



## SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

### DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, February 19, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

South Florida Regional Planning Council  
One Oakwood Blvd, Suite 250, Hollywood, FL 33020  
[www.soflalepc.org](http://www.soflalepc.org)

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

#### **1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance**

The LEPC Vice Chair, Lt. Brian Brown, opened the meeting and welcomed the members at 10:02 AM. The LEPC Vice Chair mentioned that LEPC Chair Russo would be absent from the meeting. Vice Chair Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor the brothers and sisters who 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:

Stephanie Alami, Broward County Public Schools  
Rudy Albert, American Airlines  
Claudia Baker, FDEM Coordinator  
LEPC Vice Chair, Lt. Brian Brown, Hollywood FR  
Lakeisha Brown, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer  
Derrik Charleston, FL Health  
Joseph DeLuna (Alt), FDEP  
Alain Donderiz, Miami-Dade County RER  
Marvin Ebanks, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer  
Jason Espinoza, Lenox Logistics Facility  
David G., Hollywood Special Operations  
Angelo Ganguzza, Hollywood FR  
Tom Griffis, Miami-Dade County EM  
Peter Hamlin, FL Dept of Transportation District 4



Aimee Hernandez, DHS Weapons of Mass Destruction/Biowatch  
Steven Herschenhom, Broward County EM  
John James, Palm Beach County HERC  
Vince Kalson (Alt), Monroe County EM  
Eduardo Koenig, Broward County Environmental Permitting  
Yvette McLeod, Broward County Public Schools  
Mark Moore, Broward College  
Elizabeth Moss, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer  
Deran Ramkissoon, Gordon Food Services  
Crystal Schaefer (Alt), FL Dept of Transportation District 6  
Pete Schecter, John Deere International  
William Senyshyn, FL Dept of Health Reg 7  
Carlos Silva, Lenox Logistics  
Natasha Strokin, Memorial Healthcare System  
Marie Sullin, Aon Risk Services, Inc.  
Keith Westin, Miami-Dade County Office of Safety  
Ali Younes (Alt), Broward County EPD  
Battalion Chief Gabriel Zahora, LEPC EM Liaison, Fort Lauderdale FR

ABSENT:

LEPC Chair, Chief James Russo, Hollywood FR  
LEPC Training Task Force Rep, Chief Oscar Rodriguez

STAKEHOLDERS: Shannon Maharajh (Boeing/HMERP Technical Writer), Freddie Franks, (Univar Solutions), Lt. Sergio Lambo (Training Division Hazmat Coordinator, Hialeah FD), Keila Puello, Miami-Dade WASD, Laura Wyness (USCG).

**4. Approval of minutes from the November 20th, 2024, SoFlaLEPC Meeting**

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes for the November 20, 2024 meeting. Motion to Approve Minutes (unidentified), second (Natasha Strokin).

**5. Membership Changes (Vice Chair)**

Julio Tejeda (Mem), South Florida Water Management District, External Affairs Specialist; Armando Vilaboy (Alt), South Florida Water Management District; Thomas Griffiths (Mem) Miami-Dade Emergency Management-Logistics, Dan Scarborough (Alt) Miami-Dade Emergency Management – Planner; Peter Hamlin (Mem), FL Dept of Transportation D4, Sr. Safety & Health Specialist; Charles Grigley (Alt), FL Dept of Transportation D4, Sr. Safety & Health Specialist.



**6. Presentation by Shannon Maharajh on UPDATE: Hazardous Material Emergency Response Plan (HMERP).**

Shannon Maharajh, Boeing Aerospace Defense Technical Publication Specialist and Georgetown University master's student in Emergency and Disaster Management presented the HMERP draft update as a technical writer.

**7. Chair's Report (LEPC Vice Chair, Lt. Brian Brown)**

Training Task Force: The State Hazmat Medic Protocol 2025 Edition is an additional resource that is being published, and additional resources were referenced in the Agenda packet. The Offshore Hazmat is no longer a pilot program but is now a proof of concept and continues in North Florida. The Hazmat Symposium was recognized as a success in its record-breaking (~700) attendance year. The Hazard Analysis Working Group reviewed the Top 5 Chemical Listings for LEPCs. There are a few Lithium-Ion Battery Symposium updates as far as the work the State Fire Marshal's office is doing, some of the research components including a review of demonstration work they did with soil sampling, AirGas, bunker gear testing for heavy metals and contaminant run-off.

Chief Knoff has been elected as the Chair of Chairs of all LEPCs and also Chairs the North Central Florida LEPC, and now represents all 10 LEPCs at SERC meetings.

