

CHAIRMAN: GARY WEISS
VICE-CHAIR: TIM BENNETT

**SUPERFUND AMMENDMENTS AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT TITLE III
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE DISTRICT SEVEN**

**LAKELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT EOC
219 NORTH MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LAKELAND, FLORIDA**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2009
9:30 am**

DRAFT MINUTES

Chairman Gary Weiss called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Announcements: Chairman Weiss stated that Mauricio Rodriguez, an Emergency Responder for DEP, was killed in a tragic car crash on February 7th. He asked members to keep Mr. Rodriguez's family in their prayers.

Dominic Letobarone said Mr. Rodriguez was a great guy who was an asset to the bureau and will be missed.

Chuck Carter of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council passed around a member information sheet and asked members to verify their information on file and sign in as attending this meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Randall Barfield (P)
(Vice Chairman) Tim Bennett (P)
Michael Faulkner (P)
Debbie Deriso (A)
Buddy Kindrick (P)
Doug Jackson (A)
Dominic Letobarone (P)

Richard Mancini (P)
Paul Womble (P)
James Olds (P)
Chris Kaelin (A)
Rob Peter (P)
Dan Simpson (P)
Brent Roberts (A)
James Villarreal (P)
(Chairman) Gary Weiss (P)

Chuck Carter (LEPC Staff)
Kathy Hall (LEPC Staff)

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Ann Wortman (A)
Mitch Smeykal (A)
Catherine Furr (P)
Pete McNally (A)
Betsy Negley (P)
Bill Nichols (P)
Kent Atkinson (A)
Richard Shepard (P)
Jill Peve (A)
James Nall (A)
Jo Haynes Suhr (P)
Foster Thorpe (P)
Shawn Deutscher (A)
Jeff Wharton (A)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dep Chief Dan Harshberger (P)
Chief Michael Choate (A)
Chief Nick Hopkins (P)
Deputy Chief David McCain (A)
CPT Mike Linkins (P)
Battalion Chief Dan Bartle (A)
Jacalyn McCarthy (P)
Allen Johnson (A)
Chief Glenn Prescott (P)
LT Joe Walker (A)
Ken Straub (P)
Karen Albritton Taylor (P)

ALSO ATTENDING

Scott Canaday (A) Membership Pending

Tom Moran (P) Membership Pending

Mary Siegel (A) Membership Pending

Denise Heady – Polk County Health Department

Santina Goodwin – City of Lakeland Emergency Management

Ashley Shive – American Compliance Technologies

AGENDA ITEM #1 The November 19, 2008 Minutes were circulated via e-mail for review, comment and was approved on December 1, 2008. Sufficient comments and recommendations for approval to constitute a majority were received and Chairman Weiss signed the minutes on December 10, 2008.

AGENDA ITEM #2 Staff Report

- Statewide Evacuation Study

Chuck Carter stated that the Evacuation Study was continuing to move forward. All four volumes of the study are still being worked on. He displayed an extremely large spreadsheet showing the information he still needed from each county in the LEPC District 7, regarding their shelters. He gave each county member representative, their specific portion of the spreadsheet and asked if they would fill in the needed information and get it to him so he can complete the report.

Mike Faulkner stated that he has attended briefings from the State regarding the catastrophic projects of the Lake Okeechobee Dike Study. The information the state is basing their numbers on regarding who will evacuate and how far they need to go, etc., does not seem to coincide with the information in the Statewide Evacuation Study. He thinks they may be using old numbers. He suggested the two entities need to get together to update their information.

Chuck Carter stated that when they conduct the SLOSH Model Meetings, they will invite those who are conducting the Dike Study.

- Ammonia Exercise for the City of Lakeland

Chuck Carter stated that Lakeland Electric Larson Power Plant has 45,000 lbs of anhydrous ammonia. They are in the process of bringing in two additional tanks of 75 tons each which are interconnected. He gave an example of how much of Polk County would be negatively impacted if the containers were breached. Once this information was brought to Lakeland Electric's attention, they realized it would be in their best interest to conduct an exercise. Mr. Carter stated that he, James Olds and Paul Womble would be designing an exercise for the City of Lakeland that would address a potential anhydrous ammonia release. If members are interested in participating, let Chuck know.

