

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk Counties



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

Quarterly Meeting Minutes February 20, 2020 | 9:30 a.m.

Virtual via GoToMeeting

<https://www.gotomeet.me/CF-LEPC/cf-lepc-quarterly-meeting>

Join the conference call: 1-866-453-0405 and the Passcode is 4275032#

1. Call to Order

- A. Chairman Mike Linkins called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. All in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and to sign in on the attendance roster. Those in attendance included:

Broadcast and Print Media

- None

- Todd Tanner, Polk County Fire Rescue

Community Groups

- Mary Hartney, FL Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association
- Marshall Frasier, FL Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association
- Rudy Bluhm, CERT Ministry

Health

- None

Hospital

- None

Emergency Management

- Tom Moran, DeSoto County EM
- Jill Newman, Hardee County EM
- Audrey Cain, City of Lakeland EM

Interested Citizen

- Tim Bennett, RISC

Law Enforcement

- None

Facility Owners and Operators

- James Villarreal, Gulfstream Natural Gas
- Danny Sobeki, Publix Super Markets, Inc.

Local Environmental

- None

Local Option

- Matt Currie, Department of Homeland Security - CSI

Firefighting

- Michael Linkins, Polk County Fire Rescue

Transportation

- None

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Elected State and Local Officials

- None

First Aid

- None

Non-Elected Local Official

- None

Water Management District

- None

Education

- Danial Bartle, Florida Polytechnic University

Staff

- Curtis Knowles, LEPC Staff
- Kathy Hall, LEPC Staff

General Public

- Billy Abernathy, Polk County EM
- Ben Skidmore, Huls Environmental
- Chuck Carter, Retired
- Garrett Parnell, Polk County Fire Rescue
- Shane McLure, Polk County Fire Rescue
- Doug Cabe, Florikan ESA, LLC
- Brittany Bravo, ArrMaz/Arkema Corp.
- Hillary Holley, FL Department of Financial Services – West Central Region
- Tim Francis, Huls Environmental
- Tony Weston, Huls Environmental
- Calvin Bates, Vandolah Power
- Ben Cassista, Polk County Fire Rescue

C. Announcements:

- Chair Linkins thanked Polk State College for allowing the LEPC to meet at their Center for Public Safety Campus. Former LEPC Coordinator, Chuck Carter was recognized as being in attendance. Mr. Carter retired in October, 2019.
- Chair Mike Linkins announced that he will be retiring on February 28, 2020 from Polk County Fire Rescue after 33 years of service. He stated that he has enjoyed serving on the LEPC and hopes to stay involved.

2. Approval of the November 14, 2019 Central Florida LEPC Meeting Minutes

Curtis Knowles asked if there were any changes to the November 14, 2019 Central Florida LEPC Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, Tom Moran moved to approve the November 14, 2019 LEPC Meeting Minutes as presented. James Villarreal seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

A. Recap 2020 Hazmat Symposium – held January 21 – 24, 2020

Curtis reported on the Hazmat Symposium was held in Daytona Beach. The Symposium is for emergency responders from fire rescue, law enforcement and emergency management. The Symposium covers a variety of subjects related to hazardous materials response. He reported 627 individuals from across the country registered for the symposium and said it is becoming one of the largest Hazmat Symposiums in the country with dozens of instructors and vendors. The symposium also has national and international participation.

Chair Linkins added none of the instructors are paid and all of them volunteer their time. Some of the events and competitions were held outdoors in inclement weather but were still worthwhile as the training provided was extremely beneficial.

Curtis stated the LEPC sponsored eight individuals, covering their hotel and registration fees. The LEPC plans to continue sponsoring as many as funding allows.

B. HAZMAT 160 Hybrid Training Class (Highlands, Polk, Sebring)

Curtis reported three agencies have responded saying they plan to send individuals to this training, for a total of 24 people.

Todd Tanner, Polk County Fire Rescue, stated that the HAZMAT 160 Hybrid Training Class is schedule to begin on March 2, 2020. After March 2nd, it will be conducted online until June 1, 2020. Then there will be seven week-days of hands-on practical skills.

Curtis stated the LEPC is hoping to have more funds to sponsor more people for this training next year.

4. Subcommittee Reports

A. Membership

Curtis asked those in attendance who are not members and would like to be, to fill out the form provided and give to him, and he will submit it to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for approval. The same process goes for alternate members. He asked current members to review their contact information on the roster, which was provided, and make corrections as necessary. New members will be added to the roster once they are approved. Everyone else in attendance was asked to sign in on the sign-in sheet provided.

