



MINUTES OF THE TREASURE COAST LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (TCLEPC)
May 14, 2020 Virtual meeting

Chair Lasaga called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting. Staff called the roll and announced a quorum was present.

Committee Members Present Occupational Category

Members Present

Michael Altamuro	Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Shon Broedell	Firefighting (City of Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue)
Kenton Brown	Local Environmental (Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection)
Leanne Cobb	Local Option (Palm Beach County BOCC)
John Garofalo, Vice Chair	Facility Owner/Operator (Palm Beach State College)
Mike Geier	Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
John Holman	Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Rachel Ivey	Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Matthew King	Facility Owner/Operator (Tropical Shipping)
Frank Lasaga, Chair	Law Enforcement (Jupiter Island Police Department)
Jack McCart	Local Option/Education (Lexam Consulting Group, Inc.)
Daniel Mikels	Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire Rescue District)
Vince Peterson	Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)
Dave Rawicz	Facility Owner/Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)
Heather Rothe	Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)
Paul Seldes	Local Option/Education (ntb Group, LLC)
Greg Thompson	Local Option/Safety (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Dennis Zabel	Local Environmental (Florida Atlantic University)

Members Excused

Travis Baines	Local Option Safety (Loxahatchee Env. River Control District)
Richard Barrett	Facility Owner/Operator (Florida Gas Transmission Company)
James Brothers	Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Louis Dixel	Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)
Cheryl Dunn	Health (Florida Department of Health – Indian River County)
Melissa McKinlay	Elected Official (Palm Beach County Commissioner)
Joseph Nelson	Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
William Pecci, Jr.	Emergency Management (Martin County)
Gustavo Vilchez	Emergency Management (St. Lucie County)

Members Absent

David Brennan	Owner/Operator (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
John Gojkovich	Local Option/Education (Indian River State College)
Jose Gonzalez	Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Paul Meding	Facility Owner/Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)
Richard Perkins	Facility Owner/Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)
Tom Phillips	Local Option/Education (Palm Beach County)
Nick Sanders	Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)
Barry Stewart	Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)
Carlos Valle	Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney)

Alternates Present

Kelley Burke (Melissa McKinlay)	Elected Official (Palm Beach County BOCC)
Rodney Dewson (Dan Mikels)	Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
Levy Harrell Gantt (Louis Dixel)	Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)
Lisa Poziomek (Bill Pecci)	Emergency Management (Martin County)
Alane Sisilli (Richard Perkins)	Facility Owner/Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)
Charles Vogt (Cheryl Dunn)	Health (Department of Health – Indian River County)

Visitors/Guests

Debbie Thayer	Emerald Coast LEPC Coordinator
Laurie Luher	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Russell MacLees	Florida Gas Transmission Company
Matt Portilla	Florida Public Utilities Company
Jeff Pomerantz	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Alannah Irwin	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Lazaro Rodriguez	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Ally Berry	St. Lucie County Waste & Recycling
Natasha Hazziez	U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency
Vergie Bains	U.S. Depart. of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Admin.
Kelly Gibbs-Winiarz	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Matthew Currie	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Robert Crosby	U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Staff

Kathryn E. Boer	TCLEPC Coordinator, TCRPC
Liz Gulick	TCRPC, Administration

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Greg Thompson, Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC, moved for approval of the May 14, 2020 Agenda. Mr. John Garofalo, Palm Beach State College, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2020

Mr. Greg Thompson moved for approval of the February 20, 2020 Minutes. Mr. John Garafalo seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Briefings – Presentation Updates

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agenda (CISA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Mr. Matthew Currie

Mr. Matthew Currie with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided an overview on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security. Mr. Currie introduced Ms. Kelly Gibbs-Winiarz, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Supervisor for the Chemical Security Inspectors for the State of Florida for CISA.

In 2006, Congress authorized the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. Managed by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the CFATS program identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities to ensure they have security measures in place that reduce the risk of certain hazardous chemicals from being weaponized. In 2014, Congress reauthorized and amended the program through the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014 (6 U.S.C. § 621, et seq.). The CFATS regulation applies to facilities across many industries.

Under CFATS, a chemical facility is any establishment or individual that possesses or plans to possess any of the more than 300 chemicals of interest (COI) in Appendix A at or above the listed screening threshold quantity (STQ) which are categorized under three main security issues:

- **Release:** Toxic, flammable, or explosive chemicals or materials that can be released at a facility.
- **Theft or Diversion:** Chemicals or materials that, if stolen or diverted, can be converted into weapons using simple chemistry, equipment, or techniques.
- **Sabotage:** Chemicals or materials that can be mixed with readily available materials.

