

January 29, 2025

Greater Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda

Logistics

10:00AM – 12:00PM

American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098

Welcome

Welcome & Introductions

PRESENTATION: FIFA World Cup '26 – Houston Preparations Darryl B. Cherry

Darryl B. Cherry currently serves as the Intelligence Supervisor for the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. He is responsible for the oversight of the Intelligence Task Force (ITF), which consists of two analysts, Deputy Sergeants and Lieutenants of the various Harris County Constable Offices as well as personnel from the Harris County Fire Marshal and Sheriff's offices.

Mr. Cherry has an extensive background in law enforcement, intelligence and counter-terrorism investigations. As a classified officer, he served the Houston Police Department in various roles for over thirty five (35) years, the majority as a detective. The last seventeen (17) years of his career was in the Criminal Intelligence and Homeland Security Division. Detective Cherry served as the Security Manager of the Houston Regional Intelligence Service Fusion Center with oversight of a federally certified secure facility maintaining classified Homeland Security information at the secret level. Detective Cherry served as an instructor at the Houston Police Academy for several years as well. Finally, before joining Harris County, Detective Cherry served as Special Deputy U.S. Marshal and Task Force Officer (TFO) at the FBI Houston Joint Terrorism Task Force. Detective Cherry holds a TCOLE Master Peace Officer License as well as a TCOLE Instructor License.



Key points:

- Held throughout North America; Houston and Dallas are the two Texas cities to hold matches
- Massive planning initiative underway.
- Be prepared for large crowds and stress on local resources with approximately 211 member nations present.
- There will be 40 days of fan fest activities with matches occurring between June 14-July 4, 2026.
- This event for Houston, much larger than Super Bowl XXXVIII (2004) held in Houston.
- Consider viewing the documentary "Final Attack on Wimbley" for a perspective on fan fest activities.
- Other large events coming to Houston include the World Baseball Classics 2026 (March 6-11, 2026) and the 2025 Concacaf Gold Cup final (July 6, 2025).

Business

- **Welcome & Introductions**
 - **IADYs.** Brought water robot unit to display. Used by organizations such as Dow, Exxon and Shell and used around the world. Will be presenting in detail at the March meeting.
- **Chair & Vice Chair Reports**

- **TCEQ Grant Application** - Approved (See details below).
- **Tier II** submissions are now in progress.
- **Meeting Notes** (available at <https://ghlepc.org/information>) adopted for Dec 4th meeting as written.
- **Pipeline Emergency Response Grant** (PHMSA PERG 693JK323NF0001) Status
(See notes on the last page of this document)
- **Local Updates**
 - **2025 Weather Ready Expo** planning has begun. Scheduled May 17 at George R. Brown Convention Center. A special thank you to CenterPoint Energy for their contribution to this event.
- **Potential Fund Raisers**
 - Exploring corporate sponsorships, grants, charitable donations
 - Cars and Coffee (begun discussion with dealerships; looking for a venue that can accommodate the vehicles and crowd)
- **Member Reports**
 - Brief discussion on bird flu outbreak
 - HCOHS&EM winter storm activation – good outcomes. Few shutdowns.
 - LyondellBasell Houston Refinery has ceased operations and shutdown activities are now in progress with an anticipated completion by the end of the first quarter of 2025.
 - TCEQ STEERS uploads for 2025 will require more information on the Tier II such as more details on latitude and longitudinal coordinates.
- 1. **New Business**
 - TCEQ grant award covers the cost of training. Seeking organizations willing to donate PPE (goggles, N95 masks, gloves) and a bag to hold it all as give aways to those who participate in training or those who use the disposal at the Harris County's free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility Disposal Services to dispose of chemicals on select dates.

Treasurer Report

PIO Report

Houston Fire Department Updates

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

Presentation: **IADYs Water Robots**

Future 2025 Meetings: June 4, July 30, September 24, and December 3, 2025

STATE UPDATES

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

1. TCEQ Updates

- a. **GHLEPC Grant application** approval received – awaiting agreement.
The proposed public education and outreach initiative, titled "*Keep Your Family Safe From Household Chemicals*," The training will cover a range of important topics, including the promotion of Harris County's free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility Disposal Services. This training will be delivered in-person and virtually.

