

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk Counties



CHAIRMAN: Todd Tanner
VICE-CHAIR: Dan Bartle

Quarterly Meeting Minutes November 18, 2021 | 9:30 a.m.

Polk County Emergency Operations Center, 1890 Jim Keene Blvd, Winter Haven, FL 33880
GoToMeeting Option: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/940121029> You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 940-121-029

1. Call to Order

A. Chair Todd Tanner called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Those in attendance both online and in-person included:

Emergency Management

- Laura Calvillo, Hardee County EM
- Mitch Smeykal, Okeechobee County EM
- Rick Christoff, DeSoto County EM
- Billy Abernathy, Polk County EM

Facility Owners and Operators

- Ben Skidmore, Huls Environmental
- James Villarreal, Gulfstream Natural Gas
- Greg Hall, Publix Super Markets, Inc.

Firefighting

- Brett Hogan, Highlands County Fire Rescue
- Todd Tanner, Polk County Fire Rescue

Health

- Kevin King, Florida Department of Health

Interested Citizen

- Tim Bennett, RISC

Staff

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

General Public

- Eddie Murphy, US DOT PHMSA
- Elizabeth LaDow, US DOT PHMSA
- Garrett Parnell, Polk County Fire Rescue

2. Approval of the August 19, 2021 Central Florida LEPC Meeting Minutes

Curtis Knowles asked if there were any changes to the August 19, 2021 Central Florida LEPC Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, James Villarreal moved to approve the August 19, 2021 LEPC Meeting Minutes as presented. Todd Tanner seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

No Old Business was reported.

4. New Business

A. Elizabeth LaDow, US DOT, Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, presented information regarding PHMSA and its responsibilities. They enforce the federal laws specifically focusing on the safe transportation of hazardous materials. She discussed the PHMSA Safety Handbook, which is one of their primary responsibilities. It is available on-line and as an app.

Questions and discussion followed.

Eddie Murphy, US DOT, Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, presented information regarding funding and the HazMat Round Table. He discussed an increase in funding where the award provides over \$28 million in grants to support state and local hazardous materials programs nationwide. <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/news/us-department-transportation-awards-nearly-100-million-grants-support-pipeline-and-hazardous> This includes approximately:

- \$21 million in Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grants for states, territories, and tribes to aid in the development, implementation, and improvement of emergency plans for local and tribal communities and first-responder hazardous materials training.
- \$3.5 million in Hazardous Materials Instructor Training grants to support the training of hazardous materials instructors and for such instructors to train hazardous materials employees.
- \$1.6 million in Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training grants to support the training of volunteer or remote emergency responders to respond to incidents involving hazardous materials shipments by rail.
- \$1.3 million in Supplemental Public Sector Training grants to support the training of hazardous materials instructors that conduct hazardous materials training programs for first responders.
- \$1.3 million in Community Safety grants to support projects that enhance the capabilities of communities to respond to hazardous materials emergencies and the training of state and local enforcement personnel responsible for enforcing the safe transport of hazardous materials.

Questions and discussion followed.

B. Incident Report Discussion for the Region

No incident reports were made.

C. Proposed 2022 CF-LEPC Meeting Schedule

Curtis Knowles, LEPC staff, proposed the following meeting dates for 2022:

February 24, 2022 | May 19, 2022 | August 18, 2022 | November 17, 2022

All meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. Venues will be announced.

MOTION

James Villarreal moved to approve the 2022 LEPC meeting dates as proposed. Todd Tanner seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Subcommittee Reports

A. Membership

Curtis Knowles, LEPC staff, reported membership applications for Bridjette Bucell, FDEP, Local Environmental, and Richard Christoff, DeSoto County Emergency Management, were submitted and approved as Primary Members of the CF-LEPC by the SERC at their October 22, 2021 meeting. Also, Corey Amundsen, Highlands County Emergency Management was approved as an Alternate Member.

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

Chair Todd Tanner reported on the October 21-22, 2021 SERC meeting. His report included information regarding the LEPC Emergency Response Plans for Hazardous Materials and the Training Task Force. He presented highlights of the Hazards Analysis Working Group, the HazMat Operations and Awareness project, and the Offshore HazMat project. Chair Tanner concluded with a brief report on funding and next year's HazMat Symposium.

Curtis Knowles added that FDEM had decreased the budget of each LEPC in the state by \$10,000 and removed the inspection of battery facilities from the list of HA facilities for inspection. The SERC discussed many possible solutions to include but not limited to restructuring their staff in an effort to correct their budget shortfall.

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The next SERC meetings are scheduled for January 18th and 19th, 2022 at the Plaza Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach.

C. Training

Curtis Knowles provided the website for the HazMat Training Symposium for members that would like to register to attend. The LEPC has a budget for thirteen members to attend. Also, the Florida Division of Emergency Management's website is <https://trac.floridadisaster.org/trac/trainingcalendar.aspx> for a list of trainings that are occurring in the state.

James Villarreal, Gulfstream Natural Gas, shared that the HazMat Training Symposium had accepted their proposal to conduct training next year, along with the other three large pipeline companies within the state. He stated he is available to conduct this training on site for members who might need it.

6. Comments from Member/Public

Burt McKee, Polk County, asked anyone who notices leaking containers or improperly stored materials, take pictures and forward them to Polk County to make them aware and can require that company/owner to properly dispose of those materials before it is too late.

7. Next CF-LEPC Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for February 24, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. Location will be announced.

8. There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Tanner, LEPC Chairman

This meeting was duly advertised in the October 27, 2021 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Issue: 47/210.