



SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026 @ 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 Hunt)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Russell Accardi, L2 Defense, Inc. (virtual)
Gabriela Afanasiev, Allied Universal Corporation
Brian Brown, LEPC Vice-Chair, City of Hollywood Fire Rescue and Beach Safety
Tiphane Brown-Francis (Alt.), Florida Atlantic University
Joseph DeLuna, FDEP (virtual)
Alain Donderiz, Miami-Dade County RER (virtual)
Josh Green (City of Miramar Fire Rescue)
Peter Hamlin, FDOT District 4 (virtual)
Aimee Hernandez, Broward County Emergency Management (virtual)
Francisco Jaconetta, FDOT District 6
Vince Kalson (Alt.), Monroe County Emergency Management (virtual)
Yvette McLeod, Broward County Public Schools (virtual)
Jesus Olivo, Brenntag Mid-South, Inc.
Deran Ramkissoon, Gordon Food Service
Carolina Rincon-Beltran, Memorial Healthcare System
Beth Ruiz (Alt.), Baptist Health South Florida (virtual)
James Russo, LEPC Chair, Interested Citizen
Peter Schechter, Interested Citizen



Cory Schwisow, Monroe County Emergency Management (virtual)
William Senyshyn, FDOH Region 7 (virtual)
Chad-Anthony Smart (Alt.), Baptist Health South Florida (virtual)
Marie Sullin, Aon Risk Services, Inc. (virtual)
Katelyn Swathwood, (Alt.) UHealth Emergency Management
Julio Tejeda, SFWMD (virtual)
Jonathan Urtecho (Alt.), Baptist Health South Florida (virtual)
Keith Westin, Miami-Dade County Office of Safety (virtual)
Ali Younes, Broward County Resilient Environment Department (virtual)
Gabriel Zahora, LEPC Emergency Management Liaison, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue (virtual)

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT: Tania Romero (Miami-Dade County Emergency Management), Chris King (Boca Raton Fire Rescue), Anson Huckleby (Broward College Emergency Management)(virtual), Inaki Rezola (Miami-Dade County Emergency Management)(virtual), Savanna Youse (NSU Project SEAMIST)(virtual), Jesse Spearo (Miami-Dade County Emergency Management)(virtual), Carlos Silva (Lineage Logistics)(virtual), Richard Fimbel (SFWMD)(virtual), Miguel Ascarruz (City of Sunrise Emergency Management)(virtual), Christopher Worth (USCG), Jason Starking (USCG), Christine Webb (American Red Cross)(virtual), Jason Espinosa (Lineage Logistics)(virtual), Laura Wyness (USCG Sector Miami)(virtual), Gabriel Escobar (FDOT Safety), Purnima Arora (FDEM) (virtual), Isabel Cosio Carballo (SFRPC), Christina Miskis (SFRPC)(virtual), Marvin Ebanks (Miami-Dade County WASD)(virtual), Tashika President (Miami-Dade College EM), Nicole Ferro (City of Hollywood EM), Angelo Ganguzza (City of Hollywood Fire Rescue and Beach Safety), Mitchell Campbell (USCG), Michael Nugent (BSO Fire Rescue), Luke Wright (City of Wilton Manors EM), Deric Lewis (USCG).

4. Approval of Minutes from the May 20th, 2026, SoFlaLEPC Meeting

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes for the May 20th, 2026, meeting. Motion to Approve Minutes (Francisco Jaconetta), seconded (Peter Schecter).

5. Filling Vacancies and Enhancing Participation

- **Membership Changes (Chair Russo)**

Jorge Llorens (Alternate) to Josh Green (Member), City of Miramar Emergency Management

Garrett Guzoski (Alternate) to Joseph De Luna (Member), Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Tania Romero (Member), Dan Scarborough (Alternate), Miami-Dade County Emergency Management



- **Innovative Ideas for the Upcoming Year**

The group briefly discussed that as information of ideas and events are shared, the South Florida LEPC will remain involved and further collaborate with partners.

6. Presentation by Jesse Spearo (Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management) on Emergency Management Updates and FIFA World Cup 2026 Lessons Learned.

Jesse Spearo, Miami-Dade Emergency Management Assistant Director, presented lessons learned from Miami-Dade County's preparation for and response to the FIFA World Cup, highlighting the importance of training, exercising, regional coordination, and flexible contingency planning. Assistant Director Spearo also discussed how these capabilities will support future large-scale events, including the G20 Summit, and the planned opening of the county's new Emergency Operations Center in March 2027.

Presentation by Cory Schwisow and Vince Kalson (Monroe County Department of Emergency Management) on Emergency Management Updates, Regional Coordination and Radiological Preparedness

Cory Schwisow, Monroe County Emergency Management Director, briefed the South Florida LEPC on recent emergency responses, including coordination with regional, state, and federal partners during the FIFA World Cup and the ongoing Big Pine Key brush fire, highlighting challenges related to hazardous materials, wildfire conditions, and limited response resources. Senior Planner Vince Kalson also outlined Monroe County's preparations for a major FEMA-evaluated exercise focused on a potential radiological emergency at Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant, which will test how Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Collier counties would coordinate evacuation, public messaging, monitoring, and recovery across a 50-mile area.

