for example in New York, a lot of fires due to scooters using after market batteries. 2. People with Li/Ion batteries in bulk for commercial industrial packages. They are talking about doing reporting. Most states are regulating this under fire codes so the information is directly in the hands of fire departments and fire inspectors can inspect on. In Colorado we tell communities to do this at the local level on planning/zoning departments. Several cities have implemented that plan through city fire codes. Most of our problems in this state are in communities that don't have codes. Tom Bergman said that his info from EPA considers it reportable at 10,000 lbs. Any number of states (OK and TX) require reporting of Li/Ion batteries packaged for commercial use over 10,000 lbs. If they are packaged for sale to ultimate consumer, they are exempted under EPCRA. In Oklahoma we have 2 warehouses that exceed 20,000,000 lbs. They are just storing them there right now. It's just warehousing, they have to be stored somewhere to store them until they ship them out. There is currently pending at OMB a proposed rule that will trigger the Tier II with EPCRA and it's trying to address Li/Ion batteries. This is on EPA's radar. Chris suggested that we might need to talk to the fire marshal but without a state fire code, it won't help those rural areas. A couple of communities across the country are creating special codes for Li/Ion batteries even where they don't have any other codes to address Li/Ion batteries in rural areas. Just add it as a state field. Tim said we do this a lot in Colorado. Tom said in Oklahoma we added hazardous waste along with some other things. Karen said she will put a packet together and send it out for what research she has found on other states for Li/Ion batteries.

New Business:

- Introduction of new MERC Director-
 - Terry Cassil introduced our new director, Pete Martin. Pete served on hazmat team, Boone County LEPC Chair and has been a contract hazmat instructor for the MERC. We had 47 applications for MERC director. We are happy to welcome Pete as our new MERC Director.
- Introduction of new Commissioner- Missouri Department of Economic Development-Lesley Rone is online. She is a regional engagement manager for economic development, she is the southeast regional manager. She used to work for Homeland Security in Washington, DC. She is happy to be on the commission and happy to represent Department of Economic Development.
- Update on Tier II special filing season- It's going well. There are a few who have been upset, but not too much. They have been having issues because the season was split into two. We have collected around \$500,000 so far this year bringing the balance to \$892,799, we usually do around \$900,000. Terry advised he has not received any complaints. The final filing report will not be run until 11/3/25, and the report will provide the breakdown of amounts for funding for CEPF, DFS, and MERC. DFS wants to know when they can start earmarking some of their 10%. Nikol noted she tracks and reviews the amount and can tell him where the 10% is right now. Nikol advised \$52,265 is what was collected July 1 to today. This would be safe to earmark this amount as of today.
- MERC truck update- Terry said we were given the blessing to go ahead and order a truck. It's on order. It wasn't on a lot so it will be delivered after the dealership takes shipment.

- Policy rules and procedures- Pete went through old policies and procedures and is asking permission to make updates and edits on these. Pete will bring anything he has to the commission once he finds something that needs updated. It gets confusing to the LEPC/Ds when we change our rules, procedures and processes. As long as we follow the law, it's a good idea to update these policies and procedures. Patrick is asking how many policies and procedures we have and how many don't have dates? We don't know yet, but we are beginning to investigate that. Pete wants to clean things up.

Partner Agency Reports

- DHSS- Cory Jorgensen said they didn't submit a report, they were embroiled in the ingestion pathway exercise with the nuclear plant. The number of Cobalt 60 shipments is up immensely.
- DFS- Greg Landwehr submitted a report. They funded \$92,106 for 19 courses. Trained 320 students. Two vendors did the training. DFS did not provide any training to Region G, H or I through CEPF funds. He also provided Lisa Jobe with a list of hazmat courses we can piggyback off our course deliveries. He has a new vendor to add to this. They will have some alternative fuel sources: battery powered cars, hydrogen powered cars, home energy storage, etc. KC Fire is putting 450 new recruits over the next 3 years. They have 800 eligible to retire over the next 3 years. We are already scheduling classes for FY 27.
- EPA- None
- MoDNR- Sean Counihan submitted a report. In addition to that, due to the federal funding questions, this has led to some state funding questions. They are on a moratorium of spending other than operational needs. They are not allowed to go to training at the moment. Foam Collection Event-We have money in hand (he thinks). Part of the spending issues is E&E. The question regarding foam collection is how this will affect our E&E. Our admin folks are meeting and working on this right now. He doesn't have a timetable yet. He will let us know as soon as he hears something definitive. Hoping by the end of the year, if not the first of the year. DFS put out a survey. Several LEPCs have moved forward with removing it on their own. DNR is still getting several requests on foam removal. Tim Taylor will be refiling legislation next year, he is requesting folks to share this information with him ASAP so he can use when working on his legislation. Greg said if they do a mass collection event, please let him know and he will push out an email to the fire service. Sean doesn't know if they can do a multi-location collection event, it might be a central location. Terry Cassil said during COVID, the fire mutual aid coordinators were very instrumental in helping with some distribution. We might be able to use the fire mutual aid group to help with bringing the foam into a central location for collection. Sean said they were originally given \$500,000 with another \$500,000 on the table. The going rate for most contractors for disposal is \$4-5 per gallon plus some fees. It's a substantial cost to do this. Initial discussions, DNR was kicking around a cost share with agencies. Nothing is definitive yet. There will be more to come, and Sean will share as soon as he gets information.
- 7th CST- Mr. Trower- fall season ramped up, 5 Mizzou games, 3 Chiefs games, NE/Cincinnati game, Boat shootout in August, PGA Steeple tournament in St Louis. Training events: had people from Epcot/Chemical Biological Center gave some secret briefs, emerging threats. A few went to FT Leonard Wood and met with 763rd EOD. Tajikistan came for a visit as a foreign partner collaboration to balance CBRN collaboration between countries. Have a couple folks in New Mexico working the balloon festival. Some travel will be restricted due to federal budget situation. This is a busy year for Mizzou. They have 8 home games this year, usually have 5. Adoration Parade in Branson December 7. They anticipate drawing 50,000 spectators for this parade.

MERC Staff reports

- CEPF- Collection of Tier II fees until 11/1.

- HMEP- Nikol has some news. With the new year they gave us a 41% increase in our funding. They came back and said they collected 15% less and reduced us by 20%. Our previous award was \$440,564 and we are receiving \$622,197 this time. The money is in our account and ready for use. We do have to work on a revision to the numbers we submitted. We should be sending out the HMEP applications next week. They will be due back late November.
Sara Allen- updated CEPF Annual Compliance packet map.
PAM meetings are coming up, we have LEPCs that are using PAM meetings as their exercise. Sara is finding that they are just sending the AAR that is provided by PAM. Alex shared her Plan Reviews. She provided a map in the packet. She is working on Boone County's hazmat plan currently.
- Director Items- Pete Martin thanked Terry Cassil for taking over this team in the absence of a director. Terry's glad he had this opportunity to be director because it helped him learn to drill down and learn how the MERC works. He stated that the MERC office has a dedicated team who works hard and really cares about what going on in the state.
- Fiscal Report- Nothing in addition.

Move to Adjourn: Lisa Cardone

Second: Cory Jorgensen

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 15, 2026; 10:00 AM

SEMA Governor's Conference Room

2302 Militia Drive

Jefferson City, MO