



## CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL TO LA PORTE INDUSTRY

### Bayshore Cities Describe Emergency Response and Communications to CAC

Routinely promoting continuous improvement in community emergency communications, the Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC) to La Porte Industry recently asked the three Bayshore cities to make one of their periodic reports on who does what, and when, when an industrial event impacts the community. At the first in-person CAC meeting in two years, attendees learned that all cities have formal emergency plans. Plans cover all hazards, not just those related to chemical releases. Morgan's Point Mayor Michel Bechtel and Shoreacres City Manager Troy Harrison said their cities contract with La Porte for emergency management, though each has its own Emergency Management Coordinator, appointed by the mayor. Harrison plays that role in Shoreacres, and Police Chief Sherri Ditrich does so in Morgan's Point.

La Porte Emergency Management Coordinator Johnny Morales said La Porte has a basic Emergency Operations Plan with 22 different supporting annexes that outline how the city responds during an emergency, including industrial incidents, with a coordinated effort. The plan lays out how multiple departments and agencies respond, how to determine which actions to take, when and how to activate community warning systems, and how to keep the public informed. Assistant Fire Chief David Gifford described a flow of activity once dispatched to a call to assess an industrial incident. When the city responds to an industrial incident, the overall process includes the initial notification to the city, the response and assessment, public warnings including communications with neighboring cities, activation of the Emergency Operations Center if needed, and public information. CAC members were pleased to see the emphasis on coordination within and among the three cities. Readers will find details, including a list of warning systems, in speakers' slides at [www.laportecac.org](http://www.laportecac.org).

The CAC meets again on Tues. May 5 at 6:00 p.m. at the Jennie Riley Community Center to hear the new East Harris County Manufacturers Association Executive Director describe the local trade organization's new strategic plan. Visitors are welcome but *must* RSVP so we may provide a box lunch and seating. Contact [info@laportecac.org](mailto:info@laportecac.org) or 713-851-1116 by May 1 to obtain details.