



SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, February 21, 2024 @ 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 10:02 AM. 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)

All participants please keep 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. The meeting is recorded.

3. Roll Call (Charlene Burke)

PRESENT:

Rudy Albert, American Airlines
LEPC Vice Chair, Lt. Brian Brown, Hollywood FR
Rebecca "Georgie" George, FDEP
Aimee Hernandez, Broward College
Terry Hodges, Broward OEM
Eduardo Koenig, Broward Environmental Permitting
Jaylin Martir, S. FL Water Mgmt. District
Georgianne Miller, FL Dept of Transportation District 4
Mark Moore, Broward College
Martha Payan (Alt), Memorial Healthcare System
David Reynolds, Ft. Lauderdale FR
LEPC Chair, Chief James Russo, Hollywood FR
Adam Rohlinger, FL Dept of Transportation District 6
Dan Scarborough, Miami-Dade EM
Natasha Strokin, Memorial Healthcare System
Keith Westin, Miami-Dade Office of Safety



Richard Whitehurst (Alt), Baptist Health South FL
Dee-Dee Williams (Alt), Gordon Food Services
Ali Younes (Alt), Broward County EPD
Battalion Chief Gabriel Zahora, LEPC EM Liaison, Fort Lauderdale FR

ABSENT:

Ray Aguilera, BSO FR Hazmat
Junieth Arana, DHL Express Hub & Aviation
Stephanie Alami (Alt), Broward County Public Schools
Ryan Bally, FL Dept of Transportation District 4
Tiphanee-Brown Francis (Alt), Florida Atlantic University
Camile Campbell (Alt), Broward EMD
Patrick Collins, Cliff Berry
Shannon Davis-Weiner, Monroe County EM
Joseph DeLuna (Alt), FDEP
Lt. Mike Dominguez (Alt), BSO
Lt. Maikel Garcia, Miami FR
Marcelo Garcia, Miami-Dade W&SD
Lisa Gordon, USCG Auxiliary, Interested Citizen
Josh Green (Alt), EM Planner City of Miramar FR
Jon Hines (Alt), Cliff Berry
Mario Ho (Alt), DHL Express Hub & Aviation
Francisco Jaconetta, FL Dept of Transportation District 6
Troy Johnson (Alt), Miami-Dade EM
Jaimie Johnson, Allied Universal
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
Yvette McLeod, Broward County Public Schools
Julio Melendez (Alt), Miami-Dade FR
Greg Namoff (Alt), Allied Universal
Amed "AJ" Navarrete, Sentry Industries
Jesus Olivo (Alt), Brenntag
Deran Ramkissoo, Gordon Food Services
David Reynolds (Alt), Ft. Lauderdale FR
Axel Rodriguez, Brenntag
Chris Runte (Alt), Miami-Dade Office of Safety
Crystal Schaefer (Alt), FL Dept of Transportation District 6



Pete Schecter, Jet Blue
William Senyshyn, FL Dept of Health Reg 7
Vincent Shanberg, FL Dept of Environmental Protection
Carl Sidelko (Alt), Sentry Industries
Marie Sullin, Aon
Alvaro Tonanez, Miami-Dade FR
Louis Valdes (Alt), Seminole Tribe of Florida FR
Armando Vilaboy (Alt), S. FL Water Mgmt. District
Jaeson Weber, Florida Atlantic University

EXCUSED:

Alain Donderiz, Miami-Dade Environmental Resources Mgmt., LEPC Training Task Force Rep, Chief Oscar Rodriguez, Margate FD, Jose Tovar, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer

STAKEHOLDERS: Rudy Albert (American Airlines), Isabel Cosio Carballo (SFRPC Staff), Freddie Franks, (Univar Solutions), Reson Holloway (Broward County OEM), Lt. Sergio Lambo (Training Division Hazmat Coordinator, Hialeah FD), Kathe Lerch (SFRPC staff), Alisha Lopez (SFRPC staff), Shannon Maharajh (Boeing/HMERP Technical Writer), David Reynolds (Ft. Laud FR), Tatiana Riesgo (Broward County OEM), Kathleen Ward-Utrecht (DHS), Kelly Gibbs-Winiarz (DHS-CISA), Laura Wyness (USCG), Ali Younes (Broward EPD).

4.

• **Approval of minutes from the February 21, 2024, SoFlaLEPC Meeting**

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes for the February 21, 2024, meeting. Motion to Approve Minutes (Rebecca George), second (Gabriel Zahora).

