



# CENTRAL FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

*DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk Counties*

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CHAIRMAN: Dep Chief Mike Linkins  
VICE-CHAIR: Chris Kaelin

## **SUPERFUND AMMENDMENTS AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT (SARA) TITLE III CENTRAL FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

**February 21, 2019  
DeSoto City Fire Station 19  
6800 West George Boulevard | Sebring, FL 33875  
9:30 am**

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

Chairman Mike Linkins called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. All in attendance introduced themselves for the record, and members were asked to sign-in on the attendance record sheet.

Chair Linkins thanked Highlands County for hosting the LEPC meeting at the Highlands County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Please see attached sign-in roster.

AGENDA ITEM #1 The November 15, 2018 LEPC Minutes were circulated via email for review, comment and approval. Staff received a sufficient number of reviews and recommendations for approval to constitute a quorum. Any changes were made to the minutes and Chairman Linkins signed the minutes on January 15, 2019.

AGENDA ITEM #2 Staff Report

Chuck Carter stated that since January, the HazMat Symposium was held, the FEPA Conference took place, and several attended the Fire Rescue East training.

AGENDA ITEM #3 Reports from Cities/Counties/Agencies

Todd Tanner, Polk County, reported that Polk County was working on their Live Fire Training with the LEPC, scheduled for April 2019.

Dan Bartle, Florida Polytechnic University, stated that he works in Environmental Health and Safety for Polytechnic University, and asked if the LEPC membership categories included an educational representative.

Mr. Carter thanked Mr. Bartle for attending and stated he would fit him into a category.

Brian Newhouse, DeSoto County Emergency Manager, reported on a white-powder incident that recently took place in DeSoto County's correctional institute. The white-powder turned out to be talcum powder and did not pose a threat. A detainee had mailed a letter to his attorney containing the white-powder and said it was anthrax. He reported that DeSoto County had completed three sessions for radiological monitor training with Florida Department of Health (FDOH) in Orlando.

Billy Abernathy, Polk County Emergency Manager, reported that the EOC had recently completed the redesign of their floor layout.

Will Greif, Growers Fertilizer Corporation, reported that due to the devastating affect of Citrus Greening disease on the citrus industry, Growers Fertilizer is in the process of going out of business. The company has been operational since 1934 in Lake Alfred, with two other locations in Date City and Newberry. He thanked the LEPC for the many years of support to Growers Fertilizer. He stated that he will be taking a position with Southern Agricultural Insecticides in Palmetto, as their Programs and Compliance Administrator.

Chairman Linkins expressed his regret for the closing and offered the support of the LEPC members, and wished Mr. Grief success in his future endeavors.

Dominic LetoBarone, DEP, reported on a series of HazMat calls and a recent helicopter crash DEP was involved in. He reported on the dumping and cleanup of several 55-gallon drums of chemicals dumped in Wimauma. He also reported on an incident in Ruskin involving fuel being dumped into a ditch which connects to Tampa Bay. The person who dumped the fuel denied doing it so the State will be left to pay for the \$20,000 to \$30,000 cleanup. Florida law enforcement will be taking action against the suspect.

Chris Kaelin, City of Lakeland, reported on an outage at the City's MacIntosh Power Plant. The City is taking the scrubbers out of service and cleaning up the boilers. Precautions are being taken with the SO2 gases. He also reported on a container of six to eight ounces of liquid mercury taken to the Police Department by a citizen for disposal, where it was taken to the Polk County Landfill Hazardous Waste area for disposal.

Burt McKee, Polk County, stated that was the correct action, and the person who took it to the Police Department did the right thing also, as opposed to throwing it in the trash.

Burt McKee, Polk County, stated that the Operation Clean Sweep program has collected over 1.7 million pounds of cancelled, suspended or unusable pesticides across Florida since its inception in 1995. This program is for farmers, plant nurseries, golf courses, etc. who uses pesticides. Trucks are dispatched to the site of a caller, and the pesticides are collected from the site, rather than like in the early days the person was asked to bring their pesticides to a facility. This is a free service, and is an effort to prevent the disposal or abandonment of unused pesticides. The intent of this program is to eliminated the problem of old toxic pesticides getting into the environment or first-responders or innocent victims being exposed to it. He distributed informational flyers and asked members who might know of someone suffering from citrus greening or for other reasons are contemplating going out of business, to spread the word and to please take advantage of this free service.

