

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gary Weiss
VICE-CHAIR: Mr. Tim Bennett

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

**OKEECHOBEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1728 NW 9th AVENUE
OKEECHOBEE, FL**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2008
9:30 am**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Gary Weiss called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Committee had a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chuck Carter, LEPC Staff from the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, stated he had copies of the Disaster Handbooks available if anyone needed them. Also, if members were interested in receiving emergency door hangers to distribute to seniors in their community, they could obtain them at visionsofimages@bellsouth.net.

Mr. Carter asked if anyone still had their copy of a pamphlet that was distributed last year regarding the safe use of generators. He could not find any copies in the office and asked if he could borrow one for duplication.

INTRODUCTIONS – Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

ROLL CALL – Chairman Weiss asked members to sign the roster that was being passed around. He reminded members that according to the SERC guidelines any member who misses three consecutive meetings, without contacting Mr. Carter or without sending their alternate member to the meeting, should be removed from the Committee. He suggested that the members without alternates should consider appointing one.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Gary Weiss (P)
Vice Chairman Tim Bennett (P)
Tom Moran (A)
James Olds (P)
Chris Kaelin (A)
Kent Atkinson (A)
Chief Nick Hopkins (P)
Foster Thorpe (P)

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Randall Barfield (P)
Ann Wortman (A)
Dominic Letobarone (P)
Mike Falkner (P)
Buddy Kindrick (P)
Doug Jackson (A)
Richard Mancini (P)
Jacalyn McCarthy (P)
Paul Womble (A)
Betsy Negley (P)
Bill Nichols (P)
Richard Shepard (P)
Dan Simpson (P)
Brent Roberts (A)
James Villarreal (P)
Shawn Deutschee (A)
Jeff Wharton (A)
Robert Peter (P)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Albritton Taylor (P)
Catherine Furr (P)
Debbie Deriso (A)
(Dep Chief) Dan Harshberger (P)
Chief Michael Choate (A)
Jo Haynes-Suhr (P)
Sue Hutchison (A)
Mike Linkins (P)
Battalion Chief Dan Bartle (A)

Allen Johnson (A)
Pete McNally (P)
Chief Glenn Prescott (P)
LT Joe Walker (A)
Jill Peve (A)
James Nall (A)
Ken Straub (P)

VISITORS

Dave McCain, will become Chief Hopkins alternate.

AGENDA ITEM #1: Minutes

The July 23, 2008 Minutes were circulated via e-mail for review and comments. They were approved on July 30, 2008. Enough comments and recommendations for approval to constitute a quorum were received and Chairman Weiss signed the minutes on August 13, 2008.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Staff Report

- Statewide Evacuation Study

Mr. Carter reported that the Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Study is moving forward. Currently, the list of shelters in each county is being finalized. We will begin the scrub of the Critical Facilities Inventory in the very near future.

Chairman Weiss stressed the importance of each county's cooperation and input into the Evacuation Study. Those at the state level do not know your counties like you do.

- End of year close outs for State Funded Programs

Mr. Carter reported that all the State funded programs such as LEPC and SQG were nearing end of year closeout and he was completing his year end reports. Mr. Carter stated that the last of the HMEP Training Funds were expended on the HazMat IQ Class which was held on September 16th and 17th. He reported that he spoke to Mr. Joe Gorman, who conducted the class, and Mr. Gorman expressed to him he would like to see more attendance from EMS, law enforcement, Public Works and Road and Bridge Departments.

Chief Hopkins stated he took the class and highly recommended it to any first responder.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Reports from Cities/Counties/Agencies

Foster Thorpe, Mosaic, reported he thought Life Net had been purchased by Aero Methods. It is still flying out of Bartow. Mr. Thorpe stated that he would attempt to make contact with them and invite them to continue as members of the LEPC.

Tom Moran, Highlands County Emergency Manager, reported that their EOC suffered a power surge that shut it down for about four hours. Highlands County had no spills to report.

Kent Atkinson, Publix Fire Safety Coordinator, stated that Publix purchased 49 Albertson's stores and was working to assume those. He reported that Publix currently is suffering from copper and brass theft. Thieves are targeting not only their FDC caps but the entire FDC. Any assistance from law enforcement would be greatly appreciated.

Tim Bennett, State Farm, thanked the region's first responders during tropical storm Faye and Hurricane Ike. State Farm has two cat sites set up to handle claims – one in Melbourne and one in Jacksonville. They are still setting up sites in Texas.

Chief Nick Hopkins, Okeechobee County Fire, reported that Okeechobee had some heavy flooding with tropical storm Faye. It was estimated that areas of the County received 24 inches of rain. Also, Chief Hopkins reported that upon completion of the classes, Mike Falkner would be an ICS Instructor for 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800, along with Mitch Smeykal from the Okeechobee Health Department. Okeechobee had no spills to report.