5.

Membership Changes

Gabriel Zahora (Mem), David Reynolds (Alt), Ft. Lauderdale FR; Marcelo Garcia (Mem), Jose Tovar (Alt), Miami-Dade W&S District; Shannon Davis-Weiner (Mem), Corey Schwisow (Alt), Monroe County EM

6.

Chair's Report (LEPC Vice Chair, Lt. Brian Brown & Chief James Russo)

Training Task Force: Kevin Guthrie, State Emergency Response Commission, presented Training Task Force Rep, Chief Oscar Rodriguez, as Yatabe Award Winner for SoFla LEPC recognizing work on li-ion batteries including, State Fire Marshal's Office support with the Li-ion Symposium at the State Fire College. Provided highlights for PFAS Florida Fire Department safe disposal activities. The final Offshore Hazmat Pilot Program will be held in Jacksonville and will feature south Florida partner, Resolve Marine. OSHA Emergency Response PPE is provided in the agenda package. LEPC: LEPC Chairpersons / Coordinators Meeting covered via district reports. LEPC Coordinator highlighted the HMEP grant manager presentation on the contract and administrative duties. Chair Russo discussed the creation of a Project Box at his request to ensure the grant serves the mission through effective training from vendors and that admin provides a productive and streamlined process. SERC: Thomas Yatabe Certificates of Appreciation



will be presented at a future LEPC meeting when awardees are present. Mr. John Kohnke, State Fire Marshal Office, received the Dwyane Mundy Lifetime Achievement Award. Commander Dave Haynes & First Sergeant Tim Grier reported on the success of the Winter Park High School NJROTC Emergency Response Sciences program. Brevard County Fire Rescue, Battalion Chief Neidert and Lt. Kelly presented “The Perfect Storm: Anhydrous Ammonia and FAR Chemical” incident at Port Canaveral. Vice Chair Brown discussed another Project Box for the state to conduct a statewide hazmat and TRT teams’ analysis. This project is anticipated to take about one year. Chief Russo discussed the Project Box in terms of scope, capabilities assessment, gap analysis and noted the last time this was done was five years ago. Analysis interviews will include leadership, personnel, and the state of inventory. The analysis will help to validate the work being done and the volume of work being achieved for funded and unfunded hazmat teams.

7. Planning & Training Working Group

The annual half-day walk through and refresher for the Publix cold storage distribution center that maintains anhydrous ammonia, our region’s largest target hazard, is being planned in coordination with Chief Nugent, BSO, for all four (4) hazmat teams in the region and for all three (3) shifts. Such partnerships build trust with the private sector and reinforce mutual benefit. Publix was also noted as a possible site for the upcoming Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER) drill.

Heath Shield V is scheduled for Jul 17, 2024, and will be a radiological exercise. Vice Chair Brown discussed the value of the role of UASI’s contribution to planning. A request for a contact was made by LEPC member Aimee Hernandez, Broward College, for more information on the Family Reunification Assistance Plan. LEPC member, Natasha Strokin, Memorial Healthcare System, provided the contact, Mark Wendt.

The Planning & Training Working Group met in-person and online during the Hazmat Symposium. The Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (HMERP) draft update was presented by Shannon Maharajh and comments were provided. The Group went over the process for training requests, requirements for PHMSA pre-approved courses, Plan of Instruction (POI) requirements for courses, and budget.

Vice Chair Brown reported on completed training including FBI Hazmat Sampling. LEPC member, Rebecca “Georgie” George noted FBI staff changes. Chief Russo confirmed the FBI liaison is on assignment in Washington, DC.

2024 Hazmat Symposium was, once again, very well received. The Symposium was separated from the Fire Rescue East Conference, now known as the Florida Fire Conference, and will be hosted in Orlando. The separation change helped to increase Hazmat Symposium attendance by 15%.

Vice Chair Brown noted that Agent Daniel Quiros with the FBI is seeking support from public information officers for the upcoming Community Unified Response to Radiological Incidents & Emergencies (CURRIE) TTX on Feb 28, 2024. LEPC Coordinator added that registration is now closed.



Miami-Dade's Port Miami Tunnel Crisis Simulation Exercise Coordination Team & Fire Life Safety Committee and partner agencies continue with plans for Spring 2024.

