



## **SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, August 20, 2025 @ 10:00 AM**

**South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC)  
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 Chair, James Russo, opened the meeting and welcomed the members at 10:01 AM. Chair Russo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **2. Meeting Instructions**

#### **3. Roll Call (Coordinator Hailey Lazzaroni)**

##### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gabriela Afanasiev, Allied Universal Corporation  
Stephanie Alami (Alt.), Broward County Public Schools (virtual)  
Brian Brown, Hollywood Fire Rescue & Beach Safety  
Crystal Schaefer (Alt.), FDOT District 6 (virtual)  
Joseph DeLuna, FDEP  
Natalie Diaz-Paz (Alt.), Memorial Healthcare System (virtual)  
Alain Donderiz, Miami-Dade County RER Safety & Training (virtual)  
Travis Gladish (Alt.), Allied Universal Corporation (virtual)  
Orianna Gonzalez, Cliff Berry, Inc.  
Francisco Jaconetta, FDOT District 6  
Vince Kalson, Monroe County Emergency Management (virtual)  
Eduardo Koenig, Broward County Resilient Environment Department (virtual)  
Jose Lopez, Baptist Health South Florida (virtual)  
Yvette McLeod, Broward County Public Schools (virtual)  
Amed Navarrete, Sentry Industries  
Jesus Olivo, Brenntag Mid-South, Inc. (virtual)  
Keila Puello, Miami-Dade County WASD  
Deran Ramkissoon, Gordon Food Service (virtual)



Beth Ruiz (Alt.), Baptist Health South Florida  
Chris Runte (Alt.), Miami-Dade County Office of Safety  
James Russo, LEPC Chair, Interested Citizen  
Dan Scarborough, Miami-Dade County DERM  
Pete Schechter, Interested Citizen (virtual)  
Chad-Anthony Smart (Alt.), Baptist Health South Florida  
Natasha Strokin, Memorial Healthcare System  
Julio Tejeda, SFWMD  
Keith Westin, Miami-Dade County Office of Safety  
Gabriel Zahora, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT: Purnima Arora (FDEM), Jeff Barnes (USCG), Elizabeth Moss (Miami-Dade County WASD) (virtual), Freddie Franks (Univar Solutions) (virtual), Alisha Lopez (SFRPC) (virtual), Carlos Silva (Lineage Logistics) (virtual), Tony Howard (Lineage Logistics) (virtual), Katia Foust (Red Cross) (virtual), Marvin Ebanks (Miami-Dade County WASD) (virtual), Rudy Albert (American Airlines) (virtual), Nickolyn Crosby (Red Cross) (virtual), Jesse Monsalve (LBB Specialties) (virtual), Richard Fimbel (SFWMD) (virtual), Jeff Galloway (Tetra Tech) (virtual), Tashika President (Miami-Dade College) (virtual), Gabriel Escobar (FDOT D6), Sergio Lambo (Hialeah Fire Department), Carolina Gonzalez (Broward County EM), Garrett Guzowski (FDEP), Tatiana Riesgo (Broward County EM), Shannon Maharajh (Boeing/HMERP Technical Writer) (virtual).

**4. Approval of minutes from the May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, SoFlaLEPC Meeting**

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes for the May 21st, 2025, meeting. Motion to Approve Minutes (Yvette McLeod), seconded (Dan Scarborough).

**5. Filling Vacancies and Enhancing Participation**

- **Membership Changes (Chair Russo)**

Cory Schwisow (Member), Vince Kalson (Alternate), Monroe County Emergency Management; Gabriela Afanasiev (Member), Travis Gladish (Alternate), Allied Universal Corporation; Jose Lopez (Member), Beth Ruiz (Alternate), Chad-Anthony Smart (Alternate), Tamara Turk (Alternate), Baptist Health; Natasha Strokin (Member), Natalie Diaz-Paz (Alternate), Memorial Healthcare System.

- **Innovative Ideas for the Upcoming Year**

Chair Russo encouraged LEPC members to reflect upon and share their ideas and suggestions for future activities and projects of interest for the LEPC body. Specifically, ideas that help bolster community involvement with the LEPC and ideas for emergency response personnel training were mentioned. Member Gabriel Zahora shared that setting up a stand at public events such as the Governor's Hurricane Conference or the Disaster Expo could lead to



increased exposure. Member Natasha Strokin added that developing informational/outreach guides would be a valuable resource to the public.

