



SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021 @ 10:00 AM

South Florida Regional Planning Council
One Oakwood Blvd, Suite 250, Hollywood, FL 33020

www.softalepc.org

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions, this meeting was conducted virtually via GoToMeeting.

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance (Jason McMahon)

Coordinator Jason McMahon opened the meeting and welcomed the members at 10:05AM. Mr. McMahon also completed a Pledge of Allegiance ceremony with Chair Ray McDonald.

2. Meeting Instructions (Jason McMahon)

Mr. McMahon instructed all participants to keep their microphones on mute to eliminate feedback and unnecessary noise from disrupting the meeting. During roll call and votes, mikes can be temporarily unmuted.

3. Roll Call (Jason McMahon)

In attendance were Niel Batista, Steve Collins, Alain Donderiz, Maikel Garcia, Jaimie Johnson, John Johnson, Troy Johnson, Russel MacLees, Craig Marston, Bret Maxwell, Ray McDonald, Martha Payan, Jeffry Peleg, Tami Price, Chief James Russo, Peter Schecter, Crystal Schaefer, Stephen Shaw, Natasha Strokin, Alvaro Tonanez, Keith Westin, John Meyer (TBLEPC Coordinator), Matt Currie, Condell Eastmond, Arnoldo Arana, Albert Howe, Yvette Mcleod, Van Schoen, Curtis Knowles (CFRPC LEPC Coordinator), Larry Kelly, Katelyn Kubasik (SWFRPC LEPC Coordinator), Matt Portilla, Lisa Gordon, and Rudy Albert.

4. Previous Meeting Summary (Jason McMahon)

Coordinator Jason McMahon informed the members in attendance of the decisions that were made at the prior meeting relating to the annual LEPC Exercise. He explained both the decisions to conduct an exercise and base the exercise around a radiological event. Minutes of the previous meeting were moved by Peter Schecter, seconded, and approved unanimously.

5. Membership Changes (Jason McMahon)

There were no new membership requests since the last meeting.



6. **FDEM LEPC and HMEP Contracts Discussion**

The LEPC Contract requires LEPCs to either host two tabletop exercises or one field/full-scale exercise per year. Coordinator Jason McMahon explained to the Committee that there was a meeting held between the statewide LEPC Coordinators and FDEM to discuss the effects of COVID-19 on the LEPC/HMEP Contracts. Mr. McMahon went on to inform the Committee of the options that would allow funding to be provided as normal from FDEM which included: moving forward with the contractually required tasks as normal, executing the planning phase of an exercise without completing the exercise, or conducting a Hazardous Materials-related project. Mr. McMahon explained that after consulting with the previous South Florida LEPC Coordinator, Manny Cela, it was decided that moving forward with the contract tasks as normal would be the best option. Mr. McMahon explained that to not affect any intertwining contracts, moving forward with planning/executing the exercise would benefit the LEPC the most.

7. **Subcommittee Reports (Jason McMahon)**

Training Subcommittee (Jason McMahon)

Coordinator Jason McMahon informed the Committee that typically, the LEPC offers anywhere from three to five OSHA HAZWOPER Courses each year. Mr. McMahon gave an update to the LEPC on the status of multiple OSHA HAZWOPER Refresher classes that are currently being planned. There are two classes being planned for 50 employees of Broward Environmental & Consumer Protection. There are 13 classes being planned for 300 employees of Miami Water & Sewer Department. Lastly, Mr. McMahon informed the LEPC that similar training will also be provided for 80-90 employees of Miami Dade Environmental Resource Management.

Mr. McMahon informed the Committee that the Broward County HazMat teams are beginning to gain interest in planning a HM160 course for this year and will be requesting financial assistance from the LEPC. Fort Lauderdale Fire Chief Steve Shaw spoke to the LEPC and explained that the HM160 class has indeed been a topic of discussion among the Fire Departments. Mr. Shaw asked Chief James Russo of Hollywood Fire Rescue to further explain any developments in planning. Chief Russo informed the LEPC that the goal for the HM160 course is to use certified instructors that are most familiar with their equipment. Chief Russo explained that the Broward HazMat teams are still discussing which vendor/instructors would be best before approaching the LEPC for funding.

Planning Subcommittee (Jason McMahon)

The Planning Subcommittee does not have any activities planned for the year.

Exercise Subcommittee (Jason McMahon)

Coordinator Jason McMahon explained to the LEPC that an Exercise Subcommittee Meeting was held on January 20, 2021. Mr. McMahon reiterated to the Committee that during this meeting, it was decided that the exercise will be centered around a radiological event. He informed the LEPC that the next Exercise Subcommittee Meeting would be held directly following the current meeting's adjournment. Mr. McMahon asked anyone who could stay on the line to join the meeting for discussion. He also explained that due to current COVID-19 conditions, meetings would have to be conducted virtually until further



notice. Lastly, Coordinator Jason McMahon added that the exercise must be completed no later than June 30, 2021.

8. SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Report (Jason McMahon)

Coordinator Jason McMahon informed the LEPC that the last meeting held with FDEM was based on the topic of contract options/alternatives. He explained that at the current time, there had not been any date set for a future SERC meeting due to FDEM being overloaded with COVID-related workloads. Mr. McMahon gave information that an offshore HazMat training is being put together by USCG for 2022, and noted that any updates on the training will be sent out to the LEPC. Finally, Mr. McMahon asked the LEPC to update any contact information pertaining to the LEPC to show himself as the new coordinator.

9. Member Comments

Lt. Maikel Garcia of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue requested any information related to the Offshore HazMat Initiative be forwarded to him. Lt. Garcia also noted that a couple of names mentioned during roll call no longer hold their positions. Mr. McMahon informed Lt. Garcia that he would ensure his contact information with FDEM is current.

Lt. Alvaro Tonanez of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue requested a list of names of entities/businesses that would like to be involved in the LEPC's exercise. Mr. McMahon explained that this topic would be discussed during the Exercise Subcommittee Meeting following the current meeting. Lt. Tonanez suggested that involvement be kept more simple rather than complex, allowing for businesses to exercise a portion of their plan they deem necessary, as the LEPC exercises our HazMat plan.

Chair Ray McDonald expressed his support for Lt. Tonanez's suggestions. Chair McDonald went on to explain that he believes the LEPC is well-equipped to safely move forward with an exercise, even in current conditions. Mr. McDonald also informed the LEPC that this could be a good opportunity for environmental agencies to get on board due to their dealings with radioactive isotopes.

LEPC Member Alain Donderiz of Miami-Dade DERM expressed his gratitude for the LEPC's continuous support and effort to keep training available to those that need it throughout these tough times. Mr. Donderiz also informed the LEPC that the virtual version of the OSHA HAZWOPER courses were received well.

10. Upcoming Meetings

The next SoFlaLEPC Meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2021 at 10:00AM. It will also be conducted virtually via GoToMeeting.

11. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was moved by Keith Westin and seconded by Jeffrey Peleg at 10:50AM. It was passed unanimously.