2. Open Grants

- a. **Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP)** provides funding to repower heavy-duty or medium-duty motor vehicles with a natural gas engine or replace vehicles with natural gas vehicles. Accepting applications for grants through March 4, 2025, or until all funds are awarded. <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/tngvgp.html>
- b. **The Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleet Grant Program (GAFF)** provides funding to purchase or lease new vehicles that operate primarily on compressed natural gas (CNG),

liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), hydrogen (fuel cells), or electricity—including fully electric and plug-in hybrids. Accepting applications for grants through 5 p.m. CT, Feb. 5, 2025. <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/gaff>

- c. **New Technology Implementation Grants (NTIG)** provide funding to assist in implementing new technologies that reduce emissions of regulated pollutants from facilities and other stationary sources. We have extended the NTIG application period and are now accepting applications for grants through 5 p.m. CT, Jan. 31, 2025 <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/ntig.html>
- d. **Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants Program (ERIG)** provides funding to repower or replace older locomotives, marine vessels, stationary equipment, or non-road equipment to reduce nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions in Texas. We are accepting applications for grants through 5 p.m. CT, Feb. 14, 2025. <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/erig.html>

3. **Rulemaking** (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/whatsnew.html>)

- a. Items Filed with the Chief Clerk: Adoption, [Staff-Recommended Updates to Protective Concentration Level Approaches for Dioxins/Furans and Dioxin-like Polychlorinated Biphenyls](#) (Rule Project No. 2024-023-350-WS)
- b. Items Submitted for *Texas Register* Publication: Adoption, [88th Legislative Session Drinking Water Implementation Rule](#) (Rule Project No. 2024-015-290-OW)
- c. Adoption, [SB 786 and SB 1186: Transfer of Class V Closed-Loop Geothermal Injection Wells and Class V Brine Disposal Injection Wells to RRC](#) (Rule Project No. 2024-020-331-WS)
- d. Proposal, [Leaking Water Wells Grant Program](#) (Rule Project No. 2025-008-353-OW)
- e. Commission Approval for Rulemaking Adoption Chapter 321, Control of Certain Activities by Rule Chapter 210, **Use of Reclaimed Water Domestic Reuse Alternative Disposal Method** Rule Project No. 2023-137-321-OW. This rulemaking will amend 30 TAC Chapter 321, Subchapter P, to allow for disposal of reclaimed water through an associated domestic wastewater treatment facility by obtaining consent from the owner and operator of the associated domestic wastewater treatment facility that will receive the reclaimed water for final treatment and disposal.

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/adoptions/23137321_aex.pdf

4. **Recycling through the RENEW Program.** For businesses to exchange surplus or waste materials. <https://blog.tceq.texas.gov/2024/11/13/recycling-through-the-renew-program/>
5. **Environmental Trade Fair and Conference (ETFC)**, June 3-4, 2025, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, TX. <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/etfc/etf.html>
6. **TCEQ Pending Enforcement Action – TCEQ Cases.** Below are new pending enforcement actions since August 2024, within the GHLEPC jurisdiction. Visit <https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/penenfac/> for details.

Case #	RE Name	Respondent	Enforcement Type	Order Type	Program	Status
66627	HARRIS COUNTY FWSD 51 SUB REGIONAL PLANT 14701 WOODFOREST BLVD HOUSTON, TX 77015	HARRIS COUNTY FWSD 51	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 08/202024
66633	WEATHERFORD US LP 11909 SPENCER RD HOUSTON, TX 77041	WEATHERFORD US LP	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 08/212024
66648	THREE L BULK PLANT 12235 ROBIN BLVD HOUSTON, TX 77045	3L ENERGY SOLUTIONS LLC	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Proposed Order Mailed - 01/16/2025
66664	GAS EXPRESS 13550 KUYKENDAHL RD HOUSTON, TX 77090	ALL-STAR GAS EXPRESS LLC	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 08/26/2024

