



SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, August 16, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

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

www.soflalepc.org

This meeting was conducted in-person and virtually via Zoom.

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance (LEPC Chair)

The LEPC Chair, Chief James Russo, opened the meeting and welcomed the members at 10:03AM. The LEPC Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor the brothers and sisters who have made the supreme sacrifice and are no longer with us.

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, votes, and when making comments microphones may be temporarily unmuted. All attendees were notified that the meeting would be recorded.

3. Roll Call (Charlene Burke)

PRESENT:

Junieth Arana, DHL Express Hub & Aviation
LEPC Vice Chair, Lt. Brian Brown, Hollywood FR
Neil Buckeridge, City of North Lauderdale Public Works Utilities
Camile Campbell, Broward EMD
Patrick Collins, Cliff Berry
Alain Donderiz, Miami-Dade Environmental Resources Mgmt.
Rebecca "Georgie" George, FDEP
Francisco Jaconetta, FL Dept of Transportation District 6
Mary Napoli (Alt), Monroe County EM
Amed "AJ" Navarrete, Sentry Industries
Deran Ramkissoon, Gordon Food Services
Adam Rohlinger, 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



Carl Sidelko, Sentry Industries
Marie Sullin, Aon
Keith Westin, Miami-Dade Office of Safety
Richard Whitehurst, Baptist Health South FL
Dee Dee Williams (Alt), Gordon Food Services
Ali Younes (Alt), Broward County Resilient Environment Dept

ABSENT:

Ray Aguilera, BSO FR Hazmat
Stephanie Alami (Alt), Broward County Public Schools
Rick Barrett, Energy Transfer
Miguelangel Becerra, Dean Foods
Tiphanee-Brown Francis (Alt), Florida Atlantic University
Shannon Davis-Weiner, Monroe County EM
Joseph DeLuna (Alt), FDEP
Lt. Mike Dominguez (Alt), BSO
Lt. Maikel Garcia, Miami FR
Lisa Gordon, Interested Citizen
Josh Green (Alt), EM Planner City of Miramar FR
Jon Hines (Alt), Cliff Berry
Jaimie Johnson, Allied Universal
Troy Johnson (Alt), Miami-Dade EM
Jeasy Justiniano, Dean Foods
Chief John Johnson (Alt), Marathon FR
Charles Lankford, Baptist Health South FL
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
Battalion Chief Craig Marston, Monroe County FR
Yvette McLeod, Broward County Public Schools
Julio Melendez (Alt), Miami-Dade FR
Greg Namoff (Alt), Allied Universal
Jesus Olivo (Alt), Brenntag
Martha Payan (Alt), Memorial Healthcare System
Axel Rodriguez, Brenntag
Chris Runte (Alt), Miami-Dade Office of Safety
Dan Scarborough, Miami-Dade EM
Crystal Schaefer (Alt), FL Dept of Transportation District 6
Vincent Shanberg, FL Dept of Environmental Protection
Carl Sidelko (Alt), Sentry Industries



Natasha Strokin, Memorial Healthcare System
LEPC Training Task Force Rep, Alvaro Tonanez, Miami-Dade FR
Jose Tovar, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer
Louis Valdes (Alt), Seminole Tribe of Florida FR
Jaeson Weber, Florida Atlantic University
Richard Whitehurst (Alt), Baptist Health South FL
Battalion Chief Gabriel Zahora, Fort Lauderdale FR

EXCUSED:

Eduardo Koenig (Alt), Broward County Resilient Environment Dept

STAKEHOLDERS: Rudy Albert (American Airlines), Ryan Bally (FDOT District 4), Lt. Jeff Barnes (USCG), Matt Currie (DHS-CISA), Kathe Lerch (SFRPC staff), Robert Molleda (NWS), Christina Miskis (SFRPC staff), Todd Nichols (DHS), Adam Rohlinger (FDOT District 6), Laura Wyness (USCG).

4. **Presentation by Agent Todd Nichols, Department of Homeland Security - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS-CISA)**

Agent Todd Nichols, Chemical Security Inspector and member of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard and Regulation presented [Chemlock](#) Program Overview, a voluntary program to assist facilities to secure chemicals. Agent Nichols noted that Congress allowed regulation to lapse on July 28, 2023. Therefore, DHS-CISA cannot currently enforce the regulation. DHS-CISA suggested that when Congress reconvenes in September the Bill may be reauthorized.

