

Rapides Parish Louisiana Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

September 28, 2026

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. Rebecca Beaman, 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); Thai Bryan, City of Alexandria Water; Tripp Dungan, Private Facility Representative (Cleco); Bobby Byrd, Private Facility Representative (Roy O Martin) Nick Mikulas, (Cenla Weather)

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 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., for the transaction of business.

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

Present: Callie Bates, Rebecca Beaman, Dylan Derbonne, Lizzie Felter, Joe Hamner, Brian Johnson, Destini Kirland, Sherry Ledington, Joe Montalvo, Roy Rachel, Mary Tarver, Greg Timberlake, Jessica Trichel

Absent: Steven Blackwell, Thai Bryan, Bobby Byrd, Tripp Dungan, Michele Keys, Nick Mikulas, James Rougeou, Craig Smith, Ryan Spiller,

Also present: Gail Adams – Applied Digital, Curtis Fogleman - City of Alexandria Water, Cole Vanderlick – City of Alexandria Gas, Doug Cramer, NWS, Lake Charles

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 June 30th, 2026, LEPC meeting minutes.
 - ***Motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Rachel to adopt and approve the minutes of the June 30th, 2026, 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 2025 reporting year.
- Mr. Michiels briefed the committee on incidents reported by LSP within Rapides Parish since the last LEPC Meeting. Notable incidents are as follows.
 - 4 Notable Incidents LSP since the last LEPC Meeting.
 - Mr. Michiels briefed the committee on notable incidents, reviewing reported hazardous materials (Hazmat) incidents and other significant situations that have occurred since the previous LEPC meeting on June 30, 2026.
- New Business:
 - **Presentation-** Chairman Michiels recognized Mr. Doug Cramer of NWS, Lake Charles.
 - Mr. Cramer presented the committee with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the current expectations for the remainder of the 2026 hurricane season. He also presented a map depicting the predicted weather conditions for Rapides Parish during the upcoming winter months of 2026–2027. The presentation included a discussion of El Niño and La Niña weather patterns and their historical effects on weather conditions across the United States.
 - **Discussion** - Chairman Michiels informed the committee that he has been working with LERC to update the Rapides LEPC By-Laws. He will keep the committee informed of the progress and anticipates presenting the revised By-Laws at the 4th Quarter 2026 LEPC meeting.

- New Business – Continued:
 - Chairman Michiels informed the committee of the upcoming Arkema Drill Planning Meeting scheduled for October 13th. The meeting will focus on discussing the logistics and coordination of the full-scale drill, which is planned to take place in the following weeks. The specific date for the drill will be determined at a later time.
- Current Activities- Demonstration/Discussion:
 - Chairman Michiels introduced Ms. Gail Adams with Applied Digital, the AI data center located at 15 James Road in Boyce, Louisiana. Ms. Adams provided the committee with a briefing on the facility's day-to-day operations, potential hazards present on-site, and emergency considerations. She will also present a PowerPoint showing the current layout of the campus, as well as the anticipated layout and development of the facility upon completion.
- Public Comments/Discussion – Continued:
 - No comments/Discussion
- No Further Business,
 - ❖ Mr. Michiels asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Rachel to adjourn meeting.

Jeff Michiels, Chairman
Rapides Parish LEPC

Greg Timberlake, Vice-Chairman
Rapides Parish LEPC