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Disaster Drill Will Test Emergency Response Agencies

News Release

August 15, 2016

The Memphis and Shelby County Local Emergency Planning Committee (M.S.C. L.E.P.C.) will conduct a multiagency disaster exercise on Friday, August 19th, 2016, beginning at 8:45 a.m. near downtown Memphis. The drill will simulate an oil spill that threatens the Wolf River Chute and damages the Canadian National (CN) North Rail Yard at 10 N. Henry Street in downtown Memphis.

“Emergency response agencies must constantly train so they’ll meet the challenges during a disaster. The interaction among the agencies in a life-like setting can help ensure a timely and effective response when a real emergency occurs,” said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

Besides the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, the drill will include representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security-Infrastructure Protection, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, City of Memphis Office of Emergency Management, Memphis Fire Department, Memphis Police Department, CN Railroad and other agencies that are part of the M.S.C.L.E.P.C.

“We look forward to the lessons we’ll learn from this Friday’s exercise. We appreciate CN Railroad for providing the site for this year’s drill. Our planning committee meets routinely to focus on the need for ongoing training among response agencies,” said Mr. Pat Kitchens, Chairman of the M.S.C.L.E.P.C.

The drill is only open to those agencies participating in the exercise. For media coverage opportunities, contact M.S.C. L.E.P.C Public Affairs Officer James Barnes at (901) 299-4193.

(End of Release)