



*BALDWIN COUNTY LEPC
FULL BODY MEETING
CENTRAL ANNEX, ROBERTSDALE
DECEMBER 16, 2024*

I. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) called the meeting to order at 10:43 am, welcomed everyone, and then asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Michelle then gave a Tier 2 report and a National Response Center report: There are 101 Tier 2 reports so far in Baldwin County (four (4) of those were submitted to BCEMA, 97 were submitted online via E-Plan). As of December 13, 2024, there are no National Response Center incidents so far in December, and as of this meeting, two (2) for the year. One occurred in March. The other occurred in July.

Attendees:

Raphaela Ahmed, Alabama Department of Human Resources
Sabrina Arnette, Thomas Hospital
Krystal Bodiford, City of Foley
Lisa Bush, North Baldwin Infirmary
Brian Christensen, Army National Guard
46 Civilian Support Team
Easton Colvin, Gulf Shores Orange Beach Tourism
Bradley Cooper, ADPH-EP SW District
Erik Cortinas, City of Fairhope
Joshua C. Crocker, Spanish Fort Fire Rescue
Joey Darby, Foley Fire
Tony Dickey, Disaster Victim Services
Natascha Dilley, BCEMA
Deborah Leigh Dixon, ADPH
Samuel B. Farley, Jr., Community Action Agency
Tiffany Givens, Baldwin County Commission
Brent Goodwin, BCEMA
Doug Hatten, BCEMA
Marlin Headley, Army National Guard
46 Civilian Support Team
David Heinig, Gulf Shores Methodist Church / VOAD

Elizabeth Hieb, NOAA Disaster Preparedness
Steven Huff, AEMA
Jenny Kilpatrick, ADPH
Shannon Krebs, Infirmary Health - Malbis
Christopher McCain, Summerdale Fire
Corey McCain, Summerdale Fire
Madison McCain, Town of Summerdale
Miranda McKinnon, Foley Fire
Kay Maghan, Gulf Shores Orange Beach Tourism
Bruce Nelson, Orange Beach Fire
Anna Odom, ADPH
Michelle Pennington, BCEMA
Noah Powell, Summerdale Fire
Robert Quates, BCEMA
Deann Servos, Prodissee Pantry
Barbara Shoemaker, ADPH
Joe Staska, Daphne Fire
Amanda Thweatt, BCEMA
Jessica Wade, ADPH
Caleb Williams, AEMA
David Wilson, City of Foley
David Wilson, Town of Summerdale

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The September 16, 2024, Full Body minutes were up for approval. Bradley Cooper (ADPH) made a motion to approve the minutes. Joe Staska (Daphne Fire) seconded the motion. The present members were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION

o Bylaws Revision

Michelle Pennington (BCEMA) summarized the need for the LEPC's bylaws to be revised. She pointed out that the updated bylaws are a product of the Bylaw Committee, thanked them for their efforts, and summarized the changes that were made for the current bylaws. An opportunity was given for attendees to express comments, ask questions, and the like. Following this discussion and comment period, Joe Staska (Daphne Fire) made a motion to approve the bylaws. David Heinig (Gulf Shores Methodist Church / VOAD) seconded the motion, and all present approved.

o 2025 Meeting Topics / Speaker Suggestions

The following were given as suggestions for the 2025 Full Body meeting speakers:

- A representative from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)
- Speakers with expertise in a variety of Lithium-ion battery topics
- A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
- A representative from the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

o ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (ADEM)

No report today.

o ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (AEMA)

No report today.

o BALDWIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (BCEMA)

Tom Tyler, Director, reported that Brent Goodwin, Logistics Division Manager, will be leaving BCEMA shortly before Christmas to join Baldwin 911. Tom also recommended that an Exercise Committee be developed as a standing committee for upcoming exercises. He also recognized the Alabama Army National Guard Civil Support Team as guests.

o FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No report today.

o FINANCE

Michelle Pennington (BCEMA) reported that LEPC has \$10,193.08 in its account. Joe Staska (Daphne Fire) made a motion to approve this report. Multiple attendees seconded the motion. All present approved, and the motion passed.

o FIRST RESPONDERS/HAZMAT

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) stated that exercises are a priority and that he wants to focus on the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) for the next one (2025-2026), working with local, state, and federal partners. As such, he affirmed Tom's recommendation regarding the development of an Exercise Committee. Chief also reported that he and Tom met with Commissioner

McKenzie and Frank Lundy (County Engineer) to talk about the results of the Train Derailment Hazardous Materials Exercise After Action Report (AAR). Chief said the meeting went well and that he is looking forward to more meetings with them. A result of this meeting is that Chief has plans to speak at a Baldwin County Commission meeting early in the year. Tom elaborated on Chief's comments by stating LEPC will eventually be asking for support, cooperation, and money from the Commission, since hazardous materials safety is a county-wide issue.

