



## SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

### DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, November 20, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Monroe County Emergency Management (EOC)  
7280 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050

<https://monroecountyem.com/1324/Emergency-Management>

[www.soflalepc.org](http://www.soflalepc.org)

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

#### **Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance (LEPC Chair)**

The LEPC Vice Chair, Battalion Chief Brown, opened the meeting and welcomed the members at 10:04 AM. The LEPC Vice 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.

#### **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.

#### **Roll Call (Charlene Burke)**

##### PRESENT:

Stephanie Alami (Alt), Broward County Public Schools  
LEPC Vice Chair, Lt. Brian Brown, Hollywood FR  
Joseph DeLuna (Alt), FDEP  
Alain Donderiz, Miami-Dade Environmental Resources Mgmt.  
Josh Green (Alt), EM Planner City of Miramar FR  
Frank Jaconetta, FL Dept of Transportation District 6  
Eduardo Koenig, Broward Environmental Permitting  
District Chief Doug LeValley, Seminole Tribe of Florida FR  
Yvette McLeod, Broward County Public Schools  
Division Chief, Fire Marshall, Craig Marston, Monroe County FR  
Jaylin Martir, S. FL Water Mgmt. District  
Deran Ramkissoon, Gordon Food Services  
Axel Rodriguez, Brenntag  
Dan Scarborough, Miami-Dade EM



Crystal Schaefer (Alt), FL Dept of Transportation District 6  
Pete Schecter, John Deere International  
Marie Sullin, Aon  
Keith Westin, Miami-Dade Office of Safety  
Ali Younes (Alt), Broward County EPD

ABSENT:

Junieth Arana, DHL Express Hub & Aviation  
Camile Campbell (Alt), Broward EMD  
Shannon Davis-Weiner, Monroe County EM  
Lt. Maikel Garcia, Miami FR  
Marcelo Garcia, Miami-Dade W&SD  
Lisa Gordon, USCG Auxiliary, Interested Citizen  
Zully Hemeyer (Alt), Monroe County FR  
Jon Hines (Alt), Cliff Berry  
Mario Ho (Alt), DHL Express Hub & Aviation  
Jaimie Johnson, Allied Universal  
Vince Kalson (Alt), Monroe County EM  
Charles Lankford, Baptist Health South FL  
Romeo Lavarias, Miramar FR  
Shamila Lutchman (Alt), FL Dept of Health Reg 7  
Julio Melendez (Alt), Miami-Dade FR  
Mark Moore, Broward College  
Greg Namoff (Alt), Allied Universal  
Jesus Oliva (Alt), Brenntag  
Amed "AJ" Navarrete, Sentry Industries  
Jesus Olivo (Alt), Brenntag  
Martha Payan (Alt), Memorial Healthcare System  
Chris Runte (Alt), Miami-Dade Office of Safety  
William Senyshyn, FL Dept of Health Reg 7  
Carl Sidelko (Alt), Sentry Industries  
Natasha Stokin, Memorial Healthcare System,  
Alvaro Tonanez, Miami-Dade FR  
Jose Tovar, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer,  
Louis Valdes (Alt), Seminole Tribe of Florida FR  
Jaeson Weber, Florida Atlantic University,  
Armando Vilaboy (Alt), S. FL Water Mgmt. District  
Richard Whitehurst (Alt), Baptist Health South FL  
Dee-Dee Williams (Alt), Gordon Food Services



EXCUSED:

Tiphanee-Brown Francis (Alt), Florida Atlantic University, David Reynolds, Chief Oscar Rodriguez, SERC TTF Representative, Ft. Laud FR, LEPC Chair, Chief James Russo, Hollywood FR, Battalion Chief Gabriel Zahora, LEPC EM Liaison, Fort Lauderdale FR

STAKEHOLDERS: Terry Abel, Islamorada Fire Rescue; Rudy Albert, American Airlines; Claudia Baker, FDEM; Katherine Bernabeo, FDOT D6; Randy Deshazo, SFRPC staff; Danita Farrier, USDOT/PHMSA; John Flynn, Ocean Reef Community Assn. Fire-EMS; Freddie Franks, Univar Solutions; Islamorada FR; Alisha Lopez, Director SE FL Clean Cities Communities; Clay Pacheco, Director Broward EM; Keila Puello, Miami-Dade WASD; Cory Schwisow, Deputy Director Monroe EM; Renee Soriano, Arista Tek; Julio Tejeda, SFWMD; Laura Wyness, EM Specialist, USCG Sector Miami.

