



**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
HAZMATTERS**



The Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee met Thursday, February 26th, 2026, at 9:30 AM (EST) in-person at Charlotte County Public Safety PSB-221 Training Room A 26571 Airport Road Punta Gorda, FL 33982 and online via Zoom. The following topics were discussed:

Meeting Minutes of November 20th, 2025, Meeting Minutes

LEPC Membership Nominations

There were 17 LEPC Member nominations this quarter:

1. Michael Shaw, Collier County Department of Emergency Management
2. Battalion Chief Shane Styza, Charlotte County Fire and EMS
3. Rachel Ingel, City of Sarasota Emergency Management
4. Deputy Chief of Fire and Special Operations Andrew Schmidt, Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue
5. Battalion Chief Robert Smith, North Collier Fire and Rescue
6. Fire Chief Eloy Ricardo, North Collier Fire and Rescue
7. Battalion Chief Adam Inlow, City of North Port Fire Rescue
8. Lieutenant Terry McCloud, City of North Port Fire Rescue
9. Fire Chief Lawrence Factor, Glades County Fire Department
10. Fire Chief Amy Stafford, Felda Volunteer Fire Department, Montura-Flaghole Volunteer Fire Rescue, Pioneer Plantation Volunteer Fire Department
11. Division Chief of Safety/Training & EMS Brian Angelson, South Trail Fire Protection and Rescue Service District
12. Captain Shawn Robinson, South Trail Fire Protection and Rescue Service District
13. Rafael Pita, Glades County EMS
14. E. J. Landrith, Operations Manager, Emergency Management Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center
15. McKenzie Gerber, Sarasota Memorial Hospital
16. Tammy Myrick, ES Integrated
17. Kenny Cook, ES Integrated

Asmaa Odeh stated that she will continue to promote regional collaboration among stakeholders. Best practices, such as the Florida State Emergency Response Commission Policies for Local Emergency Planning Committees shared with LEPC members as well as the current list of membership. Members asked to review LEPC membership list to streamline communications.

Presentation

Southwest Florida Brownfields

LEPC Meeting Schedule and Locations

- May 28th, 2026 – City of Marco Island Fire and Rescue

FDEM TTF/LEPC/SERC Meeting

TTF

- Hazmat Team Assessments Update
- Offshore Hazmat Program updates
- Florida State Fire College
- Hazmat Symposium Updates

LEPC

- HMEP Grant Discussion

SERC

- Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) Appointments approved
- Thomas Yatabe-SERC Award Nominations and Certificates of Appreciation

Next Scheduled Meeting – April 9-10 ,2026, Saint Augustine, FL.

Southwest Florida HMEP

The purpose of the HMEP Grant Program is to increase State, territorial, tribal and local effectiveness in safely and efficiently handling hazardous materials accidents and incidents, enhance implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), and encourage a comprehensive approach to emergency training and planning by incorporating the unique challenges of responses to transportation situations. The intent of this Grant is to fulfil the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Grant Requirements, provide training to first responders, and planning support for hazmat transportation related accidents/incidents. This grant agreement is a Federal pass-through grant agreement, with the Florida Division of Emergency Management being the pass-through agency SWFRPC and the grant recipient serving as the sub-recipient.

Training is provided to first responders and LEPC staff to ensure training of public sector HazMat response personnel for transportation related spills, releases and/or fires. Training category courses will consist of all courses listed on Attachment I PHMSA Pre-Approved Training List.

Regional appointments for each county:

- **Charlotte County:** Chief Shane Styza, Charlotte County Fire & EMS
- **Collier County:** Deputy Chief Matthew Marshall, City of Marco Island Fire
- **Glades County:** Chief Lawrence Factor, Glades County Fire Department
- **Hendry County:** Bob Pasutual and Adrian Damms, Hendry County Emergency Management; Chief Brent Stevens, City of LaBelle Fire Department
- **Lee County:** Division Chief Todd Poland, Fort Myers Fire Department
- **Sarasota County:** Captain Johnny Rigney, Special Operations Training, Sarasota County Fire Department; Rachel Ingel, City of Sarasota Emergency Management

FDEM Specialty Response Teams Capability Assessment Program

The Specialty Response Teams Capability Assessment Program's (SRTCAP) Self-Assessment Tool is designed to support specialty response teams in evaluating their operational readiness, capabilities, and

alignment with FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS) resource typing definitions. By following a structured, objective review of personnel qualifications, equipment inventories, deployment logistics, and operational standards, this tool enables HazMat teams to measure their current capacity against nationally recognized benchmarks for each team type (Type III – Type I). The Self-Assessment and follow-on on-site assessment are administrative assessments only. Future operational exercises will complete the view of the team's total capabilities.

The primary goal is to provide a realistic snapshot of each team's strengths, identify areas for growth, and guide targeted improvements. These assessments inform planning, enhance interagency coordination, and support requests for mutual aid or State and Federal deployment.

Five HazMat Departments in the Region:

1. **Charlotte County**
2. **Cape Coral**
3. **North Collier**
4. **Fort Myers**
5. **Sarasota County**

Regional Training Needs Assessment

- a) Utilize an Assessment Survey Questionnaire (approved by the Division), to ascertain the response needs of known response entities for Extremely Hazardous Substances in the region. The survey should include, but is not limited to existing:
 1. Need for hazardous materials response equipment.
 2. Need for specific hazardous materials response training courses/activities.
 3. Need for additional hazardous materials trained personnel, including level of expertise.
- b) Submit a list of agencies that will be targeted to receive the Training Needs Assessment Survey.
- c) Distribute the Training Needs Assessment Survey package to public sector first-responders within the LEPC region.
- d) Prepare and submit to the Division a report of the findings and data collected, including any recommendations regarding the assessment(s) or survey(s).
- e) Incorporate the results of this Planning Project into the annual update of the LEPC's Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan.

LEPC/FDEM Offshore Hazardous Materials Training

Purpose: Train Florida Hazmat teams on basic shipboard operations and response in a hazmat environment

- 3 Day course: classroom / shipboard practical / indoor swim component
- Maritime dangers and procedures in a hazardous material environment
- Jacob's ladder / recon of ship for life safety / hazmat recon
- USCG Capt of the Port coordination / Incident Command System integration
- Up to 12 students per class. 6 per team or 3 teams of 4/can be adjusted based upon teams
 - Target audience qualified Florida Hazmat technicians
 - Skilled Rigger for at least 1 team member requested. Course will involve life safety patient transfer off ship
- Funded by Nova University and the Florida Division of Emergency Management

- Located at the Resolve Marine Academy Ft Lauderdale, Florida
- Instructor CEU's from the State Fire College
- Contact your Local Emergency Planning Committee liaison

2026 Hazmat Symposium

January 13th -16th 2026 Daytona, FL

- 13 first responders participated
- Sarasota County Fire Department (SCFD) placed 3rd in HazMat Competition

Tier II & E-Plan

March 1st filing deadline and including electronic submission to SWFL LEPC include Fire District

Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Trainings & Events

Hazardous Materials Incidents in Southwest Florida

Topics for Future Meetings:

OSHA

TECO

Member Comments: *Regional Roundtable*

Public Comment

Next Meeting: *May 28th, 2026, Location: City of Marco Island*

Adjournment