

**U of L Center for Predictive Medicine  
Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting  
Room 138B Founders Union Bldg., Shelby Campus  
June 8, 2006**

**Attendance**

The meeting came to order at 6:10 a.m. Cheri Hildreth, director of U of L's Department of Environmental Health and Safety, welcomed the following attendees:

Shawn Herron, Holly Springs neighborhood  
Mike King, Holly Springs neighborhood  
Jerry Klopfenstein, Old Dorsey neighborhood  
Judi Sikes, Bellemeade neighborhood  
Ed Wessel, Bellemeade neighborhood  
Connie Mendel, Louisville Metro Health Department  
Todd Early, Louisville Metro EMS  
Darryl Rhodes, Middletown Fire Department  
Dennis Sullivan, emergency management, U of L  
Carol Whetstone, environmental health and safety, U of L  
Vikki Stempkowski, emergency management, U of L  
Denise Fitzpatrick, communications and marketing, UofL

**Committee purpose**

Ms. Hildreth explained that the purpose of the committee is to encourage neighbors to work with the university to develop effective emergency plans for the new facility. Each member is being asked to offer input into procedures for all potential issues, from natural disasters to human error.

**Project timeline**

Ms. Hildreth explained that the university is about one-third of the way through designing the facility. Groundbreaking is now scheduled for March 2007, with work on the facility to be completed by October 2008. She reminded everyone that these dates could be revised later.

## **Emergency response**

Mr. Sullivan said U of L already has formed partnerships with a number of local response agencies to ensure that neighbors and the university are protected in the event of a lab emergency.

The following agencies have signed agreements with the university confirming that they can respond quickly, he said:

- Anchorage Fire and Rescue
- Louisville Metro Health Department
- Louisville Metro Police
- Lyndon Fire Department
- Louisville Metro EMS
- Louisville Suburban HazMat Team
- Middletown Fire Department
- University of Louisville Hospital

Several group members asked exactly how long it would take emergency workers to respond to an incident at the lab. Mr. Rhodes said it would take Middletown Fire Department three or four minutes. Mr. Early said it would take Louisville Metro EMS five to six minutes. Connie Mendel said it would take Louisville Metro Health Department about 30 minutes depending on traffic conditions and the time of day.

## **Safety and security procedures**

Ms. Hildreth said that over the years U of L has developed detailed policies and procedures to protect the safety and security of its research labs, and will expand these to safeguard the new lab. She encouraged members, however, to bring up any special area of concern so that the university can make sure it is covered.

One group member asked if the lab would be protected from tornadoes. Ms. Hildreth said besides physically hardening the building against tornado damage, the university will develop set procedures to follow anytime there is a tornado warning. For example, researchers will be required to shut down any potentially hazardous process taking place in the lab before they take shelter.

## **Emergency notification**

The group reviewed different ways the public would be notified of a lab emergency.

Mr. Sullivan explained that U of L will be able to use a “reverse 911” telephone system called Dialogic recently purchased by Louisville Metro government. Other methods will include weather radio announcements, outdoor warning sirens and public announcements on radio and TV.

Ms. Fitzpatrick added that U of L’s crisis communications plan calls for the university to notify the news media within 30 minutes if there is an emergency on any of its campuses. She said that media organizations usually hear immediately about any serious emergency and quickly send reporters to the affected site.

Mr. Sullivan agreed to bring a handout to the group’s next meeting outlining all of the available emergency notification options.

### **Website**

Mr. King suggested that the university find a way to let people know when the Center for Predictive Medicine website is updated. He asked if a date stamp could be added to the site. Ms. Fitzpatrick agreed to look into this.

### **Public forums**

Mr. Wessel suggested that U of L mail postcards to neighbors in the 40222 and 40223 Zip Codes inviting them to the next public forum. Ms. Fitzpatrick said she would look into this.

### **Future meetings**

The group agreed that it would try to meet every three or four months.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.