The presentation discussed DHS-CISA services including best practices and tools to improve facility safety in the U.S. and abroad. Topics discussed included toxics and toxic precursors, flammables, explosives, and explosive precursors. Chemicals impact almost every industry in the U.S. and so the program is not one-size-fits-all. DHS-CISA offers assessments and recommendations, drills and exercises, training courses, policies and procedures, the Cyber Security Evaluation Tool (CSET), and resources for security plans tailored to individual facilities and budget considerations.

Each state has cybersecurity advisors. Florida has two (2) with one (1) based in Miami. Resources available online include templates, tools, fact sheets, and guides to train employees, including in Active Shooter. DHS-CISA resources include “no notice” pop-up event support e.g., a protest by environmentalists due to an industrial incident. Drone incidents are a current priority/emphasis area. DHS-CISA encourages facilities to partner with first responders to establish working relationships. Working together ahead of time helps to prepare for a better response should a facility have to call 911. The goal of the program is to make sure everyone goes home safely at the end of the day. Training consists of two key modules; overview and key components to chemical security and in-depth training to help build out a tailored and scalable facility security plan.



Agent Nichols also presented a synopsis of the Cyber Security Evaluation Tool (CSET). CSET helps to identify cybersecurity risk and is designed to provide cybersecurity for chemical facilities and non-chemical operations. CSET can evaluate a control system network, specify recommendations for a Cybersecurity Plan including identifying deficiencies. CSET also provides reports using standards-based information analysis and provides a baseline cybersecurity posture. IT teams play a key role.

Agent Nichols also presented a synopsis of Operation Flashpoint, a joint effort between the DHS/DHS-CISA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The program is focused on Explosive Precursor Chemicals (EPC) for bomb making materials. This security awareness program seeks voluntary reporting of suspicious activity to 855-TELL-FBI (855-835-5324) by private sector local businesses and industry and public safety stakeholders to prevent acquisition of EPCs for nefarious use. A desired outcome is to prevent, disrupt, and mitigate bombing events. DHS Region IV contains approximately 28,000 EPC point-of-sale retail locations. Community Liaisons (CL), most often public safety organizations (e.g., police, fire, fire Marshall), are needed as a force multiplier to assist with outreach, awareness, and local community engagement. DHS-CISA tracks outreach efforts to avoid duplication of efforts. To serve as a CL and train-the-trainer, a TRIPwire account and four (4) courses/trainings training are required.

Member William Senyshyn commented that if a chemical attack occurs it must be reported to the County Warning Point for the State Watch Office to trigger FL Department of Health to move the response cache to where it is needed (between Palm Beach and Monroe County for LEPC Region 10).

The chair asked for clarification on no-notice event available resources. Agent Nichols stated the focus is on the flow of information between facilities and responders. A responder may contact the National Incident Coordination Center (NICC) directly to report no-notice incidents and to request support resources. The NICC gathers information on all no-notice reporting and pushes that information back out to the State Unit Centers. The chair inquired if all responder courses are online. One is virtual with a trainer and the rest are self-paced.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes from the May 17, 2023, meeting. Motion to Approve Minutes (Lt. Brian Brown), second (Francisco Jaconetta).

6. Membership Changes

LEPC Chair announced membership updates for both members and alternates made in coordination with the LEPC Coordinator. Changes align with SERC rules, help to fill gaps in membership, and chart a better course for moving the LEPC forward including, to ensure the membership roster is up-to-date and that meetings achieve the required quorum. Three (3) nominations were included in the agenda package which consisted of one member and two alternates.

7. Chairs Report



Chair Russo provided a highlight of reports made at SERC and the SERC Training Task Force (TTF) meeting in St. Augustine. Ongoing and potential challenges for lithium-ion (li-ion) batteries were discussed including, vehicles/micromobility, energy storage systems, photovoltaics, charging, storage facilities, and codes. While at SERC the LEPC also collaborated with FDEM and the Florida State Fire Marshall's office on the Li-ion Symposium. The Symposium will include stakeholders from NFPA, EPA, manufacturers, state & local responders, emergency management, etc., and included intentional information conflicts to facilitate robust dialogue.