Case #	RE Name	Respondent	Enforcement Type	Order Type	Program	Status
66682	LA RAZA CONCRETE 4247 FUQUA ST HOUSTON, TX 77048	Torres, Salvador de Jesus; Torres, Eusebio; Rapido Redi-Mix Inc; Torres Brothers Ready Mix Inc	COURT ORDER	Final Judgment	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening Date - 08/29/2024
66688	GOODYEAR HOUSTON CHEMICAL PLANT 2000 GOODYEAR DR HOUSTON, TX 77017	THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY	Administrative Order	1660	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 08/29/2024
66692	HOUSTON READY MIX 5220 WINFIELD RD HOUSTON, TX 77039	SMYRNA READY MIX CONCRETE LLC	COURT ORDER	Final Judgment	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening Date - 08/26/2024
66693	TRANSCO RAILWAY PRODUCTS, 16923 OLD BEAUMONT HWY 90, HOUSTON, TX 77049	UNION TANK CAR COMPANY	Administrative Order	1660	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 08/29/2024
6758	WYMAN GORDON FORGINGS 10825 TELGE RD HOUSTON, TX 77095	WYMAN-GORDON FORGINGS INC	Administrative Order	1660	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 09/06/2024
66928	EAGLE FOOD MART 12803 HIRAM CLARKE RD HOUSTON, TX 77045	J & H KADIWAL INC	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 10/28/2024
66936	12840 AQUEDUCT RD 12840 AQUEDUCT RD HOUSTON, TX 77044	THOMAS, ROBERT A	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 10/29/2024
67018	PRIMOS TIRE SHOP 4002 HOPPER RD HOUSTON, TX 77093	TREJO, JOAQUIN LUGO	Administrative Order	1660	MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 11/19/2024
67075	NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY MUD 20 TERRACE OAKS OFF FM 1960 KEY MAP 331T	NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY MUD 20	Administrative Order	1660	PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/SUPPLY	Initial Screening - 12/03/2024
67088	ROYAL GUNITE 991 BENMAR DR HOUSTON, TX 77032	ROYAL GUNITE LLC	COURT ORDER	Final Judgment	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening Date - 12/06/2024
67137	HARRIS COUNTY MUD 156 CORNER OF QUEENSTON & WEST ROAD KEY MAP 407G	HARRIS COUNTY MUD 156	Administrative Order	1660	PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/SUPPLY	Initial Screening - 12/17/2024
67160	PINE TRAILS UTILITY 6018 WOOD BEND DR HOUSTON, TX 77049	AQUA TEXAS INC	Administrative Order	1660	PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/SUPPLY	Initial Screening - 12/18/2024
67168	HARRIS COUNTY MUD 230 WWTP, 13707 NAPOLI DR HOUSTON, TX 77070	HARRIS COUNTY MUD 230	AQUA TEXAS INC	Administrative Order	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 12/30/2024

Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)

Texas Department of Insurance Updates <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/rules/index.html>

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Promulgation of Administrative Rules Under Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, and the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code, Chapter 2001: Rules Adoptions a. Chapter 7 - Rail Facilities Amendments to §7.35, Hazardous Materials-Written Reports, and §7.36, Clearances of Structures Over and Alongside Railway Tracks (MO) adopts the amendments to §§7.35 and 7.36 concerning Rail Safety. <https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/commission/2025/0130/11a.pdf>

1. Section 7.35 requires railroads to annually report information about hazmat shipments to the department.
2. Section 7.36 implements Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 191, which provides standards to protect workers from hazards caused by unsafe proximity of structures near railroad tracks and authorizes the department to grant a request to deviate from a requirement of that chapter.