View or download Appendix A at: www.dhs.gov/publication/appendixx-final.rule

These facilities must report their chemical holdings to CISA via an online survey, known as a Top-Screen. CISA uses the Top-Screen information to determine if the facility is considered high-risk, thus necessitating a security plan.

Certain facilities are excluded from the CFATS regulation by statute if they are:

- Regulated by the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002
- A public water system, as defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act
- A treatment works, as defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- Owned or operated by the Department of Defense or Department of Energy
- Subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Agricultural production facility solely uses the COI on crops, feed, land, livestock, or poultry

He noted the DHS also does risk assessments and in case of emergencies, they assist in resolving issues arising from hurricanes, etc. Regarding the COVID-19, the DHS follows the same protocols issued by the Governor.

Ms. Boer noted that many TCLEPC team members are employed by large facilities that file annual Tier II reports with the Florida State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). She inquired as to the quantity of Treasure Coast region's large quantity generators. Mr. Currie responded that as part of the Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerability Information, Treasure Coast regulates those facilities in that area and protects facility information. Mr. Currie will provide information on facilities.

Florida Department of Health – Regional COVID-19 Update – Mr. David Crowe

Mr. David Crowe, Florida Department of Health (FDOH), provided an update on the COVID-19.

As of this date: (approximates)

1. Tested: 600,000
2. Negatives: 552,000
3. Positives: 42,402
4. Asymptomatic: 4%
5. Deaths: 1,827
6. Prison population positives: 18%

Nursing homes /assisted living:

1. FDOH has trained staff on better infectious control measures – concentrating on cleaning/sanitizing, social distancing, and wearing mask properly.
2. Some staff are testing positive and increasing the danger of spreading the virus to the residents and their own families.

Concerning asymptomatic:

1. A national survey indicated that 25% of asymptomatic people said they would not get a COVID vaccine, even if it was available.
2. Mr. Crowe re-emphasized the crucial practices of wearing a mask and distancing socially.
3. He lamented – not everyone is complying.

Ms. Vergie Bains, U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), asked why the asymptomatic people are being tested. Mr. Crowe noted that various testing is done in the medical field to have a better understanding of the different facets of exposure and affected populations. Mr. Crowe informed that with more sample kits available, larger numbers of people are being tested in preparation for eventual vaccine administration.

Recent testing results:

1. First responders are showing positive with no symptoms;
2. Task forces and infectious prevention go out to nursing homes;

3. First responders are all tested every single week because of going out and dealing with potentially COVID infected patients;
4. Some sites are starting to open testing to everyone; and
5. Plasma is being collected from people who have recovered from COVID. The plasma is being used as potential treatment. It may take 1-2 years to test its validity.

Chair Lasaga asked about possible upcoming general public testing sites. Mr. Crowe responded that State epidemiologists are having conversations as to whom, where, when, how, and how often, testing should take place; however, he is not privy to those conversations. He added that companies that are closest to producing a vaccine for COVID-19 were already working on a vaccine for SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). He does not know if the vaccine is strain-specific or a more general Coronavirus.

Mr. Crowe also mentioned that some COVID tests have accuracy issues, which are why the FDA has sped up to try to validate the results on some early testing. However, he also noted that most of the lab tests that we are currently using are fairly accurate. The only one that probably has more concern is some of the antibody testing. They are running 11% false negatives.

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Meeting. The quarterly meeting scheduled for April 17, 2020 in St. Augustine was cancelled due to the declared State of Emergency and executive orders issued by the State of Florida Office of the Governor restricting physical meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 2020 and the FDEM will determine whether that meeting will be a physical meeting or by teleconference.

Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports. The State Watch Office will provide the Incident Reports to the LEPC membership at the next SERC meeting in July.

LEPC Chairs and Coordinators Meeting. The quarterly meeting scheduled for April 16, 2020 in St. Augustine was cancelled due to the declared State of Emergency and executive orders issued by the State of Florida Office of the Governor restricting physical meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 2020 and the FDEM will determine whether that meeting will be a physical meeting or by teleconference.

Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Staff Update. Mr. Robert Dietrich, FDEM staff, notified LEPC chairs and coordinators that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) 2020 Emergency Response Guidebooks (ERGs) will be delivered in June or July. The State logistics center was originally to be used to receive the books then they would be delivered to the LEPC. Ms. Boer noted that the ERGs will be delivered sometime in June or July and Palm Beach County will store them for the entire region.

State Training Task Force (TTF) Meeting Update. The quarterly meeting scheduled for April 16, 2020 in St. Augustine was cancelled due to the declared State of Emergency and executive orders issued by the State of Florida Office of the Governor restricting physical meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 2020 and the FDEM will determine whether that meeting will be a physical meeting or by teleconference.

