
Specialized Explosive and HazMat Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2020
Durham Technical Community College
2401 Snow Hill Rd, Bldg. 2 Conference Room
Durham, NC

CALL TO ORDER

Floyd Yoder called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone who was able to attend. Mr. Yoder proceeded to take attendance/roll call.

Members Present

Floyd Yoder, N.C. Justice Academy (Chairman)
Debbie Hilliard, Chapel Hill Police Department
Steven Hurley, North Carolina Highway Patrol
William Loucks, N.C. Justice Academy, Advisory Member, Non-voting
Michael MacIntosh, Greensboro Technical Community College
Robert McLaughlin, Durham Police Department, Ret.
Doug Thomas, Durham Technical Community College (Host)
Seth Reynolds, Winston Salem Police Department
Tim Westcott, Durham Police Department

Members Absent

Anthony Horton, Hickory Police Department

Staff Present

Amit Sujanani, N.C. Justice Academy
Danielle Zecher, N.C. Justice Academy Research Assistant

Agenda Distributed

The Agenda for today's meeting was distributed.

PAST BUSINESS

Floyd Yoder asked all members present to review the minutes from the last meeting and bring up anything for discussion or review.

NEW BUSINESS

New Position

Floyd Yoder introduced Danielle Zecher, who was hired in the new Administrative Assistant Position at the Western Campus of the NCJA. The position was created to do the research and assist all instructors and coordinators with their curriculum. This position ensures that all formatting and documentation of references and endnotes is complete and correct. Ms. Zecher is tasked with reviewing the differences in the Fourth Edition (currently being used in the Instructor Courses) and the Fifth Edition.

Danielle Zecher: Stated that the biggest difference is that Fifth Edition was published in 2017 and includes NFPA 1072 Standard. An easy way to look at it is that the Fifth Edition is like the unabridged novel, and the Fourth Edition is the abridged novel. The Fifth Edition has a lot more information about illicit drug labs and terrorist attacks. Also, the Fifth Edition includes a section on marijuana grow labs and BHO synthesis lab explosions, while the Fourth Edition has none of this information. The Fifth Edition has much more information on clandestine labs and grow operations and how they can be booby-trapped, and the secondary hazards there.

Further, the Fifth Edition includes a section on regulated labs, which the Fourth Edition doesn't have. The section on chemical attack indicators is 12 pages long in the Fifth Edition, versus two pages long in the Fourth Edition. The section on biological attack indicators is four pages long in the Fifth Edition, versus two pages in the Fourth Edition. The Fifth Edition has a section on terrorist attack identification, which the Fourth Edition doesn't have. The Fifth Edition has a section for psychological issues related to HazMat calls, and overall contains more information on reporting, documentation, and evidence preservation.

Floyd Yoder: It was agreed before by all that this Group wants to move this program in a more law enforcement-friendly direction.

Mr. Yoder passed around the Fifth Edition book for review by all members of the Group, with the information just presented by Ms. Zecher.

Debbie Hilliard: Excellent recap of the differences between the Fourth and Fifth Editions. Ms. Hilliard wants to remind everyone that there is a difference between the Fourth, the Fifth, and what this Group should be focusing on is our awareness level instructors on. That difference is more glaring than the difference between those editions. While the Group may want to recommend switching to the Fifth Edition in the interim, Ms. Hilliard believes that an entirely brand new curriculum should be written. Ms. Hilliard has contacted Jones & Bartlett, and they have a system to help build a new curriculum and an e-textbook could be developed for the students. Ms. Hilliard believes that the Fourth and the Fifth Editions are geared toward HazMat Operations Responders, while the audience for this Group is Hazmat Awareness Instructors – Subject Matter Experts, and the focus should be on that audience.

Floyd Yoder: Introduction of Bill Loucks, the Drug and Gang Instructor for the NCJA, who came from Nashville Metro. Mr. Loucks has a very extensive background in HazMat and has been an OSHA instructor.

Bill Loucks: Would like to see as a takeaway what was seen when going through the academy – what does an officer do when they are first on a possible HazMat scene? Also, Mr. Loucks had developed training in conjunction with the Fire Department in Nashville, which was taught from the Police point of view and the HazMat side, and also included forensic chemists, fire marshals, and medical personnel. Mr. Loucks is very pleased that the Fifth Edition is including the clandestine lab material. This awareness in the police personnel increases safety for them and for the public.

Tim Westcott: Agrees with Debbie Hilliard. Mr. Westcott knows how long it would take to write a book from scratch, but the book used should move away from the Fire personnel driven to the law enforcement specific.

