

# Rapides Parish Louisiana Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

May 1, 2025

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. Craig Smith, Parish Elected Official; Council Women - Lizzie Felter, City Elected Official; Ms. Mary Tarver, Hospital Official (Christus St. Francis Cabrini); Ms. Patricia White, Public Health- (La. DHH/OPH Official); Mr. Steven Blackwell, Facility Representative- (P&G); Mr. Joey Montalvo, Assistant District Administrator LA DOTD (Transportation); Mr. Joe Hamner (England Airpark Fire Chief); Mr. Roy Rachal, Rapides Parish School Board; Ms. Michele Keys, 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, May 1, 2025, 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, Greg Timberlake, Dylan Derbonne, Mary Tarver, Patricia White, Steven Blackwell, Michelle Keys, Nick Mikulas, James Rougeou, Callie Bates

Absent: Sherry Ledington, Craig Smith, Lizzie Felter, Joe Hamner, Roy Rachal, Brian Johnson, Ryan Spiller, Joey Montalvo, Barrett Dezendorf, Destini Kirkland

Also present: Amanda Fuglaar - Region 6 Healthcare Coalition, Angie Branton - Rapides 911/OEP, Donna Mathews - OPH, Tripp Dungan - Cleco, Michael Vu - OPH, Rebecca Beaman - LDH- OPH, Jamal Jones - Cleco, Teresa Basco – GOHSEP R6, Doug Cramer – NWS,

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 Mrs. White to adopt and approve the minutes of the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 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 the number that still need to report to the local LEPC.
  - Mr. Michiels briefed the committee on any notable incidents reported by LSP within Rapides Parish since the last LEPC Meeting. Discussion was held on February 21, 2025, incident on I-49 MM83 MVA that involved an 18-wheeler resulting in a crude oil spill. Discussion was held regarding the Natural Gas leak in Cottonport on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Presentation:
  - Chairman Michiels recognized Mrs. Donna Mathews with OPH. She gave a demonstration that included slides, and video on Opioids.
  - Chairman Michiels recognized Mr. Doug Cramer of NWS Lake Charles, La. He provided the committee and guests with a review of the 2024 Hurricane Season, and what is predicted for the 2025 Hurricane Season. He also touched on the different weather patterns that have a result in the outcome of the Hurricane Seasons (El Nino, LaNina, and Neutral)
  - Chairman Michiels recognized Nick Mikulas with Cenla Weather. He gave a demonstration to the committee that included brief videos of past storms in and around Central Louisiana that were caught on his network's cameras in advance so that citizens were warned of the potential in advance. He also mentioned the need and locations for additional cameras in the Parish to continue to provide viewers with the most real-time warnings.

Presentation: (continued)

- Chairman Michiels introduced Steven Blackwell with Proctor & Gamble. He provided the Committee and Guests with a power point of the P&G Plant in Pineville.  
This included the number of employees and how often training drills within the facility take place.

Upcoming Drills/Presentations/Exercises:

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- After presentations, Chairman Michiels discussed with Mr. Blackwell and the Committee about local agencies and First Responders participating in their upcoming fall 2025 drill that will be held at the plant.  
Mr. Blackwell welcomed the participation, and further discussions will be held between Chairman Michiels and Mr. Blackwell over the next several months to proceed.
- Public Comments/Discussion
  - No Comments/Discussion

No Further Business,

***Motion was made by Ms. Keys to adjourn meeting.***

  
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Jeff Michiels, Chairman  
Rapides Parish LEPC

  
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Greg Timberlake, Vice-Chairman  
Rapides Parish LEPC