**6. Presentation by Shannon Maharajh (Boeing) on the May 2025 Hazardous Material Emergency Response Plan (HMERP) Update.**

Shannon Maharajh, Boeing Aerospace Defense Technical Publication Specialist and Georgetown University master's student in Emergency and Disaster Management presented the HMERP draft quarterly update as technical writer. Shannon's presentation emphasized the significance and use of the Hazard Materials Emergency Response Plan, shared key updates and accomplishments, and mentioned expected trends for the upcoming iterations of the Plan.

**7. Chair's Report (Chair Russo)**

Training Task Force: The Florida HazMat teams will be comprehensively assessed on their training, inventory, and staffing, among other areas, and report back to the Response Commissions to keep track of team capabilities in disaster scenarios. FDEM leadership has allocated funding to ensure completion of the assessments. The Offshore Hazmat Program is a cooperation between NOVA and the Coast Guard with the focus of training local and regional HazMat teams to assist in response and mitigation-related activities in the event of large-scale disasters off the Florida coast. The State has shared that it plans to allocate funding through the HMEP grant program to help continue funding the Offshore HazMat program. The call for White Papers ahead of the 2026 HazMat Symposium was issued in July, and Chair Russo shared that he and his team of instructors submitted one to complete a class on lithium-ion emergencies and electric vehicles. July 2025 SERC updates were provided to the group, including State Training Task Force (TTF) Chair and Vice Chair changes, TTF member updates, and group presentations.

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

Planning: Planning is ongoing for the FRA grant-funded FSE for an ethanol-rail incident at Port Everglades, led by Chief Henbest from BSO Fire Rescue Station 6. The functional exercise is limited to the Broward Regional Special Operations Team, but the LEPC will continue to support where possible.

Training: The PEAC WMD software and its associated 1-year training was purchased through the South Florida LEPC. As the purchased training approaches its expiration, it will be important to discuss funding for continued training. The PEAC WMD software has received positive feedback from its users and has been applied during both training and incidents events.

Exercise: The Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (HMERP) was accepted into the FEMA National Exercise Program, with the aim of testing the LEPC Emergency Response Plan. However, funding for the exercise was placed on hold. The midterm planning meeting was held prior to the funding being held, in which the plan was set up and the scenario for testing was decided. Additional



collaboration will take place in the coming weeks, with the expectation that the exercise will still tentatively occur on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Hollywood EOC.

#### **9. SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Report (Hailey Lazzaroni)**

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Training Task Force (TTF), and LEPC meetings were attended by the South Florida LEPC coordinator on July 17-18 in Cocoa Beach, FL. LEPC Coordinator Hailey Lazzaroni briefly shared the status of the state and local grants that financially support the activities of the South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee.

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

Keila Puello (Miami-Dade WASD) shared that the FIU Disaster Management program conducts an annual 2-day full-scale exercise, and through collaboration with the program, the LEPC may be able to participate in related outreach activities in an effort to more greatly engage the public. The next full-scale exercise is being planned for May 2026. Keila expressed designing a “meet-and-greet” style workshop between WASD chemical and personnel information and local HazMat teams, in preparation to exercises and incidents. Chair Russo mentioned that a similarly designed event was conducted with the Broward HazMat teams.

Dan Scarborough (Miami-Dade EM) shared information about the Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management working with DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction’s Chemical Support Branch to host a regional two-day ChemPrep workshop on October 29th and 30th. Dan also shared that there will also be an MGT-319 class on October 9th and 10th, and that the Miami-Dade Emergency Management team is working on updating its Miami-Dade County Oil Spill Response Plan and its ESF-10 HazMat annex. Lastly, Dan mentioned that since Miami-Dade County has the Turkey Point Power Plant, there are certain requirements given by FEMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The next evaluated exercise is planned for early 2027 and will be the Ingestion Pathway Exercise for evaluating and addressing vulnerabilities within the 50-mile radius around the Plant.

#### **11. Public Comments**

Jeff Galloway, a consultant with Tetra Tech, provided the group with a brief overview of Tetra Tech’s services and training/project offerings.

#### **12. Resources & Information Exchange**

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

#### **13. Upcoming Meetings**

The next in-person/hybrid SoFlaLEPC Meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 12th, 2025.

#### **14. Adjourn**

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 AM.