Seth Reynolds: Believes that the book is so lengthy already, and adding all of the new information will make it even longer. Mr. Reynolds's concern is that it will make it something the instructors will never use as a resource and will enforce the belief that the HazMat info is something that just can't be understood. Something more streamlined and directed toward the law enforcement arena would help combat that.

Robert McLaughlin: Agrees with Debbie Hilliard that the focus should be on the Awareness Instructors. I just had a meeting with OSFM, and the Fire Service is now doing a separate HazMat Awareness training outside of the Operations training in order to keep up the number of people legally available to respond to calls.

Steven Hurley: With such a large book/manual, worry that the Instructors may delve into some of the Operational level materials that they don't completely understand and possibly passing on misinformation that is beyond their skillset. Mr. Hurley believes that if this Group searches statewide (and possibly in neighboring states), and utilize departmental policies and other guides available, there should be plenty of information to develop this manual and have it be law enforcement-specific. The information is there; it is just not compiled and organized.

Michael MacIntosh: Some Operational level is needed for the field personnel – recognition is important for this set of people. A lot could be cut back on the technical definitions of many of the things listed in the manual, such as the shape of the containers, etc.

Floyd Yoder: On the last State Exam for the last class, participants only remember ONE question coming from BLET. Debbie's section was 99% of it.

Doug Thomas: Concern that if the Group goes with the Fifth Edition, the classes will be tested on the whole book.

Floyd Yoder: Need to keep moving in the law enforcement-specific direction. The goal is to become the best in the nation in training.

Doug Thomas: Question re: will the instructors be called back in for a 2-day class?

Floyd Yoder: Given the heavy revisions being made, it will be necessary for these instructors to come in or lose their certification. Feels the Group knows where we are now, where we need to go, and how we are going to get there.

A vote is taken on moving from the Fourth to the Fifth Edition

8 members vote Aye

1 member votes Nay

The Fifth Edition will be used

Floyd Yoder: This is an interim measure. This Group will keep revising and improving, and it will not end with the simple adoption of the Fifth Edition. A copy of the Fifth Edition will be ordered for all members of the Group.

The time elapsed between the Fourth and Fifth Editions is 7 years, with the Fourth being published in 2010 and the Fifth in 2017.

Danielle's notes and comparisons will be made into an electronic copy and will be distributed to all members of the Group.

Lesson Plan

Danielle made a skeleton outline of the Lesson Plan (distributed to all members of the Group).

Section A – Debbie Hilliard volunteered to take this section

Section B – Steven Hurley assigned to this section

Section C – Robert McLaughlin volunteered to take this section

Section D – Seth Reynolds volunteered to take, and Tim Westcott volunteered to assist with this section; Tim will take the lead

Section E – Seth Reynolds volunteered to take this section

Section F – Seth Reynolds volunteered to take, and Michael MacIntosh volunteered to assist with this section; Seth will take the lead

Section G – Seth Reynolds volunteered to take, and Doug Thomas volunteered to assist with this section; Doug will take the lead

Section H – Michael MacIntosh volunteered to take this section

Anthony Horton has volunteered to assist, but Mr. Yoder is awaiting clarification on the section he will be assigned.

Floyd Yoder: Review of each section and who has been assigned to each of them. The group moves on to the analysis of the skeleton outline provided by Danielle. Significant revisions and improvements are needed.

Robert McLaughlin & Debbie Hilliard: Previous revision a couple of years ago was really adding endnotes and updating to match DOJ needs, basically a cleaning up of the lesson plan rather than revising it in any major way. It was basically an update, but it is not a finished product in terms of a revision.

Floyd Yoder: Review of each section and who has been assigned to each of them.

Section A – Hazardous Materials Responses (pg 2-27) - Debbie Hilliard primary

1. Definitions and incidents – Debbie Hilliard
2. Rules and regulations –Tim Westcott
 - a. Needs updating
3. NIMS and the ICS –Robert McLaughlin
 - a. Floyd Yoder may be able to write into the requirements for Instructor School to include the NIMS training. Floyd will research and have the info available at the next meeting, and the Group can vote on it at that time.
 - b. A recommendation is made by Debbie Hilliard that the prerequisite training be the online elements of the NIMS to ease the burden on the smaller localities.
4. Definitions/chemical characteristics – Debbie Hilliard
5. Recognition, identification, and classification – Debbie Hilliard
6. Use of the Emergency Response Guidebook – Debbie Hilliard
 - a. Electronic versions
 - b. Cargo Decoder
 - c. Awareness of Resources available
7. Transportation hazards and response considerations –Steven Hurley
8. Fixed facilities containing possible hazardous materials – Debbie Hilliard
 - a. Unfixed facilities
9. Unknown – Does not exist – This should be removed
10. Local Plan – Debbie Hilliard