7. Chair's Report (Chair Russo)

Training Task Force: The state-level Electric Vehicle Working Group was reassessed to narrow its focus and update priorities, including updating state SOGs and best practices based on lessons learned from recent case studies and incidents. The state's Lithium-Ion Symposium will be held September 16–17, 2026, and will include demonstrations and discussions on EV incidents, extrication, PPE, and potential responder exposure concerns. The annual HazMat Symposium will be held in January in Daytona Beach, with the event moved one week later than usual due to scheduling changes with the Florida fire conference in Orlando. The call for white paper presentations for the HazMat Symposium remains open through September 4 for those interested in submitting a course presentation.

Operation Red Card (South Florida LEPC May 2026 FSE Recap): The South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee's 2026 Operation Red Card was conducted on May 27 as a multi-agency exercise simulating a drone attack involving a nerve agent at a FIFA-related event, with more than 100 participants testing the response of first responders, hazmat teams, EMS, and other agencies. The



exercise identified several areas for improvement, particularly communication and coordination regarding available hazmat resources, medications, hospital capabilities, and when to escalate an incident without causing unnecessary public concern. An after-action “hot wash” was conducted immediately following the exercise, and the final report was completed and submitted to federal partners for distribution to participating agencies.

8. Planning & Training Working Group Report (Vice Chair Brown)

Planning: The South Florida LEPC is currently in the process of purchasing a 1000-gallon Training Center prop that will teach the HazMat teams how to use a liquid-injection method to mitigate a propane incident. This purchase follows a successful training conducted in November 2025. The system costs more than \$22,000 and will be available for regional training use, increasing the teams’ capabilities.

Training: The following emergency management-related training opportunities were recently made available: NSU Project SEAMIST: 8-hour HAZWOPER Awareness, OSHA 10-hour Maritime, 1-hour 49 CFR Webinar – Online; LSU National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT): Site Protection Through Observational Techniques (PER- 369) – October 6-7, 2026; Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Events (PER-211) – August 31-September 1, 2026; Miami-Dade Emergency Management (EM): Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents (G-300) – October 6-8, 2026; Miami-Dade Emergency Management (EM): Advanced ICS Command & General Staff: Complex Incidents (G-400) – October 19-20, 2026.

Exercise: The South Florida LEPC is currently seeking ideas and opportunities for its next large-scale emergency response exercise, in coordination with the Special Operations Group. Planning is expected to begin in the fall and winter, with the exercise anticipated to take place in early 2027.

9. SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Report (Hailey Lazzaroni Hunt)

The SF LEPC Coordinator shared statistics provided by the Florida State Watch Office for hazardous materials incident reports, which amounted to 116 between June 1st and August 4th 2026. Incident report topics largely involved lithium-ion battery fire and releases of natural gas, gasoline, diesel, hydraulic oil, fuel oil, and paint. The FDEM training platform has transitioned from SERTAC to the Florida Learning Exchange (FLEX), and LEPC members and emergency management partners are encouraged to create accounts and use the platform to access available courses supporting hazardous materials emergency preparedness and response. In an effort to share information with partners about the activities of the LEPC between quarterly meetings, the coordinator shared the several events that the LEPC participated in during the quarter. Activities that the LEPC was involved in included but were not limited to: June 2026 – Broward County Turkey Point Ingestion Workshop #2; June 2026 – State LEPC Coordinators Quarterly Meeting; June 2026 – Fire Chief’s Association of Broward County’s Special Operations Subcommittee; July 2026 – Region 10 Regional Training Meeting;



July 2026 – Fire Chief’s Association of Broward County’s Special Operations Subcommittee; August 2026 – Fire Chief’s Association of Broward County’s Special Operations Subcommittee.

10. Member Comments

No member comments were shared.

11. Public Comments

Mitch Campbell (US Coast Guard) announced a hazardous chemicals workshop scheduled for September 21–25 at the Coast Guard Air Station in Opa-locka, conducted in partnership with the EPA, NOAA, and local agencies. The workshop will include exercises involving offshore, ship and port scenarios, as well as a train derailment over a navigable waterway, with lessons learned used to update the Area Contingency Plan and Hazardous Substance Annex. Additional participants are being sought, particularly those with incident command and hazardous materials technician experience.

Isabel Cosio Carballo (SFRPC) referenced a training program discussed at a prior meeting involving offshore hazardous materials response, which has since progressed beyond its pilot stage and is now fully operational. Chair Russo explained that the Offshore Hazmat Training Program is designed to prepare local municipal responders to serve as initial responders to incidents offshore while Coast Guard resources are en route, with training covering hazmat, technical rescue, reconnaissance, and rescue considerations. The program has received positive feedback from federal and municipal partners, is being considered as a model by other states, and has received state funding to continue operating even if grant funding becomes unavailable.

Savanna Youse (NSU Project SEAMIST) provided an update on the Offshore Hazmat Response Training Program, noting that two additional training sessions are planned for early 2027, with 12 participants per session and a focus on hazmat response while maintaining a technical rescue component. The program will seek participants with hazmat and technical rescue/rope experience, incorporating feedback from previous evaluations to improve the balance of training. Savannah also noted that Nova offers additional training opportunities, including HAZWOPER and lithium-ion battery safety courses, which can be tailored to the needs of local departments.

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 scheduled for November 2026.

14. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 11:57 AM.