



*BALDWIN COUNTY LEPC
FULL BODY MEETING
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER,
ROBERTSDALE
MARCH 17, 2025*

I. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) called the meeting to order at 10:46 am, welcomed everyone, and then asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. (This meeting was a little later starting than usual due to a wreck that occurred outside the EOC.) Michelle Pennington (BCEMA) then gave a Tier 2 report and a National Response Center (NRC) report: There are 79 Tier 2 reports so far in Baldwin County (nine (9) of those were submitted to BCEMA, 70 were submitted online via E-Plan). As of March 13, 2025, there are no NRC incidents so far in March, and as of this meeting, none for the year. (Note: Natascha Dilley (BCEMA) has since found out that BCEMA is somehow off the list for receiving the NRC reports. She is working to resolve that issue.)

Attendees:

Sabrina Arnette, Thomas Hospital ED
Krystal Bodiford, City of Foley
Lisa Bush, North Baldwin Infirmary
Patrick Coleman, US Coast Guard
Easton Colvin, Gulf Shores Orange Beach
Tourism
Joshua Crocker, Spanish Fort Fire Rescue
Vernon Dandridge, BCEMA
Joey Darby, Foley Fire
Duskin Deichl, US Coast Guard
Natascha Dilley, BCEMA
Chris Hicks, Brett / Robinson
Jackie Kearney, SARPC Volunteer
Shannon Krebs, Malbis ED

Michael Ludvigsen, Retired
Miranda McKinnon, Foley Fire / VOAD
Kay Maghan, Gulf Shores Orange Beach
Tourism
Michelle Pennington, BCEMA
Deann Servos, Prodissee Pantry
Danon Smith, BCEMA
Stephen Sullivan, Riviera Utilities
Amanda Thweatt, BCEMA
Kirk Toth, DHS / CISA
Tom Tyler, BCEMA
John K. Wade, LASAR
David Wilson, City of Foley
Jessica Waters, BCEMA

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The December 16, 2024, Full Body minutes were up for approval. Easton Colvin (Gulf Shores Orange Beach Tourism) made a motion to approve the minutes. Patrick Coleman (USCG) seconded the motion. The present members were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

III. GUEST SPEAKER: FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force Representative (Confirmed but did not show)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (ADEM)

No report today.

- ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (AEMA)
Steve Huff reported that the last couple of months have been unusually busy – the winter storm and the spring storms have taxed the agency’s resources. Per Chief Darby (Foley Fire), the Alabama Fire Chief’s Association and AEMA have a good system for moving resources, if needed.
- BALDWIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (BCEMA)
Tom Tyler, Director, reported that this past Friday was Doug Hatten’s last day and that adjustments are in place for his position (Operations Division Manager).

Kirk Toth (DHS / CISA) extended an offer to Tom to help with exercises. This offer led to a discussion about exercises and training in general. And Chief Darby (Foley Fire) commented that when he was in DC last week, he was able to have face time with our Congressional leaders about the importance of programs at the local level.

- FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
David Wilson (City of Foley) commented that today’s speaker confirmed twice with him and that he could not explain the no show issue. He did note that the Joint Terrorism Task Force’s mission has changed somewhat and they are currently working with ICE. He then gave a brief synopsis of the Joint Terrorism Task Force.
- FINANCE
Michelle Pennington (BCEMA) reported that LEPC has \$9,638.84 in its account.
- FIRST RESPONDERS/HAZMAT
Chief Darby (Foley Fire) reported that the south part of the county is scheduling some additional hazmat training to stay fresh.
- HEALTH AND MEDICAL
Sabrina Arnette (Infirmary Health – Thomas) reported that Thomas Hospital broke ground on a new tower. The expected completion date is 2026.

