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Special meeting June 13th - public safety committee

1 message

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Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 11:24 AM

To: adam.lid@lacity.org

Regarding Item # 13-0462

Motion (Buscaino - Englander) relative to establishing a California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) inspection section on the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) web site that would provide information in regard to: 1) code requirements as mandated by City, State, and Federal Government; 2) inspection status/frequency of inspections performed; 3) inspection history; 4) emergency procedures designed to keep the public safe from or in the event of an accidental release; and 5) whether the facility has a Risk Management Plan on file that has been approved by the proper agencies.

Dear Councilmembers,

I would like to encourage you to amend this motion to include that any company that has a risk management plan filed with the EPA that has a blast radius that extends beyond the property owned by the business that company must provide independent insurance for everyone and everything (including City and County property) that may be impacted by a blast. A company with a blast radius should provide insurance and be responsible for any losses due to an accident or terrorist attack. Private homeowners insurance will not cover these losses. The insurance coverage information should be made public to those in the blast radius so they will have the opportunity to file a claim promptly and to be made aware of any policy limits or exclusions.

Regarding Item #1 – I would like to encourage you to add a municipal code to this item that states if a company that is within the Fire Department's jurisdiction, and violates any code requirements from a City or State or Federal Government they must shut the operation down until the code violation is cleared. Currently Rancho Holdings LLC in San Pedro has 6 violations filed against them by the EPA from over a year ago and there has been no resolution because the EPA does not impose any deadlines. Also, if a company does not report a leak or release of LPG as required, the City of Los Angeles should issue its own severe fines to encourage proper reporting. This will encourage companies to resolve violations quickly and it will ensure public safety.

Regarding Item #4 – Here are some questions that need to be answered and incorporated into the emergency procedures to ensure public safety.

1. Does the company have insurance to cover all claims for damages and/or injury for a homeowner within the blast radius?
2. If the company has insurance to cover all claims for damages and/or injury for a homeowner within the blast radius, what is the maximum coverage per claimant? Per incident?
3. If a homeowner within the blast radius suffers damage to person or property as a result of an accident or terrorist attack at the company, what corporate entity should the homeowner seek to redress his/her financial losses?

4. In the event of an explosion, if the company is an LLC, what guarantee does the public have that the company will not file bankruptcy and not make good on its insurance coverage?
5. If the company has insurance to cover the residents within the blast radius, will the company agree to present the details of that coverage to a representative of the residents who has insurance industry knowledge to interpret the details of the coverage?
6. If the company has insurance to cover the residents within the blast radius, how do the affected residents know that the coverage will exist at the time of an explosion? For example, the coverage exists today but is gone tomorrow.
7. How many gallons of LPG must leak before employees call 911 and evacuate the facility?
8. Is there an employee evacuation plan? If so, may representatives of the community see it?
9. If there is an incident that causes the employees of the facility to evacuate, what is the managements instructions to their employees as to how far from the facility they should go to remove themselves of danger?
10. If the company provides no instructions to its employees as to how far to evacuate in the event of a LPG release, would management find it reasonable for their employees to remain at the facility under those circumstances?
11. If there is an incident that causes the employees of the facility to evacuate, how will the homeowners, employees and shoppers nearby be made aware of the event?
12. If there are no sirens or warning alarms for the public, is it reasonable that the employees of the company have much more time to evacuate than the local citizens?
13. What will the Fire Departments response to a 10,000 gallon release of butane or propane?

Regarding Item #5, I have attached a letter from the EPA that clearly states the EPA does not verify if any of the information provided to the EPA is valid. Even though a company has filed a Risk Management plan, it has NOT been “approved”. They only state the Risk Management plan is complete – not valid or accurate. This has been a concern of the community for decades. This also provides an opportunity for a company to minimize their potential impact on the surrounding community. The City of Los Angeles should ensure that the information provided in the Risk Management plan is actually valid, verified and accurate. The information should also be consistent from one company to the next. For example the attached flyer that was given to the public and does not match the information that is on the Risk Management plan for Rancho Holdings LLC that stores 25 million gallons of butane and 10 million gallons of propane. The public deserves consistent and accurate information.

Thank you,
Jeanne Lacombe
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