



SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

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

www.sofalepc.org

This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom.

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance (Pro Tem/Chief Russo)

LEPC Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members at 10:05AM. LEPC Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance along with attendees.

2. Meeting Instructions (Charlene Burke)

Charlene Burke instructed all participants to keep their microphones on mute to eliminate feedback and unnecessary noise from disrupting the meeting. During roll call and votes, microphones can be temporarily unmuted. All attendees were notified that the meeting would be recorded.

3. Roll Call (Charlene Burke)

PRESENT:

Tiphanee Brown-Francis, FL Atlantic University
Camile Campbell, Broward County EM
Alain Donderiz, Miami-Dade Environmental Resources Management
Lisa Gordon, Environmental Consultant
Charles Lankford, Baptist Health South FL
Yvette McLeod, Broward Schools
Mary Napoli (Alt), Monroe County EM
Axel Rodriguez, Brenntag
Adam Rohlinger (Alt), FL Dept of Transportation District 6
LEPC Chair, Chief James Russo, Hollywood FR
Peter Schecter, Jet Blue
William Senyshyn, FL Dept of Health Reg 7
Vincent Shanberg, FL Dept of Environmental Protection
Marie Sullin, Aon
Keith Westin, Miami-Dade Office of Safety



ABSENT:

Junieth Arana, DHL Express Hub & Aviation
Rick Barrett, Energy Transfer
Miguelangel Becerra (Alt), Dean Foods
Bridjette Bucell, FL Dept of Environmental Protection
Shannon Davis-Weiner, Monroe County EM
Lt. Maikel Garcia, Miami FR
Jon Hines, Cliff Berry
Francisco Jaconetta, FL Dept of Transportation District 6
Troy Johnson (Alt), Miami-Dade EM
Jeasy Justiniano, Dean Foods
Jaimie Johnson, Allied Universal
Chief John Johnson (Alt), Marathon FR
Eduardo Koenig (Alt), Broward County Resilient Environment Dept
Romeo Lavarias, Miramar FR
Michael Laycock (Alt), Energy Transfer
District Chief Doug LeValley, Seminole Tribe of Florida FR
Shamila Lutchman (Alt), FL Dept of Health Reg 7
LEPC Chair Emeritus, Ray McDonald, Interested Citizen
Battalion Chief Craig Marston, Monroe County FR
Greg Namoff (Alt), Allied Universal
Amed "AJ" Navarrete, Sentry Industries
Martha Payan (Alt), Memorial Healthcare System
Dan Scarborough, Miami-Dade EM
Crystal Schaefer (Alt), FL Dept of Transportation District 6
Natasha Stokin, Memorial Healthcare System
LEPC Training Task Force Rep, Alvaro Tonanez, Miami-Dade FR
Jose Tovar, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer
Battalion Chief Gabriel Zahora, Fort Lauderdale FR

Stakeholders: Arnold Arana (CRP Officer), Ray Aguilera (BSO-FR), Brian Brown, (Hollywood-FR), Kelly Gibbs-Winiarz (DHS), Jahmes McClean (M-D Water & Sewer), Deran Ramkissoo (Gordon Food Services), Christina Miskis (SFRPC staff), Jennie Sullivan (SFRPC staff).

4. Previous Meeting Summary (Pro Tem/LEPC Chair)

Announced retirement of past-chair Ray McDonald. Discussed nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Motion to Approve Chair (Pete Schechter), second (Axel Rodriguez). Motion to Approve Vice Chair tabled to May 2023 meeting to allow for additional nominations recruitment including position description. Presented the Committee with the Meeting Minutes from the November 16, 2022, meeting. Motion to Approve Minutes (Marie Sullin), second (Tiphanee Brown-Francis).

5. Membership Changes (LEPC Chair)



LEPC Chair announced three (3) new members. Additional member and alternate changes will be announced at the May 2023 LEPC meeting as roles continue to be updated by the new LEPC Coordinator.