- HEALTH AND MEDICAL

Bradley Cooper (ADPH) reported that a utility interruption exercise is coming up.

Anna Odom (ADPH) reported that a Healthcare Coalition sponsored CARES Workplace Violence Training is coming up and to look for a flyer with more information.

Shannon Krebs (Infirmary Health – Malbis) reported that the flu is not too bad this year, however, they are seeing some cases of COVID.

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) reported that South Baldwin Regional Medical Center is now officially Baldwin Health. He also reported that Thomas Hospital is making additions to its hospital as well.

- INDUSTRY

No report today.

- MILITARY

No report today.

- SCHOOL SYSTEMS

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) reported that there are construction and expansion projects going on all over the county.

- TOURISM

Kay Maghan (GSOBT) reported that Gulf Shores and Orange Beach are expecting 10% occupancy next week, 20% occupancy Christmas week, and 40% occupancy in January. She also reported that The Hangout's new concert series sold out in two (2) hours; that the spring break schedule is on the Gulf Shores Orange Beach Tourism website; and during the last 18 months, 1,000 units have been added.

- TRANSPORTATION

No report today.

- UTILITIES

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) reported that Riviera Utilities is getting out of the broadband business and they are working on a new water plant.

- VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER (VOAD)

Miranda McKinnon (Foley Fire / VOAD Chair) reported that the next VOAD meeting is January 30, 2025, at 10:00 am at Prodissee Pantry. She reminded everyone that meetings are quarterly and at different locations this year in an effort to get more people involved. She also stated that it has been a busy season due to helping other areas.

Deann Servos (Prodissee Pantry) reported that the Pantry is seeing a client swell of greater than 25% due to the holidays. She also stated that the Pantry is partnering with other agencies to provide Christmas to those in need.

Ann McCool (American Red Cross) reported that the American Red Cross has assisted 200 individuals since July, contributed \$30,000 to victims, and that the area has had 40 fires since July. She then reminded everybody that the Red Cross helps with fire assistance.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Introduction of LEPC Officers for Term Beginning January 1, 2025
The LEPC Officers for the upcoming term were officially introduced to the Full Body. They are:
 - Chair: Chief Joey Darby (Foley Fire)
 - Vice Chair: Christopher McCain (Summerdale Fire)
 - Secretary / Treasurer: Michelle Pennington (BCEMA)

The Baldwin County Commission voted to approve Chief Darby's new term as Chair.

- E-Vehicle and Lithium-ion Subcommittee Update
Joe Staska (Daphne Fire) reported that nationwide issues with failing batteries are increasing but so are the studies. As such, our subcommittee is trying to educate the population on safety. He said that a lot of the information the subcommittee is pushing out to the public is from FDNY. Joe stated that the subcommittee is focusing its efforts on Face Book posts and encouraging folks to share posts. He stated that, thanks to Jessica Waters (BCEMA), they are getting a good foothold on that objective.

Joe reported, too, that the subcommittee has discussed involving the press and other members of the media more, especially during the holiday season.

Tesla numbers are increasing in Baldwin County, which presents time, effort, and other challenges to fire departments.

Kay Maghan (GSOBT) requested an e-bike tip sheet that she could post on the Gulf Shores Orange Beach Tourism website.

- Novelis Site Visit Report-out
Chief Darby (Foley Fire) reported that Novelis is large - housing 63 acres under one roof. The site has 800 workers in construction now, and another 800 staff will be added when the facility is complete. Novelis will have assets on-site to deal with hazardous materials issues, but the company mentioned that responses to such incidents will also involve county resources. The primary product of this facility is aluminum cans.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michelle Pennington (BCEMA) announced the upcoming meeting dates, which can be found below, and noted that the March Full Body meeting will be at the Emergency Operation Center's Upstairs Training Room, not the Central Annex.

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) invited anyone interested to attend the upcoming Steering Committee meeting. He also wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy holiday season.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Following a prayer by Tony Dickey (DVS), the meeting adjourned to lunch at 11:43 am.

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to today's potluck lunch!

Resources of Interest

[https://baldwincountyal.gov/departments/emergency-management-agency/ema-training/get-involved/local-emergency-planning-committee-\(lepc\)](https://baldwincountyal.gov/departments/emergency-management-agency/ema-training/get-involved/local-emergency-planning-committee-(lepc)) (detailed information about LEPC – Community Right to Know, etc)

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/documents/guide_to_epcra.pdf (the new, helpful guide for the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act mentioned above)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

LEPC Steering Committee Meeting / January 8, 2025 / 10:00 am / Hybrid

LEPC Full Body Meeting / March 17, 2025 / 10:30 am / EOC