- Statewide Training and Exercise Plan

Chuck Carter stated that last year the LEPC put together a Statewide Training and Exercise Plan. This year it will need to be updated. It is based on a three year training cycle. The DEM Area Coordinator, Chris Atherton is the lead agent for DeSoto Highlands and Okeechobee Counties for this plan. The DEM Area Coordinator for Polk and Hardee Counties is Paul Siddall. It should be finished by the end of April.

AGENDA ITEM #3

Reports from Cities/Counties/Agencies

Dan Simpson, Polk County Health Department, announced that they are conducting a Point of Dispensing Exercise at the Lake Ashton Community Center on April 29th. They will be simulating a “white powder” situation, while needing to provide some precautionary drugs. This will involve all Health Department staff as well as some of the SERC Team members. Also, the Health Department just recently completed a comprehensive update of their health and medical emergency operations plan. This plan will be electronically distributed to several organizations attending this meeting.

Mike Faulkner, Okeechobee County Emergency Management Director, stated that currently the Division of Emergency Management along with the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) are conducting their Emergency Management Basic Academy at Camp Landing. Okeechobee County sent four individuals for the nine day training at \$100 each. They receive numerous certifications. He asked if the LEPC would have funds in its budget to send more people for the training next year.

Chuck Carter stated yes, that training would most certainly fall under what HMEP funds can be used for.

Paul Womble, from Polk County Emergency Management, stated that the construction of the Polk County Public Safety Complex is moving along. The EOC is about 45 days ahead of schedule, and may be ready to move into around June. Some of the infrastructure may not all be in place at that time. Also, Polk County went live with Emergency Medical and Priority Medical Dispatch System. When calls come in on 911, the situation is assessed and the appropriate response is sent. Also, a full scale exercise is scheduled for February 26th at the Bartow Airbase. All members are invited to attend. He asked members to let him know today if they planned to attend.

Randy Barfield warned members about a scenario that happened in his county where a unit was dispatched to an emergency, and then it was cancelled once it was determined not to be an emergency. The emergency vehicle was on its way back in and stopped to get ice cream. Citizens called and file complaints saying the emergency vehicles went to get ice cream with its sirens sounding and lights flashing. That is how it looked. He asked members to educate their folks about this scenario.

Paul Womble stated that the Polk County Hurricane Expo, which all counties and agencies are invited, is scheduled for June 6th at the Orange Dome in Winter Haven.

They need outside displays, equipment, fire trucks, police cars, public works, mobile kitchens, refrigerated trucks, etc. They have tentative confirmations from the Polk County Sheriff and Congressman Adam Putnam. There will be generator safety demonstrations, chainsaw safety demonstrations, etc. for the public. They would like to have participation from as many members as possible.

Debbie Deriso stated that the construction of the new DeSoto County EOC was a couple of months behind schedule. It would not be move-in ready until about May. If all goes well, they are planning an Open House for the end of May.

AGENDA ITEM #4

Subcommittee Reports

- Membership – Foster Thorpe

Chuck Carter stated that this was discussed at the previous meeting. The LEPC membership criteria are being reconsidered at the Federal level. The categories are out of date and some don't even exist any longer. After categories are reestablished, an effort to find members to fill all categories will be made.

- Training – Chris Kaelin

Chairman Gary Weiss presented Buddy Kindrick, Winter Haven Hospital, with a Certificate of Appreciate from the State Emergency Response Commission in recognition of the work he has done with the Community Right-to-know Act.

Chairman Weiss also recognized Chuck Carter, LEPC Staff, for receiving the Thomas Yatabe Certificate for Outstanding Achievement.

Chris Kaelin stated that he has been focused on the Tox-Medic Initiative, which defines standard training for medical responders entering into a hazardous situation. He stated he has the document that is being reviewed and offered to email it to anyone wishing to have it. These standards will be guidelines as opposed to requirements.

