



SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, November 12, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC)

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

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, Broward County Public Schools
Brian Brown, Hollywood Fire Rescue & Beach Safety
Joseph DeLuna, FDEP
Alain Donderiz, Miami-Dade County RER Safety & Training (virtual)
Virgilio Gallardo, Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue
Travis Gladish (Alt.), Allied Universal Corporation (virtual)
Peter Hamlin, FDOT District 4 (virtual)
Aimee Hernandez, Broward County Emergency Management
Francisco Jaconetta, FDOT District 6
Eduardo Koenig, Broward County Resilient Environment Department
Jose Lopez, Baptist Health South Florida
Yvette McLeod, Broward County Public Schools (virtual)
Amed Navarrete, Sentry Industries
Keila Puello, Miami-Dade County WASD
Deran Ramkissoon, Gordon Food Service
Beth Ruiz (Alt.), Baptist Health South Florida (virtual)
James Russo, LEPC Chair, Interested Citizen



Pete Schecter, Interested Citizen
William Senyshyn, FDOH Region 7
Chad-Anthony Smart (Alt.), Baptist Health South Florida (virtual)
Natasha Strokin, Memorial Healthcare System
Marie Sullin, Aon Risk Services, Inc.(virtual)
Julio Tejeda, SFWMD (virtual)
Vincent Torres, University of Miami Health System (virtual)
Keith Westin, Miami-Dade County Office of Safety (virtual)
Ali Younes, Broward County Resilient Environment Department
Gabriel Zahora, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT: Chris Davis-Partridge (FTL Fire Rescue), Purnima Arora (FDEM) (virtual), Jeff Barnes (USCG), Laura Wyness (USCG), Russell Accardi (L2Defense), Elizabeth Moss (Miami-Dade County WASD) (virtual), Katia Foust (Red Cross) (virtual), Marvin Ebanks (Miami-Dade County WASD) (virtual), Katherine Bernabeo (FDOT D6) (virtual), Joshua Baer (Monroe County EM) (virtual), Steve Collins (Cliff Berry, Inc) (virtual), Joseph Trouba (Gopher Resource) (virtual), Kathleen Ward (Red Cross) (virtual), Erik Santovenia (Miami-Dade County WASD) (virtual), Jason Espinosa (OneLineage) (virtual), Claudia Baker (FDEM) (virtual), Tashika President (Miami Dade College), Lakeisha Brown (Miami-Dade County WASD) (virtual), Jaime Hernandez (Homestead, FL) (virtual), Carlos Silva (One Lineage) (virtual).

4. Approval of Minutes from the August 20th, 2025, SoFlaLEPC Meeting

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes for the August 20th, 2025, meeting. Motion to Approve Minutes (Gabriel Zahora), seconded (Yvette McLeod).

5. 2026 South Florida LEPC Meeting Dates

Motion to Approve 2026 South Florida LEPC Meeting Dates. Motion to Approve Dates (Francisco Jaconetta), seconded (Pete Schecter).

6. Filling Vacancies and Enhancing Participation

- Membership Changes (Chair Russo)**

Vincent Torres (Member), Katelyn Swathwood (Alternate), University of Miami Health System.

- Innovative Ideas for the Upcoming Year**

Chair Russo reminded the LEPC members of the points discussed during the last LEPC meetings, which included introducing LEPC presence at events such as the Governor's Hurricane Conference, FIU Disaster Expo event and assisting in hospital trainings related to batteries.



7. Presentation by Joseph Trouba (Gopher Resource) on Lithium-Ion Battery Management Challenges: A Recycling Company's Perspective.

Joseph Trouba, Gopher Resource Program Manager, presented on the topic of battery recycling, which encompassed details about management, challenges, and the strategies that Gopher Resource uses through their company.

8. Chair's Report (Chair Russo)

Training Task Force: Chief Pat Feagle from Ocala, Florida is the new Chair of the Training Task Force. The Training Task Force will be evaluating their current project boxes and re-prioritizing them based on the current needs of the teams. The main focus has been identified as emergency response training. 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. 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 program will be based out of RESOLVE in the Port Everglades, and operational courses are scheduled for April/May 2026. The HazMat Symposium was green lit to move forward, and the South Florida LEPC would be available to sponsor some additional students in addition to the HazMat teams.

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

Planning: 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.

Training: The PEAC WMD software training continues to be available for the regional HazMat teams. Beginning November 12 through November 14, there will be a Propane Response 101 course being held in Hollywood, Florida.

Exercise: Vice Chair Brown provided the LEPC members with an opportunity to brainstorm through possible exercises or activities that can be further explored for the year 2026.

10. SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Report (Hailey Lazzaroni)

The South Florida LEPC completed its annual EPCRA How-to-Comply virtual workshop on October 29th via Zoom. An overview of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and the LEPC was provided by Hollywood Fire Rescue Fire Prevention Officer III, Meghan Grimsley, and an E-Plan training was provided by FDEM Tier II Unit Lead, Wendy Reynolds, to help facilities in the region prepare for the upcoming reporting season (January 1-March 1).



11. Member Comments

Peter Schecter (Interested Citizen) shared that for all those members who are required to follow standards for training and certification, that National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472 is now consolidated with other standards into NFPA 470: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Standards for Responders. Mr. Schecter also shared that the next meeting for that standard committee will be held in December 2025.

Aimee Hernandez (Broward EM) referenced some exercises that Dan Scarborough had mentioned in a previous meeting, the BioWatch and ChemPrep exercises. The government shutdown interfered with the completion of both exercises and the next scheduled dates continue to be undetermined until the shutdown is lifted. In addition, Ms. Hernandez shared that the Broward County Emergency Management is in the process of updating its Ingestion Plan. In 2026, there will be a series of workshops with various stakeholders to discuss the Plan itself, the gaps and information in advance of the 2027 FEMA-required Ingestion exercise.

Laura Wyness (Coast Guard) shared that there will be a full-scale oil spill response exercise scheduled for April 28th and 29th in Port Everglades to test the new Area Contingency Plan, which is a multi-hazard plan focusing on HazMat and oil spills in waterways.

12. Public Comments

Russell Accardi, Vice President at L2 Defense, offered the group information about an 8-hour program that was held for the HazMat teams in February 2025. Stakeholders involved in the program were able to network with other organizations and share insight their respective roles in the kind of incident performed.

13. Resources & Information Exchange

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

14. Upcoming Meetings

The next in-person/hybrid SoFlaLEPC Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 18th, 2025.

15. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 11:17 AM.