- **Approval of Minutes from Aug 21, 2024, SoFlaLEPC Meeting**

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes for the Aug 21, 2024, meeting. Motion to Approve Minutes (Chief Marston), second (Pete Schecter).

**Membership Changes**

No changes currently.

**Chair's Report (LEPC Vice Chair, Battalion Chief Brian Brown)**

The Vice Chair thanked Chief Marston and Monroe County EM Deputy Director Schwisow for hosting the LEPC meeting in Monroe County and for their participation.

Vice Chair reported October SERC was cancelled due to hurricanes Helene & Milton. Next meeting will be in January in Daytona to coincide with 2025 Hazmat Symposium.

The Lithium-ion Symposium was September 12-13 in Ocala at the State Fire College. South Florida LEPC leadership supported the State Fire Marshal's Training Bureau with best practice demonstrations on tactics for incidents, and research. Burn conducted with before and after testing including, but not limited to, water runoff for heavy metals, groundwater, water table monitoring, environmental impacts, soil samples, blood samples, specially cleaned bunker gear. Results will help inform response on PPE to wear, tactics to implement, impacts on the public, and more.

Pete Schecter noted there is no legal requirement for emergency response guides for EVs or hybrids for heavy equipment. Heavy equipment such as tractors, lifts trucks, bobcats, etc. have dense energy. Some manufacturers have voluntarily prepared guides, but a majority have not. Schecter will draft a stakeholder letter of support re heavy equipment guides for EVs and hybrids. Schecter recommended the LEPC and fire service advocate for all EVs to be properly marked with a uniform system and with immediate, easy access to ERGs to be able to plan and respond to an incident involving lithium-ion in a tactically correct, efficient, and safe manner.



Chief Marston noted that mercury in solid waste previously risked landfill closure and lithium-ion needs to stay on the radar for the same reason. Although all landfills in Monroe County are now closed, solid waste, potentially including lithium-ion, is being exported into other FL counties. The Vice Chair noted EV infrastructure is developed, technology is improving, and power is in place. What has changed are the ways to respond. He cited placard issues during incidents with propane-powered school buses making it difficult to effectively respond, and now similarly with EVs. Without regulation, responders must work harder on-scene at incidents to determine power sources. Chief LeValley discussed the importance of education for responders and the public, and that EVs are everywhere not just plugged into chargers.

At the request of the Vice Chair, the LEPC Coordinator went over the FDEM Risk Management Program (RMP) and the FEMA National Exercise Program TTX. The RMP program is an opportunity for responders to collaborate with FDEM at future facility inspections. The next round of inspections in the region will be in Miami-Dade in March 2025. The FEMA National Exercise Program TTX was competitively selected and will test the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (HMERP). Members and stakeholder champions are needed to participate in the TTX. All are invited to the Concepts & Objectives virtual meeting on November 15, 2024. The Vice Chair reiterated the importance of whole community participation in the plan and expressed thanks for the work that went into updating the Plan to date.

#### **Planning & Training Working Group**

The 3-year training plan prioritization has not changed. Courses will advance based on budget.

#### **Training Task Force Report (Vice Chair, Lt. Brown)**

Currently no Training Task Force update due to October SERC cancellation.

#### **Training (Vice Chair, Lt. Brown)**

An overview of Training was given by the Vice Chair. The recent PEAC WMD software licenses purchase used HMEP funds to benefit the region's hazmat teams. The software captures Tier II critical data and enables plume modeling to aid responders. The software purchase and Hazmat Symposium are big ticket HMEP expenditures of funds well spent. Reminded, Fire Rescue East, Florida Fire Conference is held in Orlando a week prior to Hazmat Symposium. Chief LeValley added that he will provide training on lithium-ion and advanced hazmat management at the Symposium. The Vice Chair reminded, SERC, Training Task Force, and LEPC meetings are open to everyone. Participation is encouraged. Meeting days for SERC are Monday and Tuesday, Jan 13-14, 2025, to avoid conflicts for leadership to be able to participate in the hazmat competition. The CBI tanker training was rescheduled to February 4-6, 2025, at the Broward Fire Academy. The Gas pipeline safety training, covering hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines, was rescheduled to December 18, 2024, at NSU in Davie. At the end of today's LEPC meeting Chief LeValley will provide Best Practices & Initial Actions for EV Incidents training.