Regarding SERC, the Thomas Yatabe Award was awarded to Shannon Maharajh on behalf of Region 10. The Dwayne Mundy Lifetime Achievement Award was issued in honor of Chief Michael Murphy. The approval of LEPC Emergency Response Plans for Hazardous Materials was discussed.

**8. Planning & Training Working Group Report (LEPC Vice Chair, Lt. Brian Brown)**

Planning: The FDEM Risk Management Program in Region 10, and Miami-Dade County participation is encouraged. It will take place March 18-20, 2025, and will be located at Allied Universal, Miami; U.S. Cold Storage, Medley; Miami Freezer Facility, Medley. There is a large amount of support for the FRA grant-funded FSE for an ethanol-rail incident at Port Everglades. It is in conjunction with the Broward Regional Special Operations Team and will take place next year and correlates with an ammonia drill and AirGas effort. The efforts will be documented and brought to the LEPC for review after completion.

Training: PEAC WMD Training is now available for Region 10 regional special operations teams. The entire Region is using the resources and additional training will follow. Free training is being offered every Tuesday and efforts are made to bring Rebecca and her team to South Florida to add training resources to the Region, which may occur for a week in Summer 2025. The PEAC software was created and incorporates numerous programs to help the user identify chemicals, plot and plume model them, select appropriate PPE that is added to current information, ensuring compatibility. The PEAC includes Tier II reports, as well. In November, the Monroe County EOC was visited and Seminole Tribe of Florida



District Chief Doug LeValley provided a presentation on Best Practices & Initial Actions for EV Incidents training. Chief Russo and Chief Oscar Rodriguez delivered a robust class on lithium ion and EV response at the HazMat Symposium. LEPC Coordinator Charlene Burke attended the Pipeline Safety Training in December, represented the team, and returned with resources. After hurricane delays and other items, the Cliff Berry Fuel Tank Truck Incident Response Training was held February 4-6, 2025 at the Broward Fire Academy and was attended by approximately seven Special Operation Teams each of the three days, along with other state entities and stakeholders. Stabilization techniques were practiced on tankers in preparation for removing products.

Exercise: The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Miami conducted the Semi-Annual Area Committee Meeting & PREP TTX on December 5, 2024, at the Broward County OEM in Plantation. The event provided an opportunity for preparation for incidents of HazMat oil spills in the Miami AOR sector. A tabletop exercise was held, which will be built into a full-scale exercise next year in Port Everglades. The next meeting will be held in June 2025 and a tabletop exercise will be held on marine firefighting. The Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (HMERP) was accepted into the FEMA National Exercise Program and a test of the document is being coordinated in a full-scale tabletop exercise in the future. An initial planning meeting was held at the Hollywood EOC on January 28, 2025, and discussions included objectives and injects and how they would be laid out in a tabletop exercise. A follow-up meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 7, 2025, and will be attended by Broward EOC. An anhydrous ammonia drill in partnership with Airgas, Publix Cold Storage Facility, and Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Response (TRANSCAER), will take place on March 25-27, 2025. Broward teams will attend the morning sessions and the Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Martin counties will attend the afternoon sessions.

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

The 2025 Hazmat Symposium was a successful event and reimbursements are close to completion.

#### **10. Member Comments**

The Florida Department of Health has changed tactics as of February 1<sup>st</sup> to change to the 10 regions to align with the LEPC and DEM.

Crystal Schaefer shared that FDOT District 6 would like to host a SoFlaLEPC meeting in the fall. Ms. Schaefer shared that there was a Florida Public Safety Drone Operations Conference (FLOCON) in early February, which included a session on Rapid Railway Drone Response, which incorporated a HazMat Scenario.

Natasha Strokin was grateful to receive the Hazard safety plans to increase preparation efforts and expressed interest in continuing to receive these documents from several corporations.



Claudia Baker provided two FDEM updates. The SERT TRAC website for finding available training in the region is planned to complete system updates in March 2025. FDEM will hold its conference this year in Orlando during the week of June 9-13, 2025.

Laura Wyness shared that there will be a mass rescue full-scale exercise that was originally scheduled for May that will be moved to August 9-10 at the Port of Miami.

**11. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

**12. Resources & Information Exchange**

Referred members to the Agenda Package to access documents and hyperlinks to materials discussed and more.

**13. Upcoming Meetings**

The LEPC Vice Chair announced the next in-person/hybrid SoFlaLEPC Meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2025.

- a. Upcoming SERC meetings in St. Augustine, Apr 17-18, 2025
  - i. Training Task Force – Apr 17, 2025 @ 09:30
  - ii. Local Emergency Planning Commission – Apr 17, 2025 @ 13:30
  - iii. State Emergency Response Commission – Apr 18, 2025 @ 09:30

**14. Adjourn**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:59 AM.