



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Homeland Security Office

E. Winters Mabry, M.D.
Director

AHAC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

AUGUST 28, 2003

1. Dr. Mabry reviewed the latest meeting notes of June 26, 2003, which focused on recommended changes to Annex J entitled Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Medical and Health Services Plan. Unfinished business included a review and update of Annex J, Attachment 3 that deals with waterborne disease outbreak prevention policy guidelines. A small group of City-County environmental and public health experts will complete this task for the Planning Subcommittee.

2. Since the Planning Subcommittee has completed a majority of its assigned Annex revision tasks, the group agreed to proceed with a LEPAC report presented by Sherry R. Gites, Epidemiologist from the North Carolina Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES) Program. The presentation lasted 45 minutes and had 4 major objectives:
 - a. Describe the distribution and characterization of hazardous substance emergencies
 - b. Describe the morbidity and mortality associated with hazardous substances releases
 - c. Identify risk factors associated with morbidity and mortality from the releases
 - d. Identify or develop prevention strategies that may reduce or prevent morbidity and mortality with releases

The group learned that during the last 10 years, Mecklenburg County has the highest number of reported hazardous substance events at 486. Detailed analysis of the Mecklenburg County Data led to the following conclusions:

- The number of reported events is increasing
- Operator error, equipment failure, and improper filling are the most frequent contributing factors
- Storage, piping, and process vessels are the most common areas for releases to occur in fixed facilities
- Acids, other in-organics and volatile organic compounds are the most frequently released chemical groups
- Events requiring evacuation were mostly building evacuations

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- Responders are the largest population decontaminated
- Most victims either receive first aid on scene or are treated and released from the hospital
- Respiratory irritation is the most common injury type

3. Dr. Mabry provided the group with the Mecklenburg County Homeland Security Proposed Work Plan for 2004. The Work Plan included desired results/outcomes, 6 general strategies, and strategy actions/tasks/projects to be accomplished in the next year. He suggested that it serve as a starting point for the group to develop more comprehensive strategic plans to strengthen our Protection and Readiness Programs.

Submitted by:

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