

Press Release

On June 29, 2010 the Preble County LEPC / EMA conducted a table-top exercise for a motor vehicle accident and chemical spill in Lakengren. Gasper Fire and Rescue were the host department for this exercise. In short, a table top exercise tests the first responders' actions in response to an incident without mobilizing any manpower or apparatus. By testing departments' procedures and policies, flaws can be found and corrected before a real incident occurs, making first responders and the citizens of Preble County safer.

Our exercise simulated a car/truck crash with the truck carrying bottles of chlorine rupture and sends a cloud of chlorine gas over parts of Lakengren. In this scenario the fire and EMS departments were tested on scene safety, personal safety, bystander and resident safety, and dealing with a large incident. Individual departments are never without help. Also called in to help were mutual aid departments (fire, EMS and law enforcement), GIS, EMA, EPA, CERT members, Reid Hospital, and Lakengren maintenance employees. All personal involved brought to the table skills and knowledge to bring the incident to a quick and safe end.

The importance of the Preble County Geographic Information System (GIS) was proven during the exercise by their ability to identify and contact through PAS 119 the residents involved in the mock incident. Calls were actually made with the overwhelming majority receiving the message to shelter in place.

Preble County LEPC is required to have an exercise yearly, in different parts of the county. These exercises are open to the public and the public is invited to see what your tax dollars are doing for you. If you feel the call to become involved, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a great way to participate. Classes to train CERT personal are being formed now. Call the Preble County EMA / LEPC at 937-456-1243 for more information on CERT classes.

The LEPC would like to thank all the people involved in the planning and execution of this exercise, without your help the exercise would not have been a success.