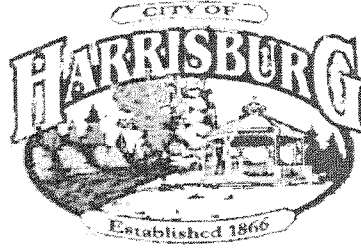


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## **URGENT NEWS RELEASE**

Local first responders will conduct a hazardous materials exercise in downtown Harrisburg the morning of **June 16, 2022**. The focus of the exercise will be the management and mitigation of an anhydrous ammonia leak from a railroad tank car. First responders and emergency vehicles will be present for the exercise. This training is funded by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office and coordinated by the Mid-Valley Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

While chemical leaks from railcars rarely happen, first responders must be prepared to respond. The June 16th exercise will include practice procedures to improve emergency responder skill sets. In large hazardous material emergencies agencies work together. The participating agencies include: the City of Harrisburg; Linn County 9-1-1; the Harrisburg Fire District; Junction City Fire Department; the Regional Hazardous Materials Team from the Albany Fire Department; the Lane Fire Authority; the Linn County Sheriff's Department, Oregon State Police; the Oregon Department of Transportation; Linn County Emergency Management; Albany Emergency Management; Oregon State Office of Emergency Management; the Harrisburg School District; Linn County Public Health; Peace Health; Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center; Samaritan Albany General Hospital; Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital; Healthcare Coalition Region 2; Mid-Valley LEPC Committee; and the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

This will be the third full-scale exercise hosted by LEPC and OSFM. First-year exercise was a tabletop discussion with multiple agencies examining emergency roles and responsibilities during a chemical leak. Second-year exercise was a practice in the unified command structure and operation of an Incident Command Post. This year will include the Linn County 9-1-1 center and radio communications; anhydrous vapor mitigation; tactical response to the simulated leak; law enforcement and DOT response; public works environmental response; coordination of evacuations and sheltering; and Health Department response. Also, simulated patients will be treated by regional hospitals and the school district will practice their shelter-in-place plan.

Questions? Contact Harrisburg City Hall 541-995-6655