Shannon Krebs (Infirmary Health – Malbis) reported that the hospital’s sexual assault program has started. Currently, the hours of operation for that program are 8:00 am-8:00 pm, but soon the program will run 24 / 7. More information will be available in April, which is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

- INDUSTRY
No report today.
- MILITARY
No report today.
- SCHOOL SYSTEMS
No report today.
- TOURISM

Kay Maghan (GSOBT) and Easton Colvin (GSOBT) reported that occupancy is at 50% this week, 70% next week, and 40% in April. They stated that snowbirds are staying weeks instead of months and travelling to other destinations.

- TRANSPORTATION

No report today.

- UTILITIES

Stephen Sullivan (Riviera Utilities) reported they were doing cybersecurity training for their IT people.

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) reported that e-scooters are not slowing down. He had talks with Congressional leaders about tight regulations needed for lithium-ion batteries. In the course of that conversation, he received a lot of blank stares. He also added that there is a need for fire extinguishment resources for lithium-ion batteries.

Chief Ludvigsen (Retired) stated the need to address younger folks on motorized vehicles they're not trained to handle. This situation is leading to accidents.

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) reported that a solar farm in Foley is underway and that it is something to the tune of \$180,000. This solar farm is not using an Energy Storage Systems (ESS).

- VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER (VOAD)

Miranda McKinnon (Foley Fire / VOAD) thanked the following for their efforts during this past weekend's severe weather event: Michelle with Sea Glass, Deann Servos with Paradise Pantry, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Foley), and Fairhope United Methodist Church (Fairhope). She then stated that more Safer Places are needed at the north and south ends of the county. The next VOAD meeting is April 17, 2025.

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) announced Miranda's departure from Foley Fire and the area is coming soon.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Potential Hazardous Materials Exercise 2026

Patrick Coleman (USCG) explained that every year the Coast Guard is required to do an exercise – a table top that leads into a full scale exercise (FSE). The FSE is in the planning phase. The USCG is reviewing the chemicals that come through the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). He then talked about an incident that occurred in Mississippi in 2018. Patrick said he would like to start planning this summer and have the exercise during the spring or summer of 2026. At this time, the Coast Guard could grow and receive additional funding.

- Discussion of Next Opportunity for an Exercise

The ICW is a great place to have an exercise: Lulu's, The Wharf, the airport, and possibly four (4) bridges – with one of those being a pedestrian bridge. Patrick went on to say that the Coast Guard would like to involve Gulf Shores Orange Beach Tourism, Healthcare, and others and invited them to attend the concept meeting. The Coast Guard depends on who they can bring in. At the same time, it needs to be specific with members of the Planning Team. As far as players go, it's wide open. There may be opportunities for training beforehand.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Wilson (City of Foley) reported that the Safe Room was approved, and they hope to start building it soon. This Safe Room will house 200 responders – Foley as well as community partners. Funding was a 90 / 10 split between FEMA and the City of Foley, respectively.

Jessica Waters (BCEMA) reported that there will be a Beach Safe Media Briefing on May 19, 2025. She also announced that the Stay Alert publications are in.

Michelle Pennington (BCEMA) announced the upcoming meeting dates, which can be found below, and noted that the April Steering Committee meeting date has been changed from April 9, 2025, to April 16, 2025.

Steve Huff (AEMA) reported that he does not know how the FEMA cuts will impact states and local governments. We may go back to state run disasters, which cuts the middle man out. (Alabama is the only state that has done this before, and it worked well.) This set up plays into LEPCs and VOADs. We do not have Hazard Mitigation money right now, but \$1 million has been allocated to the Alabama Emergency Management Fund. The initial plan is to make states more reliant on themselves instead of the federal government. We will know more in about three (3) to four (4) months. With respect to training, in-person training at Emmitsburg has been stopped / is on pause.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned to lunch at 11:58 am.

Special thanks to Novelis for sponsoring today's lunch from Buster's BBQ!

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 / April 16, 2025 / 10:00 am / Hybrid

LEPC Full Body Meeting / June 16, 2025 / 10:30 am / EOC