TRANSCAER exercise with NH₃ is being planned to support three (3) hazmat shifts for three (3) days for the region's hazmat teams. Stakeholder meetings will be conducted. The location is TBD.

Chair Russo discussed the FEMA National Exercise Program application request for a decision-based exercise to support the HMERP updates and to validate those changes. FEMA NEP guidance is being sought to help to test the product.

8. SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Report (Charlene Burke)

The coordinator reported on continued attendance at the Region 10/Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) Region 7 Specialty Teams Meetings. The coordinator thanked Chief Zahora for serving as LEPC EM Liaison and for attending Broward ECC meetings as subject matter expert. The coordinator attended SERC and the Hazmat Symposium and provided financial details for sponsored attendees. The coordinator thanked Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe County emergency management staff for their support with the Integrated Preparedness Plan including information for the FEMA NEP application. The coordinator discussed trainings taken to stay informed and to better serve LEPCs members and stakeholders.

9. Member Comments

LEPC member, Natasha Strokin, shared information on the Miami-Dade Healthcare Preparedness Coalition including a first aid Train-the-Trainer workshop on Apr 9 followed by the conference on Apr 10-11. The Statewide Chemical Surge exercise is being led by the FL Dept of Health Bureau of Labs as a game involving a Category A agent with sampling at some hospitals going to labs. RDSTF hosted an Artificial Intelligence (AI) presentation that presented cause for concern and consideration. The Coalitions are looking at operations vigilant sentry (OVS). Master Scenario Events Lists development discussions are taking place among health and medical providers given the recent measles outbreak. At the top of the list of the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) funding cycle and state meeting are community resilience and elections security. Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) & RDSTF will conduct training on how to prepare and process an application. Coalitions have opened project cycles for projects for 2025. Information from FDEM on the NRT Worker Health & Safety Conference Mar 13-14 was shared.

Alisha Lopez, Director, Clean Cities Southeast Florida, discussed the Dec 18 AFV Educate regional training on alternative fuels - propane, hydrogen, electric, and natural gas. 83 responders attended with many inquiring about the possibility of additional alternative fuels training. Miss Lopez said partners in e-scooter and e-bike businesses are headquartered in our region. Along with Sheridan Technical College the partners have offered the use of vehicles to supplement training. Also, DOE recently announced funding for first responders and electric vehicle training e.g., zero emission vehicle training and infrastructure technologies. Clean Cities will apply and share results at a future meeting.



Vice Chair Brown noted that regional and state training, activities and partnerships continue to positively influence Florida and the nation.

10. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

11. Administrative Items (LEPC Coordinator)

A brief overview of the agenda package Administrative Items was presented.

12. 2024 DRAFT Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (HMERP) Report (Shannon Maharajh)

A goal for the current update has been to make it more concise and usable. The main document structure changes have been to condense the working draft from 14 sections to six (6) due, primarily, to redundancy. The plan is authored for experienced officials who are the key users who will update the plan. Content that does not fit into one of the six sections, a maximum of 10 pages per section, are shifted to Annex and Appendix. An important consideration moving forward will be to avoid expansion of the plan. The draft includes highlighted and bold text with comments that the stakeholders who review the draft will need to respond to. Ambiguity and repeated information are being eliminated. The draft plan contains how-to guidelines for current and future updates and formatting aligned with the Emergency Response Guidebook. Miss Maharajh will present the draft HMERP at the LEPC meeting on May 15.

LEPC Coordinator stated the plan will be given to key LEPC members and stakeholders for review and comment. Chair Russo and Vice Chair Brown commended Miss Maharajh for her hard work, dedication and ongoing support.

13. Upcoming Meetings

The LEPC Chair announced the next in-person/hybrid SoFlaLEPC Meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024, at 10:00AM.

- a. Upcoming SERC meetings in St. Augustine Apr 11-12, 2024
SERC Training Task Force Apr 11 @ 0930
LEPC Apr 11 @ 1300
SERC Apr 12 @ 0930

Chair Russo encouraged attendees to join the Disaster Expo in Miami Mar 6-7, and thanked everyone for collaborating on initiatives that benefit the region. He added that a goal for responders is to have training saturation when wheels roll up on the scene but that is a challenge with so many different hazards. He noted that li-ion and electric vehicles messaging must be a balanced approach of practical uses of benefit but also public safety education.

14. Adjourn



Motion to Adjourn (Rebecca “Georgie” George), second (Gabriel Zahora) at 11:12 AM.