

Somerset County LEPC Meeting 22 January 2025

At 1005 hours, Emergency Services Director, Yvette Cross, called the LEPC meeting to order.

No- Old Business

New Business: At the beginning of the meeting we held a brief out on the Avian Bird Flu – as it now exists in MD. Dr. John Moyle of the University of MD and Maegan Perdue UMD (Rep. from Worcester County)-our Rep. was not available- Gave a thorough explanation to the “Who, What, Where, When, and How. Dept. of Agriculture and State and Federal partners react to this bird disease. He answered questions that attendees had concerning Fire Dept. response and concerns that exist due to not having written guidelines. In his response, Dr. Moyle assured that responders would know whether they would be going into a Hot Zone if and when they are sent to a chicken house for either EMS or Fire Emergency. It would be in essence no different then when we were confronted with COVID Virus – with the difference being the COVID Virus could be spread to us where the Avian Bird Flu would not be. If there is a known case on the farm you’re responding to 1.) You will be made aware verbally as well as signs will be posted 2.) Certain measures can be made when responding and to Decon people and apparatus if need be as they leave.

A Presentation was given by Trevor Cantwell and his team from CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) He is the Chemical Security Inspector, Region III
Attendees:

Yvette Cross- SCES Director
Laraine Buck – ES Planner
Christopher Parks- ECI
Gary Kitching- SC Roads
Danielle Weber-SCHD
Christopher Osment- SCHD
Diane Waller-SC Environ. Health
David Evans Sr.-Private Industry
1ST Sgt..Timothy Geppert- MSP
Crystal Meadows-SCHD

Dr. John Moyle- UMD
Meagan Perdue- UMD
Oliver Pandian-CISA – Cyber Coordinator
Ken Greeson- CISA – Delmarva District
Nicholas Williams- CISA- Philadelphia District
Chris Ramos-CISA -DE region
Devin Wagerman- CISA- Training and Exercise

Guest Speakers: From CISA discussed how they are a Free Advisory agency for the government that (when asked) can provide discussion and training advise and technical testing of your physical and cyber technologies that guard against intrusion by those wanting to create “panic and disruption of service”. Their services are completely free (the government paying for them) and they ARE NOT a regulatory agency (they are “Protective Security Advisors”).

Key Points made during his presentation : “When Asked”

- They will work with Public and Private Industry for Free.
- They want to get the word out they are here to assist and assess business and private industry concerning security issues and how you could be better prepared.
- They can help with Infrastructure Risk Management, Cyber Security Operations, Interoperable Emergency Communications, Critical Infrastructure Safety and they can review in depth and evaluate control systems (like pipelines)

- They each gave a brief out on how they can assist us: Oliver Pandian mentioned what our DOD (Dept. of Defense) is concerned about and how CISA can't make us totally cyber secure but they can make it much harder to get attacked in the future. Also, CISA offers Technical Engagements, Phishing etc. services as well as table top and physical exercises that can be utilized for free. They would like to assist us – as they say “ left of the boom” (before an event happens) – then to the “right of the boom” after the event happens.
- If you go to their website you can also access online training
<https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/training>
- Attached is a copy of the booklet provided by CISA concerning their agency, Also attached is the “Be Alert” Threat Awareness. How to assess suspicious activity and where you can report that activity 1 855 TELL FBI .
- Also attached are the email address of the CISA members attending:
Trevor Cantwell : trevor.cantwell@hq.dhs.gov (Chemical Security Inspector)
Ken Greeson : ken.greeson@cisa.dhs.gov (Delmarva District)
Oliver Pandian: oliver.pandian@cisa.dhs.gov (Cyber State Coordinator)
Nicholas Williams: Nicholas.williams@cisa.gov (Philadelphia Branch)
Chris Ramos: Christopher.ramos@cisa.dhs.gov (DE. Branch)
Devin Wagerman: devin.wagerman@cisa.dhs.gov (Training & Exercise)

After the presentation there were discussions held concerning:

- ☐ What to tell those citizens calling 911 concerning dead snow geese – call USDA or DNR
- ☐ Danielle Weber – asked to be informed if Emergency Services receives information (in this case about the Avian Bird Flu- they were not aware).
- ☐ Yvette Cross – mentioned 911 has received calls concerning drones flying at night. She would like clear guidance on what to tell the citizens when they call and what our reporting procedures should be. – That discussion didn't get resolved due to limited police presence and knowledge on the issue.
- ☐ It was mentioned that MDEM is part of a UAS Committee (Unmanned Aircraft System) by reaching out to them; possibly we could attend the next meeting for further guidance.
- ☐ CISA shared if you witness suspicious activity you can report it to the FBI by calling 1855TELLFBI (1-800-835-5324)
- ☐ I will add our See Something Say Something you can call 1-800-492-TIPS (8477)

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wed. April 23, 2025 at 10 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM

Submitted Respectfully,
Laraine Buck, Facilitator