B. State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials

Curtis stated the January 2020 SERC Meeting was held in conjunction with the HAZMAT Symposium. Dominic LetoBarone, Training Task Force Chair, was not able to attend this LEPC meeting, but provided notes, which Curtis reviewed with members. He reported the SERC sent a Request for Proposals (RFP) for emergency response educators and consultants, to conduct the update to their HAZMAT Operations Student Competency Check of task booklets for the State Fire College. 2006 was the last update. Revisions are being made

to the Awareness and Operations Level Training Guides. EREC would also like to develop a checklist for Instructors. The 15th edition of the Special Operations Medical Command Hazardous Materials Paramedic Protocol was released at the SERC meeting and is available for purchase from SERC. Also, the State Hurricane Exercise will now be called the State Exercise. For the next two years they will be conducting exercises that are not weather related but will focus on other issues.

Tom Moran stated Region 6, which is part of this LEPC, are being assigned an agricultural disaster, affecting many agency levels and departments within the county and state. No specifics had been revealed at that time.

Chair Linkins stated the Emergency Response Guidebooks are expected in April or May 2020. He stated Polk County has offered their warehouse space to receive the shipment. From there the guidebooks can be distributed to various agencies. He added the Guidebooks are available through an app if responders would like to have it electronically. Once this is available Curtis will share the information.

Curtis provided a copy of a memo from the General Counsel for the Division of Emergency Management regarding the continued discussion on Conflict of Interest, and stated LEPC and Training Task Force members do not have to file a Form 1. Those with secondary employment may have to request a letter from the Ethics Commission to obtain an individual determination. This ruling is expected to be given at the April 2020 SERC Meeting.

Curtis stated the Thomas Yatabe Award was presented to Mitch Smeykal Emergency Management Director for Okeechobee County Emergency Management, and the Certificate of Appreciation was presented to James Villarreal.

Curtis stated Dwayne L. Mundy, LEPC Coordinator from North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the SERC for his substantial contribution of time and expertise to the emergency planning field. This recognition is awarded only to those few deserving individuals based on many criteria, which he outlined.

C. Training

Curtis reported our LEPC was notified they will be receiving an additional \$20,000 from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) through the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The funds are for training and must be used by June 1, 2020. At the time of the meeting they recalculated and determined the funds are not available after all. FDEM have asked the LEPC Coordinators to submit training projects to them anyway in case there are extra unused funds available. Curtis asked members to let him know if there is a specific type of qualifiable training they need and he will add it to the list.

5. New Business

A. Incident Reports

Todd Tanner mentioned a plane crashed near Bartow Airbase, but no fuel was spilled.

B. Other Hazardous Materials Types of Meetings/Training in Region

Garrett Parnell, Captain, Polk County Fire Rescue, reported they have started their annual LEPC training exercise which is funded by the LEPC's HMEP grant, and attend by agencies from several cities in the area. He stated they are encouraging and providing training on how to use the Emergency Response Guidebooks electronically through the app since the books sometimes gets lost, left behind, or destroyed. The app is extremely beneficial to have and is downloaded on all county-issued cell phones that each responder carries. The HMEP training is for Operations Level such as setting up mass-decontamination and establishing water supply.

Chair Linkins stated this is important training and is extremely cost effective.

C. Appoint Chair for a Two-Year Term

Chair Mike Linkins explained what is involved in being Chairman of the LEPC. He assists in coordinating the LEPC meetings, answers questions, nurture the partnership between the public and private sector, and represent the LEPC at the SERC meetings four times a year, which the LEPC provides, and are held in rotating locations throughout the State. He added being LEPC Chairman is a tremendous networking and learning opportunity.

MOTION

Chair Linkins nominated Captain Todd Tanner as Chair of the LEPC for the next two-year term. James Villarreal seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Chair Mike Linkins nominated Dan Bartle as Vice Chair of the LEPC for the next two-year term. Todd Tanner seconded.

Motion carried Unanimously.

6. Reports from Agencies/Companies

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves, shared information or reported on recent events within their communities/agencies.

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Todd Tanner stated the HAZMAT 160 training class is schedule to start on March 2, 2020 and continue into June 2020. Polk County Fire Rescue is training drone pilots to operate their drone.

Chair Linkins stated a very expensive drone was recently donated to Polk County Fire Rescue, about a \$40,000 package, and they have been training pilots to fly it. The drone is powerful enough to carry HAZMAT instruments downrange so HAZMAT personnel aren't put in harm's way when evaluating an incident. The drone is equipped with digital and infrared or thermal imaging cameras. Two pilots have been trained so far.

Discussion followed.

Dan Bartle, Florida Polytechnic University, stated he was recently promoted to Fire Inspector and Emergency Management Officer. Also, the new Applied Research Center building is currently being constructed at the University.

Mary Hartney, Florida Fertilizer and Agri-Chemicals Association, reported she recently participated in an Agricultural Retailer's Association fly-in to Washington D.C. One of the things the association lobbied for was the reauthorization of the chemical facilities' antiterrorism standards for another six years. In addition, they also lobbied to maintain the rulemaking for any process for any changes to appendix A for chemicals of interest.