FEDERAL

EPA

1. January is National Radon Action Month. **Radon** is the second leading cause of lung cancer. To locate a test kit and more information visit <https://www.epa.gov/radon/find-radon-test-kit-or-measurement-and-mitigation-professional>.
2. EPA has announced a final rule requiring replacement of **lead pipes** with 10 years. (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>).
3. **Tier2 Submit and CAMEO Data Manager Software** Updates were released in early 2024. The official versions of Tier2 Submit 2023 and CAMEO Data Manager 4.3.0 for report year 2023 are now available on the EPA website.

Department of Transportation

January 2025: PHMSA published a rulemaking to increase civil penalties for violations of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). HMR are a set of rules that govern the transportation of hazardous materials in the U.S. Penalties are now as high as \$100,000+ (was \$ 99,756) per day, per violation. **Failure to provide hazmat training for employees now carries a minimum fine of \$617 (was \$ 601) per day, per employee.** <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/about-phmsa/hazardous-materials-training-requirements>

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

DHS released its 2025 Homeland Threat Assessment (HTA) in October 2024. The HTA identifies a range of threats to the United States, including domestic and foreign terrorism, and threats to critical infrastructure. The DHS also offers training and courses on hazardous materials. <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/homeland-threat-assessment>

Department of Labor (DOL)

Transitioning to Safer Chemicals: A Toolkit for Employers and Workers. Establishing a chemical management system that goes beyond simply complying with OSHA standards and strives to reduce or eliminate chemical hazards at the source through informed substitution best protects workers. Transitioning to safer alternatives can be a complex undertaking, but a variety of existing resources make it easier. OSHA has developed this step-by-step toolkit to provide employers and workers with information, methods, tools, and guidance on using informed substitution in the workplace. <https://www.osha.gov/safer-chemicals>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

1. GHLEPC: www.ghlepc.org/training
2. **TCEQ**, the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (**STEERS**), Tier II Reporting (**TIERII**) <https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/>
3. **Online and In-person HazMat Training. TRANSCAER®** <https://www.transcaer.com/training>
4. **Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC).** <https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/pipeline-safety/>
5. **FEMA Virtual Instructor Led Courses** www.fema.gov; Register for updates: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp>. Note: FEMA Student Identification (SID) number and password are required to apply. <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>.
6. **Other Training Opportunities:**
 - <https://preparingtexas.org>

- www.harriscountycitizencorps.com
- <https://houstonuasi.com/regional-training-registration-2021/>
- Texas Department of Insurance

NOTES: PHMSA Grant Status

January 29, 2025

Dear GHLEPC Membership,

We want to provide an update regarding the status of the payment for the **Pipeline Emergency Response Grant (PHMSA PERG 693JK323NF0001)** pipeline tabletop exercise and drill conducted September 25, 2024. We successfully completed all grant deliverables on October 26, 2024, fulfilling the project as outlined in the grant. (See *grant specifics below*). However, despite our efforts, the payment has not been received.

We have taken multiple steps to resolve this issue, including sending follow-up communications and escalating the matter directly to PHMSA. We are continuing to push for a resolution. We want to ensure that everyone is aware of this delay as it affects our ability to close out this project financially.

On January 22, 2025, the GHLEPC leadership sent a “*Request for Investigation into Failure to Pay Complaint*” email to PHMSA. At this time, we are awaiting a resolution by PHMSA, with the State of Utah Fire Marshal Office (Primary Awardee) and Sanders Resources (owner of Buxus application and Awardee). We will provide updates as we receive more information. We are committed to ensuring this matter is resolved appropriately. If anyone has questions or would like further details, we are happy to discuss them.

Sincerely,
GHLEPC Leadership

Grant Deliverables as written in the grant:

The GHLEPC (subawardee) is to conduct “.... A coordinated community drill with the Greater Houston LEPC - This tabletop exercise will include the whole community, multiple stakeholders. This includes appointed and elected officials, business leaders, first responders, regulators, NGOs, schools, nursing homes, churches, health care facilities, and other key decision makers at the local, state, and national levels including tribal nations. Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) management will be used for this tabletop exercise.... Stages of the drill would include: Pre-tabletop drill planning, Scenario design, Logistics and Preparation, Exercise delivery, Analysis and After-Action Report...” (Source: Grant application Letter)