Also, the Natural Gas Companies' Association is conducting an initiative to get the natural gas companies and the local fire departments together for training.

The LEPC discussed the procedure to get Haz Mat Medic Certification and who certifies them.

- Exercise – Paul Womble

Paul Womble stated that an LEPC Exercise is due next year.

He encouraged the LEPC to get involved in the City of Lakeland's Exercise that was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Chuck Carter stated that if the timing is right for the Lakeland Exercise and they can involve the other counties, it might qualify for next year's LEPC Exercise. If not, he asked members to be thinking about what exercise scenario they would want to pursue.

Chairman Weiss recognized Chuck Carter for putting together the I-4 incident Exercise in HSEP format.

AGENDA ITEM #5 Old Business

- HMEP Training Funds

Chuck Carter stated that he is pursuing HMEP funds for chlorine training for the City of Lakeland. HMEP will be funding a portion of the Co-op training, along with ACT, so it can be taken to the other counties. He stated that there is a possibility to hold another Haz Mat IQ Class in the Sebring area if he has funds left at the end of the year. The LEPC is going to try to sponsor Chief Choate and Dep Chief Harshburger from Hardee County to attend the Nationwide Fire Training Conference. They in turn will be available to conduct some briefings throughout the region to other small municipality fire departments.

- HAZMAT Awareness Week

Chuck Carter announced that HAZMAT Awareness Week was the third week of January. He stated he published the Governor's Proclamation in newspapers throughout the region.

- LEPC Biennial Exercise – Not Required

Chuck Carter stated that the next biennial exercise would be due in 2010. The I-4 Incident Report was the LEPC Biennial Exercise for last year.

- Items from the SERC

Chairman Weiss stated there were no items from the SERC.

- Co-op Training by ACT

Chairman Weiss introduced Ashley Shive, Director of Health Safety Training for American Compliance Technologies (ACT). Each year ACT conducts safety training for the LEPC. After several discussions, it has been decided to take the training on the road.

Ms. Shive stated that for the last five years, ACT has sponsored Co-op Training Days at their facility in Bartow. All municipalities and corporate partners in the LEPC District have been invited to participate. It was suggested by some of the emergency responders to make the training bigger, and have more scenario training. Therefore, the Sixth Annual Co-op, sponsored by the LEPC District 7 and ACT, will consist of more training,

and it will be taken out into the region. Training is scheduled for April 14 and 15 in Bartow at the ACT facility. On April 16th, the training will take place in Sebring at their EOC and/or their Fire Station. She showed slides of training held in the past, and distributed flyers listing the training that is planned for April.

AGENDA ITEM #6

New Business

- Final Approval of the 2007-2008 Hazards Analysis Reports for Okeechobee and DeSoto Counties

Chuck Carter reported that some adjustments were made to those Hazards Analysis Reports and they are now “in compliance”. The 2008-09 Reports have been completed and submitted, and are awaiting approval.

- Items for the SERC

Chairman Weiss asked if anyone had any items they would like him to bring up at the next SERC meeting.

There were none.

- Light Duty (4-wheelers) Fleet Safety Program?

Mr. Rob Peter from Publix Corp. stated that he is looking for some safety training for their light duty vehicles. He asked members to let him know if they became aware of any. Several members spoke up to offer assistance.

- Keeping Airports Functioning During Disasters

Mike Falkner stated that Okeechobee County is hosting a one hour Webinar scheduled for March 27th to train their airport staff regarding airport safety during disasters. It cost Okeechobee County \$295, but any number of people may attend. He invited all LEPC members that are interested to attend. It will be held at the Indian River State College in Okeechobee. The address is: Building C, 2229 NW 9th Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34972 and the Webinar is scheduled from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Chuck Carter stated that HMEP funds could possibly be used to assist with the cost.

- SAFER Systems

Chairman Weiss stated that he will try to have this presentation at the next LEPC meeting.

- Florida Gas Transmission (FGT) Safety Awareness Presentation