The chair discussed a real-time incident that took place during the SERC meeting with a li-ion battery storage unit at a hospital in Hillsborough County. The hospital had off gassing and evacuations were conducted. Hillsborough responders reached out to their leadership who were attending the SERC meeting for assistance and the chair and Region 10 li-ion SMEs (VC, BSO, Margate) in attendance provided real-time assistance to resolve the incident. Nice opportunity to showcase Region 10 li-ion SME and assist Hillsboro responders.

The chair presented on the Rail Car Safety exercise with chlorine held June 20-22 and discussed Region 10 support for the Offshore Hazmat Pilot training. Another real-time incident occurred during the Offshore Hazmat Pilot training with a li-ion event battery fire incident offshore in Georgia. This incident further validated the need for timely and critical collaborations on li-ion.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) attended SERC and presented best practices for handling li-ion battery incidents. The EPA also provided guidance for securing facilities and for safe transport of li-ion batteries. The chair recommended an educational presentation be made to the LEPC and that the LEPC distribute public safety information on li-ion batteries such as: follow manufacturer guidelines, do not charge devices overnight, do not overload circuits, and overall awareness of the hazards of li-ion batteries in devices/vehicles that have the potential to cause a toxic and flammable environment in 20 seconds or less.

The chair provided the following brief highlights on additional regional planning and training:

- Coral Springs held a small-scale li-ion symposium with a Proterra bus and SMEs from Miami to prepare for the state li-ion symposium in September.
- Clean Cities Coalition and the U.S. Department of Energy collaborations continue with LEPC. Training is in progress to offer alternative fuels training including, with Blue Bird EV buses at Broward Fire Academy in December 2023. Sheridan Technical College will be a participating partner as it develops its EV mechanic training and safety program to address the switch from lead acid to li-ion batteries.
- LEPC Chair invited to 2024 Port Miami Tunnel crisis simulation exercise kickoff plan discussions.
- Emergency Management Day will be in Tallahassee on Feb 6-7, 2024, to showcase the work of fire rescue and hazmat to legislators and to work to increase resources.
- Examples of sponsorships from the private sector to support training were shared and encouraged.



State Emergency Response Commission: Attended SERC in St. Augustine in July. Li-ion battery key discussion points were emergency response and potential challenges on-scene including EVs, micro mobility/devices, energy storage systems, charging, photovoltaic, code issues, and storage facilities. EPA presented best practices on how to handle incidents including guidance for facilities involved in a li-ion incident, how to safely transport batteries, and emerging and evolving technologies.

LEPC Region 10 participated in numerous sidebar and collaborative meetings regarding the SERC & State Fire Marshal efforts on the Li-ion Battery Symposium. Stakeholders anticipated to attend are National Fire Prevention Association, EPA, manufacturers, state and local responders, emergency management, etc. LEPC collaboration with SMEs, partners and stakeholders places it in a good position to positively impact li-ion challenges through public safety education (e.g., how to avoid a toxic and flammable situation quickly to avoid thermal runaway such as do not overload circuits, do not charge overnight, follow manufacturer guidelines). Suggested a li-ion presentation be part of a future LEPC meeting.

Anticipate more to report after the next SERC meeting in July. With a unified front, rapid advancements for first responder & public safety are well under way. Highlighted the Hazard Analysis Working Group Report and that the Fentanyl Training Project is on hiatus as the in-person portion evolved to cover more than Fentanyl. The Offshore Hazmat Pilot Project will be held at Resolve Marine in Broward with a limited class size. Based on the first delivery of the pilot, adjustments were made to improve upon lessons learned. Expect further details later this Summer. The FDEM Risk Management Plan Audit/inspection listed 30 high priority facilities which considers target hazards within target hazards. FDEM Hazmat Incident Reports for Section 304 compliance are provided in the agenda package. Provided an E-Plan filing reminder that training for facilities is available and to contact the LEPC Coordinator for more information.

Planning & Training Working Groups

Vice Chair Brown reported the LEPC has restructured and reorganized with new and returning members. To organize future training needs, a call for LEPC members and alternates to volunteer to serve on the Working Groups was requested. The Working Group members may liaison with SERC, SERC TTF, partners, and peers on training activities, and to help strengthen the LEPC. Motivated members and alternates with a range of experience are needed to assist Working Group leaders and the LEPC coordinator with programming and funding. Public and private representation for each county is encouraged.