Mr. McKee stated that since the SARA Title II program began, it has seen magnificent returns, with over fifty-percent of the highly toxic chemicals on the top-priority list completely eliminated and out of production today. He stated that, on behalf of the SERC Training Taskforce, he was requesting that this LEPC, the SERC, and the Environmental Regulatory Committee take the next step and form an initiative in 2019 to continue this work. He will continue working on pesticide substitutions that are less toxic. Initiatives for elimination, substitution, and engineering controls. Also, if facilities that house chemicals are required to have operating sprinkler systems, first responders won't get cancer from a facility's pesticides when called to an emergency situation. The initiative will be looking at engineering controls to avoid people, public, and environmental (PPE) exposure.

Burt McKee advocates that first responders be well trained, be prepared, have the correct equipment, use the correct equipment, protect themselves and protect the environment. However, if the event can be prevented, there will be no problem to remediate.

Chuck Carter asked if each County Emergency Manager would email him their Household Hazardous Waste disposal daily hours of operation, along with contact information so he can have it available in case there is a toxic substance question.

Dominic LetoBarone, DEP, stated he saw an electronic billboard in Sebring as he was traveling to this meeting, announcing a Household Hazardous Waste collect event with dates and location in the Sebring area.

Marshall Frasier, Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association's alternate, stated FFAA has been working with Florida Ag Commissioner Nikki Fried's new FDACS staff to acquaint them with the state's agchem industry. FFAA is also working with TFI, ARA and others to continue to support CFATS, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program.

<https://www.tfi.org/newsroom/2018news/CFATS-hearing>

Ken McLeod, Gulf Stream Natural Gas, reported they just successfully completed a major PIG run where the pipe was inspected from Alabama to Palmetto under the ocean. Once the data is analyzed they will know if there are any issues to report.

Jay Rajyaguru, DeSoto County Department of Health, stated they were involved with the white-powder incident that Brian Newhouse mentioned earlier.

Richard Mancini, Mancini Packing Company, reported that they are starting their spring production season.

Chuck Carter asked Mr. Mancini if his company obtains information about who is using what kinds of chemicals on the produce they process.

Mr. Mancini stated that they obtain assurances from their suppliers that they are using good farming practices. Also, Mancini Packing Company randomly sends finished product to the lab for testing.

Marshall Frazier, Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association's alternate, stated there is a food safety program coming into effect this year that will require all farmers and producers to be trackable back to the location it was actually grown in.

Mitch Smeykal, Okeechobee County Emergency Operations Center, reported that the FPL Gas-Hybrid Plant in North Okeechobee County is scheduled to go online at the end of 2019. Okeechobee's fire chief discovered that FPL will have approximately 40,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia in their scrubbers. No one seemed to be aware this, so they contacted the State, and the State will be conducting inspections. Also, the Regional Domestic Security Task Force wants to conduct a domestic or international terrorist exercise for Region Six by the end of 2019. He reported that next week, there is an exercise planned with NASA called Cobalt Magnet, which is a test-run in preparation for the Mars launch in 2020, which will have a nuclear payload. This exercise is testing the response capabilities for ingestion counties and also counties that are in close proximity to the cape, in the case of a launch anomaly. The exercise scenario and response are going to be confined to the cape. However, Okeechobee County will be participating in controlling and evaluating in Osceola County for the ingestion portion of the exercise. Also, the FEPA Intermediate EM Academy is scheduled

for March 10 – 15, 2019, at Camp Blanding and there still is available space for anyone in emergency response who wants to attend.

#### AGENDA ITEM #4

#### Subcommittee Reports

- Membership

Chuck Carter stated he was in the process of purging record of those LEPC members who no longer attend. He stated that if members attend only once or twice a year, they will be retained on the membership roster.

- Training

Domenic LetoBarone reported that the Training Task Force meeting was held in Daytona in conjunction with the HazMat Symposium. Gulf Stream Natural Gas along with other natural gas companies made a very informative presentation. He reported that 594 people attended the HazMat Symposium, including students, instructors, vendors and staff. The training was superior. Training Task Force topics discussed were medical protocols, hazmat team assessments, and Hurricane Michael site assessments. They discussed pre-deploying hazmat teams to hurricane areas in advance of landfall and coordinate with EOCs and other agencies.

Mr. LetoBarone reported that FirstNet Communication received mixed reviews. He stated that he received a tip that if you place your phone on Roaming it would have a better chance of connecting to a tower during an emergency. They were also contemplating looking into satellite phone service for first responders.

The next Training Task Force is scheduled for April 2019 in St. Augustine.