6. Reports (LEPC Chair)

Training

Efforts continue to be made to conduct anhydrous ammonia training w Publix, biannually or annually, at the cold storage facility in Deerfield Beach, Broward. Due to covid this training was not conducted in about three (3) years. The site has the potential for a major hazmat release. The facility also contains diesel, extensive machinery, and cryogenics. Four (4) responding hazmat teams conducted three (3) days of half-day tours w all four (4) Technical Rescue Teams (TRT). Training was well received and supported by Publix representatives. The exercise is cost-effective in terms of time, effort, and coordination, and beneficial for pre-planning and the mission of the LEPC. The training developed for both hazmat and TRT bolstered target hazard pre-planning to help modernize incident-based response.

10th Annual Hazmat Symposium was a success. Historically, the Symposium started as a branching off of the Fire Chiefs Association of the Fire-Rescue East program (in 2023 the latter will change name to Florida Fire Conference). Along w Florida Fire Conference, plans were discussed to continue to offer the Symposium complementary. LEPC Chair and LEPC Coordinator were joined by about 560 attendees and participated in the LEPC and SERC meetings. Recognized the class offerings, vendors, and state representation as impressive. About 30 fire-rescue personnel from the region were sponsored to attend classes and/or competitions.

Broward County Environmental Permitting Division's eight-hour OSHA HAZWOPER online course is in progress w vendor. A 160-hour HazMat Technician Course is in progress w vendor in Broward. Miami-Dade will deliver two (2) 160-hour HazMat Technician Courses (24 students) w priority to Miami-Dade personnel w any remaining seats open to the region (dates TBD/announced). In the past two years, teams in the region have worked to provide higher-quality trainings. Success has been achieved using members from hazmat & technical teams who are qualified to teach. International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) teaches e.g., chemistry and qualified members conduct e.g., scenarios. This has resulted in improved trainings and sound investment sponsors value. All trainings and registered w the state.

In the region in 2023, teams in Broward will deliver the 160-hour HazMat Technician Course w the vendor used in past years and who will be available 24-hours. With funding support from the LEPC, Miami-Dade will deliver the 160-hour HazMat Technician Course, in part, w in-house staff. A training advantage for response teams is facetime w peers to improve cohesiveness including, at times when incidents go wrong. For any/all new training requests, contact the new LEPC Coordinator, Charlene Burke.

Need to establish a Working Group for the annual Hazardous Materials



The Committee voted on this year's HMEP Planning Project; "Plan an Exercise" was selected, moved by Yvette Mcleod, and seconded by Romeo Lavarias. He finalized the report by requesting that attendees contact him for training inquiries.

Planning (LEPC Coordinator)

The LEPC Coordinator agreed to send out to members the 2022 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan for review and updates marked up in Track Changes to individuals w respective areas of responsibility. The Plan is due to the state in June and will go back before the LEPC in May to approve any/all incorporated changes.

Exercise (LEPC Chair)

Due to a line of duty death (LODD), Operation HeatShield4 was delayed and rescheduled to March 7, 2023. Evaluators are established. LEPC Chair reminded all members that if you see something say something. Active shooters demand our region be prepared. HeathSheild4 is vital to preparation as it brings together multiple stakeholders and disciplines to achieve wants, needs and Unified Command.

The LEPC Chair requested members who can join the Exercise Working Group immediately after the LEPC meeting to initiate plans for the annual LEPC exercise. The Chair reminded members that the past two (2) exercises were a propane flare off (2022) and radiation (2021). This is an opportunity to explore ideas, and examples of substation and infrastructure homegrown terrorist attacks, biologicals, and area target hazards were all cited as options.

7. SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Report (Charlene Burke)

Ms. Burke reported attending Region 7 Specialty Team meetings in coordination w LEPC Chair. Attended the 10th Anniversary Hazmat Symposium w attendees from across the U.S. Attended the statewide LEPC meeting and SERC meeting w LEPC Chair. Reminded members of materials provided w agenda including details of the statewide LEPC and SERC meetings. Noted support from FL Dept of Emergency Management re duties/responsibilities. Info provided on funding strategies on how to update the Hazards Analysis Guides. Provided EPCRA Right-to-Know Workshop. Encouraged in-person meetings beginning in May 2023.