Ms. Boer announced that Mr. Lazaro Rodriguez will be requesting appointment to the TCLEPC and wishes to be named as the replacement as the TTF Representative for Mr. James Brothers. Mr. Brothers is the current TTF Representative for the LEPC and has been transferred to a new area and must resign from the TCLEPC. He served very well as the representative and will be missed.

Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). Ms. Boer noted that the SOGs are provided to statewide hazmat teams to assist in establishing and preparing their plans, procedures, and protocols. The TTF Chairman advised staff that there are 18 total SOGs and 13 have been completed and adopted by the SERC. The remaining SOGs will be adopted at a physical meeting tentatively scheduled for July. The FDEM is currently developing a security protocol for the portal access for agencies to access the documents.

Planning Subcommittee. The draft 2020 Treasure Coast Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan was submitted to FDEM for review. Staff will submit the final draft plan in the 4th quarter for final FDEM approval.

Public Information Exchange. Please notify staff with any training, exercise, or outreach information you wish to distribute to LEPC members or interested parties. The TCLEPC website is currently under construction.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

Exercise/Outreach/Education: Planning is ongoing for the tabletop exercise in partnership with St. Lucie County Fire Rescue and Helena Agri-Enterprises. The purpose of the exercise is to provide communications training with St. Lucie Fire Rescue Special Operations Teams and update the facility emergency plan for Helena. A second tabletop exercise is in the preliminary planning process with GEM Freshco. This exercise will focus on alert and notification, evacuation and sheltering, and on-scene command post communications with St. Lucie County Fire District and the facility to test facility emergency plans and the Regional Hazardous materials Response Plan.

Shelter-in-Place/EPCRA/LEPC: Staff delivered two EPCRA presentations January 16 and 23, 2020 and hazardous materials release Shelter-In-Place on February 18, 2020 at the Indian River State College to the Law Enforcement Academy. Ms. Boer noted that LEPC staff is required to provide EPCRA outreach educational and shelter-in-place and evacuation presentations in response to chemical releases in the region. If you would like a shelter-in-place and evacuation presentation, please contact staff.

Contract Activities Update

HMEP Training: The Annual Hazardous Materials Symposium was held January 21-24, 2020 at the Plaza Resort in Daytona Beach. 619 persons attended classroom and hands-on training. The TCLEPC sponsored 42 student registrations and lodging.

2019/2020 HMEP grant funds were made available on October 1, 2019. During the HMEP 2nd quarter, (3) 8-hr. Toxicology classes for First Receivers training was provided March 4, 5, and 6, 2020, for Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie county fire rescue personnel. Training has been severely curbed due to the COVID-19 restrictions on physical classroom setting for training classes.

Staff has offered online free classes as they become available. Training in classroom setting will resume once restrictions are lifted.

Membership: Ms. Boer noted that the new primary and alternate nominations for TCLEPC membership will be presented at the next SERC meeting in July 2020, should it be held in person to ratify the new members.

Primary

Mr. Jack McCartt	Lexam Consulting Group, Inc
Mr. Rick Sterl	Martin County Fire Rescue, Battalion Chief/Hazmat Coordinator
Mr. Steven Graff	Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations
Mr. David Garcia	Captain, Special Operations Coordinator - City of Delray Beach, Fire Rescue
Mr. Patrick Thume	District Chief - Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Alternates

Mr. William Ware	Florida Atlantic University
Mr. Jose Gonzalez	Division Chief Emergency Management - Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Ms. Boer noted that the SERC cannot approve membership via phone or email, and this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Comments from Committee Members

None

Comments from Chair and Coordinator

Ms. Boer noted that Mr. Louis Dixel, Florida Department of Transportation, could not attend today's LEPC meeting due to a medical emergency, but Mr. Dixel did extend his greetings to everyone.

Chair Lasaga thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He pointed out the challenges of holding virtual meetings and appreciated everyone's attendance.

Public Comment

None

Future LEPC Meeting Dates: The next meeting of the TCLEPC is scheduled for August 6, 2020. The TCLEPC membership will be notified as to whether this will be a physical sit-down meeting or another virtual meeting. The remaining meeting date for 2020 is November 5, 2020.

The 2021 meeting dates are listed below for your calendar planning:

February 18, 2021

May 6, 2021

August 5, 2021

November 4, 2021

Adjournment

Mr. John Garofalo made a motion to adjourn the May 14, 2020 TCLEPC meeting. Mr. John Holman, City of Port St. Lucie Police Department, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Chair Lasaga adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.