

## ARK-LA-TEX EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE MEETING

November 5, 2003

The Ark-La-Tex Emergency Management Alliance meeting was held at the Albemare Training Center in Magnolia, AR. John Blair, Columbia County Judge welcomed members and introduced Steve Card with Albemare Corp. Alliance Vice-Chairperson Jerry Pierce called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Wednesday, November 5, 2003.

The following members were present: Jerry Pierce, Gregg County; Lisa Polak, Caddo-Bossier OHSEP; Susan Dail, Bowie County Family Health Center; Dave Hall, Texarkana OEM; Vicki Harris, Texas Department of Health; Bob Shelton, East Texas Council of Governments; Richard Jurkowski, East Texas Council of Governments; Ricardo Lizasuain, BAFB; Courtney Dietzler, BAFB; Steve Card, Albemare Corp.; Lane Jean, City of Magnolia; Cathy Greeson, Claiborne Parish OHSEP; Frank Scroggins, Lafayette County Judge; Diane Albright, Lafayette County OEM; John Sesler, Walsh Distribution; Liz Templin-Hall, Marion County Sheriff's Office; John Love, BFI; Gene Keenon, Olympic; Danny Ormand, Lafayette County Sheriff's Office; Larry Taylor, Columbia County OEM; Beverly Thomas, Columbia County OEM; John Blair, Columbia County Judge; James McClellan, Columbia County OEM.

John Blair motioned to approve the minutes and Frank Scroggins seconded the motion followed by approval by Alliance members.

**Formalization of Alliance:** Jerry Pierce reminded members who have not submitted signed Mutual-Aid Agreements to do so as soon as possible. Each member received a copy of each signatory page that has been submitted. Members also received a final copy of the By-Laws which had been signed by Chairperson Mike Penaluna and approved by the Alliance on September 3. Mission statement suggestions were discussed, followed by a motion by John Blair to approve and a second by Frank Scroggins, then approval from the Alliance. The mission statement reads as follows: "The mission of the Ark-La-Tex Emergency Management Alliance is to implement a comprehensive coordinated strategy for domestic preparedness, bringing together all government agencies, organizations, industries, and associations in the Ark-La-Tex region to improve information sharing, administer grants for Homeland Security and Emergency Management to coordinate response to emergencies and disasters in the region." The cost of obtaining tax exempt status is approximately \$1000. Four jurisdictions have pledged to contribute to the fee. Frank motioned to require a \$50 annual fee for each Alliance voting member. John seconded the motion followed by approval by the Alliance. Larry Taylor suggested an amendment be added to the By-Laws reflecting this membership fee. Lisa Polak suggested a delay in drafting an amendment until the next Alliance meeting at which time members would vote on the decision to require an annual membership fee. Frank withdrew the motion for an annual fee followed by a second from John and approval from the Alliance.

**Regional Emergency Operations Plan:** Members received both a hard copy and an electronic version on CD of the Regional Emergency Operations Plan. Lisa reviewed the plan in its entirety, highlighting all instances in which the Ark-La-Tex Alliance is specifically addressed.

Members were encouraged to submit necessary contact information for mutual-aid purposes or any suggestions to enhance the regional plan.

**Office of Public Health & Response for Bioterrorism Plan:** Lisa explained that the OPH Regional Plan is currently under development and once completed, will become Part VI, Health and Medical, of the Regional Emergency Operations Plan. The objectives of the OPH Plan include the following: Develop a Regional Bioterrorism Response Plan/Annex addressing Special Needs Shelters, NPS distribution and dispensing, and communications between key response agencies; Designate a regional Emergency Operations Center; Conduct a regional bioterrorism tabletop exercise; and Enact formal written regional Mutual Aid Agreements.

**Training:** The Southern Anti-Terrorist Regional Training Academy will be hosting a course titled: *Understanding Islamist Militant Terrorism and Prevention Strategies*. The course will be held in Camp Minden, LA on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Contact SSG Tyler Williamson at 225-319-4811 or go to [www.sarta.louisiana.gov](http://www.sarta.louisiana.gov) to register. Caddo-Bossier Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will host a SKYWARN Storm Spotters Training Course on Wednesday, December 3 at the Caddo-Bossier OHSEP Administrative Offices located at 1511 Doctors Drive. Contact Lisa at 318-425-5351 or [lpolak@networktel.net](mailto:lpolak@networktel.net) to register. This course is open to anyone associated with emergency preparedness. The Louisiana Homeland Security Conference will be held in New Orleans, LA on November 6. Visit [www.LTC-LA.org](http://www.LTC-LA.org) for more information.

**County/Parish Updates:** Jerry informed members of an upcoming exercise to take place in February or March in Longview, TX. Members will be updated as further details become available. Lisa informed members of a Strategic National Stockpile Exercise to take place in the Northwest Louisiana region in March. The next Alliance meeting will be held in Kilgore, TX in January. Specific date, time and location information to be determined.

**Guest Speaker:** Larry Taylor, Columbia County OEM Director made a presentation to members on Homeland Security and Emergency Management activities that have taken place over recent years in Columbia County. He also addressed upcoming plans in emergency preparedness for the county and cities within.

Jerry Pierce adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

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Lisa M. Polak, Secretary/Treasurer  
Ark-La-Tex Emergency Management Alliance

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Date approved by Alliance