

# Rapides Parish Louisiana Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

October 24, 2024

The Rapides Parish Local Emergency Planning Committee, hereafter referred to as LEPC, comprised of representation by and from the following disciplines:  
Mr. Jeff Michiels, Rapides OEP/ LEPC Chairman; Ms. Sherry Ledington, Emergency Management - Rapides OEP; Captain Greg Timberlake, RPSO Hazmat; Sr. Tech - James Rougeou, LSP Hazmat; Mr. Dylan Derbonne, Fire Communications Chief (AFD); Parish President - Mr. Joe Bishop, Parish Elected Official; Council Women - Lizzie Felter, City Elected Official; Mr. Jeff Pogue, Emergency Medical Services(Acadian Ambulance); Ms. Mary Tarver, Hospital Official (Christus St. Francis Cabrini); Ms. Patricia White, Public Health- (La. DHH/OPH Official); Mr. Jerry Edwards, Facility Representative- (P&G); Mr. Joey Montalvo, Assistant District Administrator LA DOTD (Transportation); Mr. Bennett Roland, Media (KALB); Mr. Joe Hamner (England Airpark Fire Chief); Mr. Roy Rachal, Rapides Parish School Board; Ms. Michele Stafford, Private Facility Representative – (Hexion); Mr. Brian Johnson, Private Facility Representative (Boardwalk Pipelines) Mr. Ryan Spiller, Fire Representative( Rapides Parish FD2); Barrett Dezendorf, City of Alexandria Water

The above members met at the Rapides Parish LEPC, (Rapides Parish Communication District/Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness), 4216 Ellis St Alexandria, La. on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., for the transaction of business.

Mr. Michiels called the meeting to order and asked for roll call:

Present: Jeff Michiels, James Rougeou, Jeff Pogue, Mary Tarver, Patricia White, Ryan Spiller, Barrett Dezendorf, Dylan Derbonne, Joe Hamner, Brian Johnson, Nick Mikulas

Absent: Joe Bishop, Lizzie Felter, Bennett Roland, Sherry Ledington, Michele Keys, Roy Rachal, Joey Montalvo, Jerry Edwards, Lizzie Felter, Joe Bishop, Greg Timberlake.

Also present: Amanda Fuglaar, Region 6 Healthcare Coalition  
Emily Coutee, Rapides 911/OEP  
Teresa Basco, GOHSEP – Region 6  
Christina Lord, LDH/OPH  
Doug Cramer, NWS- Lake Charles  
Dale Craig, LA DOTD  
Jeanne Joubert, Veterans Health Administration

Mr. Michiels began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Michiels continued with the agenda starting with Old Business.

- ***Motion made by Mr. Rougeou and seconded by Mr. Hamner to adopt and approve the minutes of the April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, LEPC Meeting. Members were provided with a copy prior to the meeting.***

- Reports:

- Mr. Michiels provided the Committee with a Tier II report advising the committee of the number of facilities within the Parish that have been reported to the local LEPC and number that still need to report to the local LEPC.
- Sr. Tech James Rougeou of LSP called on and to advise the committee of any notable incidents reported to LSP within Rapides Parish since the last LEPC Meeting. He had no notable incidents to report.
- Mr. Doug Cramer with NWS- Lake Charles recognized as a guest speaker. Mr. Cramer briefly discussed with the committee and guests, La Nina with a warm and dry winter expected, Red Flag Warnings and new satellite technology for winter weather.

- Past Events:

- Mr. Brian Johnson with Boardwalk Pipelines was recognized. He gave a brief overview of the drill that occurred at their plant where Parish Officials and First Responders were invited and included on May 14, 2024. He highlighted strategic points and a few of their takeaways.

- ***Motion made by Dylan Derbonne and seconded by Jeff Pogue to approve the Final Draft ESF 10 – Haz Mat Plan. On vote, motion carried. Members were provided with a copy prior to the meeting.***

- Discussion

- Patricia White discussed having a communication tree for the working committee when/if an event occurs
- Mary Tarver added to this stating that better/faster communication is needed to inform the ERs in a critical event
- Patricia White- briefly mentioned IV/Saline, Chairman Michiels advised the committee that he plans to discuss with Director Branton the concerns that Mrs. White and Mrs. Tarver mentioned.

Upcoming Drills/Exercises:

- Chairman Michiels recognized Mr. Nick Weiwiorowski, Market Manager to the Committee.
  - Mr. Weiwiorowski explained to the committee where Arkema was located locally and the headquarters.
  - Briefed committee on what Arkema produces, the history of the company, local facility overview of 7591 Esler Field Rd, and what they have given back and provided to local First Responders within the community.
  - Made committee aware of the upcoming planned drill at Arkema on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

New Business:

- Public Comments/Committee Discussion:
  - Chief Hamner with England Airpark Fire Dept. discussed Tabletop exercise on the Airport Emergency Plan November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am.
  - Patricia White advised the committee that LDH/OPH has Narcan available to any agency in need or that what like to have some on hand.
  - LDH/OPH hosting a future Tabletop Exercise, date and location TBD.
  - Chairman Michiels reminded the committee on the importance on committee members being present in the LEPC meeting so that community relations be maintained, and everyone informed.
  - Doug Kramer of NWS would like to be notified when LEPC meetings occur so that he can provide the committee with demonstrations from NWS.
  - Patricia White expressed interest in Proctor & Gamble/Willamette Valley to host the next Drill/Exercise.
  - Dr. Lord with LDH/OPH discussed with the Committee the liquid carbon that will be stored underground in the Rapides/Vernon Parish area. She asked Chaiman Michiels to possible look into gaining more information on this and reaching out to the company to possible address the Rapides LEPC in the future.

No Further Business:

***Motion was made by Brian Johnson and seconded by Jeff Pogue, meeting adjourned.***

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Jeff Michiels, Chairman  
Rapides Parish LEPC

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Greg Timberlake, Vice-Chairman  
Rapides Parish LEPC