### **Exercise (Vice Chair)**

The anhydrous ammonia drill continues to be planned in partnership with Airgas, Publix, and Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Response (TRANSCAER), and was rescheduled to March. For resource planning, Airgas has generously offered, where possible, to ship in materials, products, and a surplus tanker to support local training.

The FEMA National Exercise Program collaboration continues to advance the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan TTX and will continue until implementation in late 2025/early 2026. Whole community participation is vital to the success of the TTX and future improvements to the Plan.

### **SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Report (Charlene Burke)**

Recapped that all agenda package items contain useful and timely information and resources listed under Administrative Items. Also, regularly occurring statewide meetings among peer LEPC Coordinators continue to provide a structure for inquiry, learning and professional development.

### **Member Comments**

Claudia Baker, FDEM, advised training and exercise coordination is key to avoiding duplication of efforts and alignment across disciplines. She conducts quarterly meetings with emergency management in all three counties in the region and the LEPC. Training is brought to the region by consortiums; however, seats must be filled to maintain services. Moving forward, consortium courses may be limited geographically and so jurisdictional silos because of policies are a challenge that will need to be resolved. Crystal Schaefer, FDOT, added that advance notice and detailed course descriptions for justification are important to make effective decisions on attendance, and best use of resources. Chief Marston noted FFCA is also working on interagency communication and coordination to address training redundancy.

Cory Schwisow, Monroe County EM, discussed open seating for next week's training course G-205: Recovery from Disaster, Local Community Role. FDEM will teach the course which is focused on local disaster plans for communities. Target audience is elected, leadership, public works directors, finance, building inspectors. Getting elected officials and leadership to attend is a priority. On cost recovery, he noted that Monroe promptly declares a state of emergency to help address expenses. He encouraged team leaders to go with teams, to not operate remote, and to log hours and reports for FROC and 214 forms at the end of each day. Claudia Baker provided additional information on cost recovery noting the DEMES process now offers a more streamlined process including mutual aid and deployment.

### **Public Comments**

Danita Farrier, PHMSA Community Liaison, is based in KY and covers the Southern Region (FL, AL, GA, TN, MS, NC, SC, KY). She commented positively on the thoroughness of So FL LEPC. Suggested NIMS template on neighbor-to-neighbor exercises. Her role is to assist and support in the education and outreach space, field ops, emergency planning, and grants (in coordination with her colleague, Deandre Chambers).

Laura Wyness, EM Specialist, USCG Sector Miami, provided an update on the Area Committee Meeting (0900-1000) and TTX (1000-1100) to be held on December 4, 2024, at the Broward EOC. The SE FL Area



Contingency Plan (ACP) was revised to be standardized with all other ACPs across the county. The ACP is managed by the USCG, but it is an all-area plan for a coordinated federal, state, local response for discharge of oil or release of hazardous substance with the Captain of the Port Zone for Miami (covers Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River counties). ACP must be practiced and tested. The TTX is planned for the summer of 2025 and will lead to the FSE in 2026. Seek partner(s) to work on a scenario that tests the region's capabilities to a spill or discharge in or near our ports. In addition to the ACP/FSE, a 2-day mass rescue operation FSE is planned for 2025 in partnership with US Virgin Voyages, which will likely be held at the Port of Miami. Date TBD.

Alisha Lopez, SE FL Clean Cities Director provided an update on a successfully awarded grant application or technical training via NFPA. Alabama Clean Fuels is managing the grant in coordination with USDOE. SE FL Clean Cities has interest to also provide training on hydrogen and EV.

Key West has needs training for 5-10 hazmat techs. Chief Marston discussed the importance of inventory, and the Vice Chair commented on the upcoming state assessments. The Vice Chair shared that the state will conduct assessments for 33 teams, funded and unfunded.

#### **Administrative Items (LEPC Coordinator)**

Continue to participate in LEPC Coordinator meetings, trainings and exercises. Reminded members that that agenda package contains timely documents and hyperlinks to access resources shared by local, state and federal partners and other stakeholders.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

Next SoFlaLEPC Meeting – Nov 20 @ Monroe County EOC (hybrid: in-person & Zoom)

Next SERC/LEPC/TTF Quarterly Meeting – Jan 13-14, Daytona

- Training Task Force – Jan 13, 2025 @ 0930
- Local Emergency Planning Commission – Jan 13, 2025 @ 1330
- State Emergency Response Commission – Jan 14, 2025 @ 0930

#### **Adjourn**

Meeting Adjourned at 11: 44 AM. Motion – Pete Schecter, Seconded by Chief Marston.