Mr. LetoBarone added that DEP will have a Division of Law Enforcement for Environment Crime once again by Executive Order of the Governor.

- Exercise

Curtis Knowles, CFRPC staff, reported that the Lakeland Linder International Airport is conducting their full-scale Triennial Certification emergency exercise on Wednesday February 27 2019 at 9:00 a.m. It will be a large exercise and will involve a propane live fire event. He invited members to attend and participate. The National Transportation Safety Board is going to participate in the exercise with a permanent observation standpoint, as if it were an actual airplane crash. Mr. Knowles added that they are also testing their communications plan by setting up a JIC at the Hotel on the airport property to disperse information. They will be bringing in PIOs from various agencies across Polk County.

Chuck Carter added that the exercise is necessary for the airport's certification but is also beneficial to the first responders with HazMat training.

Chuck Carter reminded members that hurricane hunters are based out of Lakeland because of its central location and accessibility.

Burt McKee added that some of the exercises conducted by this LEPC years ago, especially the terrorism exercises, became the prototype for emergency responders nationwide after 9-11.

- SERC & Membership

Chairman Linkins reported that the Yatabe Award winner was presented to Captain Todd Tanner of Polk County at the SERC meeting. The SERC Board members are appointed by the Governor, and said that Board members gave credit to Burt McKee for his work in the emergency management field, that has gain state and national attention. The SERC members discussed the Hazards Analysis reporting that includes a site plan or a map showing first responders the layout of the facility. They are trying to standard the site plans. A Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative (PERI) is starting in Florida to bring agencies together to enhance emergency preparedness through communication. Chair Linkins stated that the SERC Board also discussed the fact that the EPA program where one could designate their penalty or fine to go toward a particular local project was not being funded. One of the problems is due to EPA staff cuts. The next SERC meeting is scheduled for April in St. Augustine.

- FEPA

Amy Howard, Okeechobee County Emergency Management, reported that the FEPA annual conference was held in Sand Destin on February 3 – 8, 2019. The trainings and workshops were excellent. They discussed lessons learned after Hurricane Michael. She encouraged LEPC members to join FEPA if they are not members.

Mitch Smeykal announced that the Radiological Emergency Program (REP) is now a working group under FEPA. REP is mainly for locations with nuclear power plants but since nuclear material travels all roadways every day, all members should be interested in the group. A list of meetings and times can be found at [www.fepa.org](http://www.fepa.org).

Chuck Carter stated that he has a couple people looking to take a Cameo Course.

Amy Howard stated she was a certified instructor and could assist with that.

AGENDA ITEM #5                      Old Business

- HazMat Training Trailer

Chuck Carter stated that the HazMat Training Trailer is coming to fruition.

Chair Linkins stated that the trailer has to be assigned to a county in order to purchase a tag and have maintenance staff maintain it. Polk County will take that responsibility, but the trailer will be an LEPC asset and will be rotated and utilized by all the LEPC counties.

- HazMat Symposium

Chuck Carter stated that this was discussed earlier in the meeting. The HazMat Symposium was held in Daytona. Gulf Stream Natural Gas along with other natural gas companies made a very informative presentation. 594 people attended the HazMat Symposium, including students, instructors, vendors and staff. The training was superior. Topics discussed included medical protocols, hazmat team assessments, and hurricane Michael site assessments.

Burt McKee added that participating staff were all volunteers and did not get paid for their time at the Symposium.

Mr. Carter asked members to let him know early if they want to attend the HazMat Symposium so they can get registered.

#### AGENDA ITEM #6                      New Business

- Training Request

Chuck Carter asked members to let him know what training they need and he will make the necessary arrangement. He will not be scheduling a class unless it is requested. A HazMat 160 class is being discussed.

- Live Fire Training in Polk County

Chuck Carter stated that this training will be held in Polk County as in years past and he would like to begin as early as possible. It is planned for April, 2019. Different types of training are being discussed.

#### AGENDA ITEM #7                      Comments from Members

Bill Abernathy, Polk County EM, suggested that when the Cameo Class is conducted, a Marplot class should be conducted as well.

Dominic LetoBarone, announced that on February 26, 27 and 28, the Florida Department of Public Health in conjunction with the FBI will be conducting a WMD Awareness and Sample Collection procedure at Hernando County EOC at 9:00 am until 12:30 p.m. This training is at no charge to LEPC members. Chuck Carter distributed flyers on upcoming OSHA Operations Training on March 28, 2019, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm in Bartow. He will be making a presentation on Sheltering in Place.