Jill Newman, Hardee County Emergency Manager, reported Hardee County has a new County Manager, Lawrence McNaul. He is from Iowa and is retired military and law enforcement. Hardee County Emergency Management has an emergency management coordinator position open, and encouraged anyone interested to apply. She reported Hardee County had an airplane crash at the Hardee County Municipal Airport with no casualties. Hardee County also had a bomb threat at the hospital that turned out not to be a bomb. However, when the incident took place, there were no top-level officials in the entire county. All seconds-in-command were called to handle the event until the senior officials could get on scene. She stated it was a good live exercise for emergency responders as well as Hardee County officials.

Matt Currie, Florida Department of Homeland Security, wanted to make sure everyone knew when they file their E-Plan for the state, they are not filing for a program. He explained a lot of the chemicals are the same as those regulated. He invited members to call him with any questions.

Curtis asked Mr. Currie to send him the information and he would email it to the LEPC member list.

Rudy Bluhm, CERT Ministry, stated his organization provides free emergency preparedness training for hurricanes and other emergency situations. His website is www.certministry.com.

Audrey Cain, City of Lakeland Emergency Manager, stated her position is newly created, and she just started in this position a few weeks earlier. She added she was excited to be in attendance.

Danny Sobecki, Publix Senior Refrigeration Manager, stated Publix recently completed their annual emergency refresher training. He thanked Polk County responders and hazmat teams for their participation.

Chair Linkins thanked Mr. Sebecki and Publix for being proactive in conducting the training.

James Villarreal, Gulf Stream Natural Gas, announced they will be running their PIG equipment through about 108 miles of gas line starting in June 2020. The PIG device will be inserted into the pipeline somewhere around the Polk/Hardee Countyline and run through the pipeline to Martin County FP&L Power Plant. They will start it in the morning and it should take several hours to complete the cleaning. James thanked the LEPC for recognizing him with the Certificate of Appreciation from the SERC meeting in January 2020.

7. Comments from Members

Curtis stated he receives emails on a regular basis regarding training events, federal or state statutes, grant funds etc. He stated he will forward the emails to the LEPC membership email group as he receives them.

Curtis reviewed the emails he recently received. He reviewed an email from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding standardized labeling sizes and several other issues, which he will forward. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has issued final rulings on underground natural gas storage facilities. PHMSA also has \$12 million in hazardous materials and pipeline safety efforts and grants for awareness for training, research and response capabilities, and what the qualifications are. He reviewed an email from the National Fire Academy regarding different types of free training and online training. TRANSCAER sent an email offering training and webinars on rail industry related training on ethanol safety, CSX, etc. If members are interested, he stated he would coordinate a training event. He stated the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) offers training on cyber security related issues if members are interested. Curtis stated there is an app for emergency responders that will provide information about what is contained in the rail cars that are going through communities. The app is AskRail and it must be requested to gain access. To get more information visit <http://askrail.us>.

Matt Curry, DHS, suggested if the LEPC would like to schedule cyber security related training to do so soon as there is only one person from their office that teaches the class and he covers many states.

Jill Newman, Hardee County EM, stated she recently learned, while taking a FEPA course, the National Transportation Safety Board is the investigative agency, not the enforcement agency, in a transportation incident. They make recommendations as to whether they feel an event is

accidental or criminal. If the event is suspicious, it gets turned over to the FBI, who then pursues the criminal aspect.

Curtis announced a couple of events in the area. Ready Night with the Lakeland Flying Tigers is a baseball game for emergency responders and they are looking for vendors to set up at the event. The theme is emergency preparedness. The game is scheduled for Wednesday May 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., and is all-you-can-eat.

Also, Volunteer Florida's emergency management team is holding their annual conference to discuss volunteers assisting before, during and after a disaster. It is scheduled for March 3 and 4, 2020 in Orlando.

Curtis announced a training provided by Highlands County on Medical Preparedness and Response for Bombing Incidents on April 28 and 29, 2020. This training is available to LEPC members.

8. Comments from Public

No comments from the public were made.

9. 2020 CF-LEPC Meeting Schedule

A. Request to Change the May 14, 2020 LEPC Meeting

After discussion, the next LEPC Meeting was rescheduled for May 13, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in Highlands County.

10. State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials Meetings

Curtis stated the SERC meeting is scheduled for April 16 and 17, 2020 at the DoubleTree in St. Augustine. The SERC Training Task Force meeting is on the 16th at 9:30 a.m. and the LEPC Chairpersons/Coordinators Meeting is on the 16th at 1:30 p.m. The SERC meeting is on April 17th at 10:30 a.m.

11. There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Linkins, LEPC Chairman

This meeting was duly advertised in the February 10, 2020 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Issue: 46/27.