Section B – Escorting Explosives and Hazardous Materials (pg 27-29) – Steven Hurley

1. Compliance with laws and regulations
 - a. Changes have occurred, and updates needed
2. Safeguarded hazardous materials
3. Routing – non-radioactive hazardous materials (NRHM)

Section C – Environmental Crimes (pg 29-32) – Robert McLaughlin with William Loucks to review and assist

1. “Generally speaking, an environmental crime is a negligent, knowing, or willful violation of a federal environmental law.”
2. “Typical violations which result in investigations may involve, but are not limited to:”
3. Some environmental concerns are handled by state and local authorities who have immediate jurisdiction over such matters. These include the following:
4. Jurisdictional agencies

Section D – Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Incidents (pg 32-57) – Tim Westcott and Seth Reynolds (Tim lead)

1. Definitions
 - a. Moving from BENICE to C-Born
2. Incident Priorities
3. Levels of protection/protective clothing and equipment

4. Five phases of a WMD incident

Section E – Recognition of Explosive and Incendiary Devices (pg 57-62) – Seth Reynolds

1. Definitions
2. Destructive Devices
 - a. Changes and updates, as well as additions, are to be made to this entire section

Section F – Responding to Bomb Threats and Suspicious Objects (pg 62-68) – Seth Reynolds and Michael MacIntosh (Seth lead)

1. North Carolina General Statutes
2. Response procedures
3. Further investigation
 - a. This section can be pared down
4. Specialized resources
5. Suspicious letters and packages – Tim Westcott
 - a. Add in unattended packages/items in this section

Section G – Laboratories and Chemical Suicides – William Loucks

1. Clandestine laboratories – William Loucks and Robert MacLaughlin
 - b. Recognition of pill presses and the packaging and repackaging of most common drugs
 - c. Hazards specific to each type of laboratory and recognition of those hazards
2. Chemical suicide – William Loucks

Section H – Search Procedures (pg 68-69) – Doug Thomas and Michael MacIntosh (Doug lead)

1. Building searches – Doug Thomas
2. Vehicle searches – Doug Thomas
3. Examining suspicious and potentially dangerous objects – Doug Thomas

Section I – Using Fire Extinguishers (pg 69-72) – Michael MacIntosh

1. Portable fire extinguishers and their successful use depend on the following conditions:
2. Fire classes and symbols
3. Proper use of the extinguisher

Floyd Yoder: ERG comes out every election year. There is a lesson plan for the HazMat In-service, which was created one year ago. Floyd will determine if it has to be voted in to be put in use, and that will be addressed at the next meeting of the Group.

Floyd Yoder: Group agrees that the last two areas of Section F be made into their own section, Section G, and Sections G and H will become Sections H and I.

PLANNING & FUTURE MEETINGS

Floyd Yoder: The following items will be covered in the next meeting:

1. Mr. Yoder will determine what is needed to implement the new ERG lesson plan, and this will be discussed at the next meeting.
2. Have some work completed on the Lesson Plan – the format is not necessary, just start writing and get everything together so that Danielle can place it into the proper areas and get it all cleaned up and formatted in the same way.
3. Instructor requirements: Mr. Yoder wants to contact the Commission and see what can and cannot be done and what requirements can be put in place. Mr. Yoder asks that everyone think on this, and remember that many departments have limited budgets to prepare these officers before they come to the training.
4. Scenarios needed: Mr. Yoder would like to discuss these and which areas need these scenarios to be presented during the training. These scenarios need to be developed and reviewed. Mr. Yoder reminds the Group that the hours of these courses must be accounted for, and that would include the use of the scenarios. What needs to be determined is how much time is needed for the scenarios, and present that needed time to the Commission.

Debbie Hilliard: Ms. Hilliard would like to see RRTs interacting with the classes. Mr. Yoder agrees that it is a great idea, but time restraints and the size of the training area may limit that interaction. The recommendation is made that a video be made instead and presented to the classes.

Floyd Yoder: Mr. Yoder reviews what the process has been for the RDT video and the required presentations, and suggests that the same thing be done for the RRTs in the HazMat training.

Meeting Schedule

April 7th, 2020, at 1:00 pm, at Durham Technical Community College.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman, Floyd Yoder.

Respectfully submitted,
Amit Sujamani
Administrative Specialist I
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date: January 28, 2020