

Rapides Parish Louisiana Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

September 9, 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. Jessica Trichel, Emergency Medical Services(Pafford EMS); Ms. Mary Tarver, Hospital Official (Christus St. Francis Cabrini); Ms. Patricia White, Public Health- (La. DHH/OPH Official); Mr. Steven Blackwell, Private Facility Representative(P&G); Mr. Joey Montalvo, Assistant District Administrator LA DOTD (Transportation); Ms. Destinee Kirkland, Community Group (ARC); Mr. Joe Hamner – Town of Ball; 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(Office of the State Fire Marshall); Barrett Dezendorf, City of Alexandria Water; Tripp Dungan, Private Facility Representative (Cleco); Bobby Byrd, Private Facility Representative (Roy O Martin)

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 Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., for the transaction of business.

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

Present: Jeff Michiels, Sherry Ledington, Greg Timberlake, James Rougeou, Steven Blackwell, Joey Montalvo, Ryan Spiller, Dylan Derbonne, Callie Bates, Joe Hamner, Brian Johnson, Nick Mikulas, Tripp Dungan, Bobby Byrd

Absent: Craig Smith, Lizzie Felter, Destini Kirland, Mary Tarver, Patricia White, Roy Rachel, Michele Keys, Barrett Dezendorf,

Also present: Emily Coutee, Rapides 911, Amanda Fuglaar, Region 6 Healthcare Coalition Teresa Basco, GOHSEP – Region 6, Doug Cramer, NWS- Lake Charles Corey Whitcher, LA DOTD, Steve Buskie, LA DOTD, Evan Saucier, LA DOTD, Justin Moreau, LA DOTD, Jamal Jones, Cleco Bryan Lutz, Cleco, Kendal Perkins, RPSB, Jeff Pogue, Alexandria Fire Jacqueline Green, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Vanessa McNeal, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- La State Senate

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

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

- Mr. Michiels asked for a motion to approve May 1st, 2025, LEPC meeting minutes.
 - ***Motion made by Mr. Dungan and seconded by Mr. Johnson to adopt and approve the minutes of the May 1st, 2025, LEPC Meeting. Members were provided with a copy prior to the meeting.***
- Reports:
 - Mr. Michiels provided the Committee with a Tier II Facility Report update for the 2024 reporting year.
Mr. Michiels advised that 498 facilities have reported with 4 non-reporting facilities from Rapides Parish to Rapides Parish LEPC. This number is based on the number of facilities that report to the State in Rapides Parish.
- Mr. Michiels briefed the committee on any notable incidents reported by LSP within Rapides Parish since the last LEPC Meeting. Notable incidents are as follows.
 - Incident on I-49 MM74 MVA that involved an 18-wheeler resulting in a crude oil spill.
 - Residential Gas leak – home was evacuated.
 - 3 train vs. pedestrian events
 - Train Fire in Forest Hill
- Presentation:
 - Chairman Michiels recognized Mr. Doug Cramer of NWS Lake Charles, La. He provided briefing to the committee of where we are in Hurricane Season 2025. In addition to new technology – google deep mind tropical model and incorporating AI into weather models.
 - Chairman Michiels recognized Joey Montalvo with LA DOTD. He introduced Justin Moreau with LA DOTD. He gave a demonstration to the committee that included slides and literature of the Hwy 167/Hwy 165 road improvements, detour maps, and timeline to complete the project.

Upcoming Drills/Presentations/Exercises:

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- After presentations, Chairman Michiels introduced Mr. Steven Blackwell with P&G to brief the committee and guest of the planned November 2025 Caer drill that will be held at the plant.

Mr. Blackwell gave a slide presentation of drill based on the last one that was held in 2024 as well as a map of the plant for staging locations. Many agencies that are on the committee plan to participate in this event once the date is confirmed.

- Public Comments/Discussion
 - No Comments/Discussion

No Further Business,

- Mr. Michiels asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mr. Spiller to adjourn meeting.



Jeff Michiels, Chairman
Rapides Parish LEPC



Greg Timberlake, Vice-Chairman
Rapides Parish LEPC