

Custer County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

April 18, 2012

The Custer County LEPC met in regular session at the Custer County Fairgrounds. The meeting was called to order by Michael Galloway, Chairman at 10:00 a.m. A sign-in sheet was provided and contact information sheets were passed around. There were 40 attendees.

A short video covering Incident Command was shown.

The LEPC had a guest speaker. Mr. Jon Hall, MMAC Emergency Readiness Officer with the Federal Aviation Administration gave a presentation about TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Response). This is a program that promotes safe transportation of any hazardous material. The program assists LEPC's with funding and training. Training is free and hands on.

Mr. Galloway informed the attendees of the Local Emergency Response Coordinator who is Phylana Harless. Tammie Miller is the Regional Preparedness and Response Nurse for Region 1.

A discussion was held concerning the tornado which struck Woodward on April 14, 2012. There were numerous injuries and six deaths associated with the incident. Emergency response from Custer County was sent to assist. Search and rescue was performed by local fire fighters. The Homeland Security Rescue trailer based in Weatherford was sent with trained fire fighters. Storm sirens were disabled by lightning strikes just as the storm approached Woodward. Questions were raised about lack of notification to the residents due to this. It was noted that storm sirens are generally used for outdoor notifications. It is one of several tools for storm alerts. The national weather service broadcasts via NOAA Weather Radio. Also broadcasts by local television stations. Blackboard Connect has a program for community notification, but this is a paid service.

Larry Gatlin of the Gatlin Brothers is giving a free concert to benefit the victims of the Woodward tornado. There are several faith-based volunteer organizations currently assisting in clean up and restorative services.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15a.m.

/s/Michael Galloway
Chairman