Vice Chair Brown also reported on the completion of two (2) training courses: HAZWOPER with Miami-Dade RER and electric and propane school bus training at Hollywood Training Facility. The Vice Chair reminded members that training and exercises are designed for collaborative opportunities at all scales and with region-wide representation in mind.

Exercise

The Rail Car Safety exercise with chlorine took place over three (3) days from June 20-22. The capabilities assessment was well received by SERC, which requested a presentation on the training at the July meeting. The chair noted that upcoming MCI drills to coordinate with hospitals that will have a hazmat component.



8. **SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Report (Charlene Burke)**

- Attended the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), SERC TTF and statewide LEPC Coordinators meeting on July 19-20 with the LEPC Chair and Vice Chair, and a regional delegation.
- Ongoing coordination with Region 10 & Palm Beach County Specialty Teams Meeting: Special Operations & Technical Rescue Teams Hazmat Special Operations & Technical Rescue Team meetings (Jul 5, Aug 2)
- Hazmat Symposium is Jan 16-19, 2024, at Daytona Grande Oceanfront Hotel with funds provided by FDEM via HMEP grant. No conflict w FFC (week of Jan 8).
- SUSAR – State Urban Search & Rescue Conference geared to emergency and disaster management with hazmat components. The LEPC TWG will consider with other requests for HMEP funds.

9. **Member Comments**

Vice Chair Brown reminded members that we want to avoid redundancy for training and events and for members to share ideas and collaborate on activities within the region.

10. **Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

11. **Administrative Items**

The LEPC Chair directed members to the agenda package for all Administrative Items. In addition, the chair reminded members that SE-RDSTF is still region 7 and LEPC is region 10. An update was provided on the LEPC membership noting the goal to achieve maximum effectiveness. The Li-ion symposium will be at the State Fire College in Ocala on Sept 6-7. The SE-RDSTF Cybersecurity symposium is October 10 at NSU in Davie. SE-RDSTF will meet in Palm Beach on August 31. Links to online training in hydrogen safety are provided in the agenda package. The RMP program list for local facilities is included in the agenda package and reinforce the importance of the DHS-CISA Operation Flashpoint program. The Flow MSP program is pre-planning software that is a tool for fire inspectors, code compliance, hazmat, fire suppression, etc. and can be used onsite to identify hazards and onsite conditions. The software is tied to E-Plan and the data has been vetted. The app offers real-time information on Tier II facilities for first responders and with ease of use. This tool is being offered free to all fire departments (over 400 in Florida).

The chair noted that for the State Watch Office it is important if you are on scene at a facility as a first responder, or if you do not know if 911 or the system has been activated, to err on the side of safety and call the warning points. If first responders and DOT see a release, or if you are at the facility making the call, upon calling 911 and providing a description you can tell dispatch to notify the County Warning Point and that should activate fire comm to go down the list. In turn, the county will also escalate to the state. On the FR side, an on-scene commander will make a direct call to the county, to the duty officer, and the state warning point for the EOC. This lets everyone up the chain know what is going on and if resources are needed.



Mr. Senyshyn added, suspicious powder incidents need to be escalated to the State Watch Office. FDOH needs lead time for Bioassay Technology Lab (BT Lab) to go on standby and incidents must be vetted before being transported. Suspicious powder must also go through hazmat and the bomb squad. FDOH must be notified what the protocol for the threat is then it will work with FBI. Once notified, FDOH will coordinate which BT Lab the specimen will go to. FDOH or FDLE will manage the transport 24/7. The chair clarified hazmat teams also work closely with FBI and reminded members that if you see something say something.

12. Upcoming Meetings

The LEPC Chair announced the next in-person/hybrid SoFlaLEPC Meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2023, at 10:00AM.

- Upcoming SERC meetings in Jan 16-19, 2024, Daytona Beach during Hazmat Symposium
SERC Training Task Force Jan 16 @ 0930
LEPC Jan 16 @ 1300
SERC Jan 17 @ 0930

13. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn (Francisco Jaconetta), second (Brian Brown) at 11:32 AM.