

City of Alexandria
Local Emergency Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2026, 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Fire Station 210

5255 Eisenhower Avenue

These meeting minutes are intended to capture high-level updates, key discussion themes, and notable activities shared by participating agencies and partners. They are not a verbatim record of discussions, but rather a summary designed to provide situational awareness and highlight coordination efforts, ongoing initiatives, and emerging issues.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 11:05am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Welcome and Introductions

Board Members: Robert Dube (Chair), Abdel Elnoubi (Councilmember), Chad Lallier (Fire/Law Enforcement Representative), Ryan Belmore (Media Representative).

Attendees: Jasmin Johnson (Alexandria Health Department), Justin Murray (U.S. EPA), John Higginbotham (VDEM Region 7 Hazmat), Alex Rigby (AlexRenew), Wayne Burgess (Fairfax County LEPC), Terry Knepp & Terry Stanley (Virginia American Water), Paul Carden (Red Cross), William Kehoe (Resident), Jennifer Lewis (Resident), Gaston Araoz (Dominion Energy), and Leah Riley (T&ES Director).

Recruitment for Board Vacancies

- The Chair welcomed new member Ryan Belmore (Media Representative).
- William Kehoe will complete an application to serve as the Community Group representative. AlexRenew and Virginia American Water will also complete applications for the SARA representative positions.
- The Chair discussed the need to appoint a secretary.
- The Chair also acknowledged the increased participation and attendance were noted, representing one of the strongest turnouts in recent years.

City Agencies Reports

Fire, Hazmat

- The Fire Department is transitioning from a lead role to a partner role within the Northern Virginia State Hazmat Response Team, with responsibilities now shared among four jurisdictions.
- Two significant fuel spills and two lithium-ion battery incidents were reported, including a residential fire causing approximately \$50,000 in damages.

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- Lithium-ion battery disposal continues to present operational and financial challenges for both residents and agencies.
- Discussion occurred regarding the need for improved disposal protocols and enhanced public education on lithium-ion battery safety.

Fire, Environmental Investigations Unit

- No significant environmental incidents reported.

Transportation and Environmental Services

- No significant environmental incidents reported.

Alexandria Health Department

- Working on an after-action report and supporting regional Chempak training initiatives.

Office of Emergency Management

- Updating the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guide, with most departments having completed review of their assigned sections. The guide will be circulated for additional departmental, and Deputy City Managers review within the next month. Planning is underway for a hazardous materials tabletop exercise once the guide has been approved.
- OEM staffing is nearing full capacity, with one vacancy currently pending interviews
- Some City Departments recently participated in a regional recovery seminar focused on debris management and damage assessment with other NOVA jurisdictions, Maryland, and D.C.

Commonwealth of Virginia Reports

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

- Not present.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

- Noted that lithium-ion battery disposal remains a significant issue nationwide.
- Battery disposal challenges continue to impact agencies and residents due to high disposal costs and inconsistent protocols.
- Regional hazmat partners continue formalizing MOUs among participating Northern Virginia jurisdictions.

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Partner Agencies Reports

Inova Hospital System

- Not present.

AlexRenew

- No major incidents or operational concerns were reported.
- Coordination is ongoing regarding EV charger safety protocols in newly equipped garages.

Loudoun County LEPC

- Not present.

Fairfax County LEPC

- Approximately 400 Tier II reports were submitted, with 168 facilities classified as critical due to sulfuric acid contained in UPS battery systems.
- Fairfax County agreed to share regional meeting schedules to support cross-jurisdictional coordination and collaboration.
- Reviewing and updating the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guide.
- Shared observations regarding regional battery disposal challenges and recent hazardous materials incidents in the County.

EPA Criminal Investigation Division

- Reported relatively limited local activity but noted an increase in battery-related incidents nationwide.
- Will review available federal DOT guidance regarding lithium-ion battery disposal and provide updates at the next meeting.

Virginia American Water

- Ongoing hydrant flushing and lead service replacement projects continue throughout the service area.
- Battery disposal associated with meter replacements remains an operational concern.

Red Cross

- Continues supporting smoke alarm installation and shelter readiness initiatives.
- Preparing for large-scale regional events with a focus on consequence management and mass casualty preparedness.

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Dominion Energy

- Representative noted upcoming coordination efforts related to hurricane season preparedness.

Additional Discussion Topics

Tier II Reporting

- Tier II reports were received from multiple facilities, including BJ's, Home Depot, Verizon, Seven Eleven, Virginia Roofing, Valvoline, Comcast, Floor and Decor, Coca-Cola, UPS, and Reworld.
- Several reports remain outstanding, and clarification continues regarding reporting requirements tied to hazardous material thresholds.

Lithium-Ion Battery Disposal and Public Awareness

- Members emphasized the need for affordable and accessible solutions for lithium-ion battery disposal, particularly for compromised or bulk batteries.
- Existing household hazardous waste programs were discussed as partial solutions for standard batteries; however, significant challenges remain for compromised batteries.
- Members discussed developing a citywide public awareness campaign involving T&ES, Fire, OEM, and PIO.
- Potential grant opportunities and nonprofit partnerships were also discussed to support future outreach efforts.

Regional Recognition and Coordination

- The Chair recognized the Virginia American Water for providing a \$30,000 grant supporting fire department water filtration projects. Plans are underway for a future press event recognizing the grant and partnership.
- Members discussed the importance of continued regional coordination and sharing of meeting schedules among neighboring jurisdictions.

Meeting Adjournment at 12:30pm: Next meeting will be in July/August, TBD.