LEPC Chair provided an update from the Training Task Force re the Orlando warehouse fireworks explosion. Several concerns were presented on hazards including, unpermitted fireworks storage that caused the incident and subsequent, secondary explosions. The State is seeking to strengthen what is being done for planning, e-planning, and target hazards. From a response district, or fire dept inspections and prevention bureau inspections, as well as pre-planning from an operational pre-plan, visits are made to identify what is stored to make tactical plans were something to happen and to identify needs to allocate or tactics to be employed.

LEPC Chair attended a class on funding that covered sustaining hazmat and special operations teams. Historically, money is tight including, at the municipal level, and there is a history of dependency on



alternate sources for funding. As a region, we may be doing better with funding than other region and agencies. However, there is ongoing need to identify creative funding sources. In general, agencies and the LEPC needs to improve marketing and should aspire to do a better job to demonstrate what we can/are doing behind-the-scenes for incidents. Investigating options exist for P3s (public-private partnerships) of mutual benefit w recognition it is not always tied to funding.

LEPC Chair discussed being recipient of the Thomas Yatabe award for efforts related to the double flare off exercise that brought multiple teams together for a simulated accident that breached a propane active leak next to a structure at a closed facility, and a double flare off w added visual benefit.

Highlighted from SERC the Offshore Hazmat Pilot Program that has been about 10 years in the making. The Pilot, with lessons learned, will return to Broward w modifications to lengthen this logistically challenging class. SERC and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are prepared to continue funding support, and a recon for a vessel for the exercise is ongoing.

LEPC Chair reported that Chief Murphy, FL Fire Chiefs Association will change from Fire-Rescue East to the FL Fire Convention & may coincide w future Hazmat Symposiums.

Scott Chapel, State Fire College is working on hazmat coordination and Technical Rescue Teams (TRT), and the LEPC Chair will continue to collaborate with him.

Upcoming meetings:

Training Task Force Apr 20 @ 0930 - Orlando

LEPC Apr 20 @1300 - Orlando

SERC Apr 21 @ 0930 - Orlando

HeatShield4 rescheduled to March 7 – Miami various locations

8. Member Comments

Pete Schecter presented info on the FDNY Training Academy re lithium battery and energetic materials and requested support from LEPC to bring this type of training to the region. LEPC Chair noted other local responders attended the same training, and that the vendor provides classes locally. The LEPC Chair has also been speaking w industry leaders on this topic. Broward County recently submitted an EV and charger protocol w stakeholders from several departments to the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County to make it a regional protocol so regardless of which FR is on scene all are on the same page. Discussed reignition and mitigation realities and concerns. LEPC Chair offered to share information at a future meeting on awareness, fire rescue, and technical/special operations training information requested from the vendor to host the class locally. Pete Schecter provided additional information on the training w energetic material. It acts like a load or explosive when it fails, and it project objects that are heated to the point of continuing the ignition elsewhere in the compartment everywhere. From a firefighting perspective it is so hot at floor level when it fails it blows out thermal imagers so if looking down a hallway it cannot be detected because it is blind. Vendor also has a protocol to overpack evidence.



This is a major concern in the aviation community. This is not allowed, but customers and the travelling the public are very creative about hiding and disguising this material and so it remains a major concern that this potentially end up in aircraft cargo holds.

Pete Schecter also discussed that the state has a local representative that conducts recycling and remediation for these products. The region will eventually need a contractor, e.g., for spill remediation which is a specialty area. Suggested consideration of getting prequalified so this resource would be available to the region. Sits on Arson & Explosives Committee for the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Noted it is important to educate law enforcement first responders as they often put themselves in bad positions by trapping themselves not realizing what can happen.

9. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

10. Upcoming Meetings

LEPC Chair announced the next SoFlaLEPC Meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2022, at 10:00AM.

11. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn (Lisa Gordon), second (Jaimie Johnson) at 11:11 AM.