James Olds, City of Lakeland, reported that Lakeland was having a problem with stealing FDC caps as well. They have had two successful arrests. The City of Lakeland provided a pizza lunch to one of the local scrap dealers for their cooperation. Lakeland had a fuel spill on September 16th, from a worker welding on a diesel fuel truck, and it caught fire near Lake Buena Vista. No fuel got into the lake. Mr. Olds commented that he had taken HazMat training since 1980, and the HazMat IQ class he attended the day before was by far the best.

Chairman Gary Weiss, ACT, reported that FECC Environmental was contracted by Florida Southern College to dispose of asbestos laden debris from tearing down old dormitories. The material was dumped in the Green Swamp instead of being taken to the landfill. Polk County Sheriff's Department and DEP received a tip, followed up, and arrested those responsible.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Subcommittee Reports

- Membership – Foster Thorpe

Mr. Carter stated that Kelly Curran from LifeNet has taken a new job and departed the area. Also, Chief Hopkins has submitted David McCain as his alternate member. It will be submitted at the next SERC Meeting.

Mr. Thorpe said he would contact LifeNet or AeroMed to see if someone else might be interested in serving on the LEPC.

- Training – Tom Moran

Mr. Moran reported that there was a Training Task Force meeting scheduled for the end of the month. Tom is going to take another job at the Highlands County Health Department. We will need to check with the health dept to see if they would object to him continuing to serve in the LEPC and with the training task force. Other health departments participate in the LEPC.

Chairman Weiss said he would be happy to talk to them and express how important it is and how valuable Mr. Moran is to the LEPC.

Mr. Carter stated that the LEPC has several participants from other health departments.

- Exercise – Paul Womble

Mr. Womble was not present.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Old Business

- Biennial LEPC Exercise.
 - Tag team off the Polk County “Team Play” Exercise

Mr. Carter reported that Polk County is planning a full exercise that each of the other four counties could satellite off of with a drill or other smaller exercise. The details are being worked out. This would be the LEPC’s full scale exercise for the region for this year. This was discussed at the last LEPC Meeting.

James Olds added that he would like to see Lakeland’s airport participate at some level in the Polk County Team Play Exercise.

AGENDA ITEM #6: New Business

- HMEP Training Events for FY 2009

Mr. Carter stated that the CFRPC has funds to spend on training for FY 2009. He asked members to think about what training they need and turn in their hazardous materials training requests at the next LEPC Meeting.

Mr. Olds added that Lakeland is having their annual chlorine response training on October 1st and 2nd. The first day will be class and the second day will be the exercise.

Mr. Moran said that the Highlands Regional Medical Center recently purchased cooling vest to wear under their Level C suits. They were looking for some training to practice the use of that equipment.

- Items for Training Task Force and for the SERC Meeting

Chairman Weiss asked members to give him any items or issues they would like taken to the SERC Training Task Force. These will be standing items on the LEPC agendas. He reported the Training Task Force was still trying to come up with a name for themselves. Other things they are considering are ToxMedic, awareness and operation level retraining, and evaluation of the current teams.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Comments from the Members

Chairman Weiss stated he would like to implement another standing item on the Agenda. He would like to give members an opportunity to highlight their agency to the Committee, other than how many spills or the like they had. At each meeting he will ask, ahead of time, a couple of agencies to make a five minute presentation on what is going on in their agency.

Chris Kaelin stated that Lakeland has put together a 24 Hour Emergency Response Course, they teach in-house on anhydrous ammonia. Also, they have an ICS 300 next month, which is open to anyone who would like to attend, free of charge. An ICS 400 class will be offered later.

Tim Bennett stated that the first week in October is National Fire Prevention Week. State Farm has an atrium display set up for all employees.

Foster Thorpe announced that Mosaic is sponsoring Emergency Response Tech Competition on October 2nd and 16th at their Bartow facility. They will have teams from all different sites competing.

Chief Hopkins stated that Okeechobee County is sponsoring a Health and Safety day at the Ag Center, with exhibits of fire equipment, helicopters, etc. LEPC member agencies are welcome to set up exhibits.

Chairman Weiss stated that the LEPC might consider having a booth to hand out various pamphlets.

Chairman Weiss also stated that the LEPC voted and recommended Chuck Carter to receive the Yatabee Award. Mr. Carter has done a great job with the LEPC and needs to be commended for his efforts.

AGENDA ITEM #8: Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

AGENDA ITEM #9: Next Meeting Date: November 19, 2008 at the Hardee County Agri-Civic Center at 9:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #10: Adjourn

Original Signed

September 26, 2008

Chairman Gary Weiss

Date