



*BALDWIN COUNTY LEPC  
LEPC MEETING  
FOLEY CIVIC CENTER, FOLEY  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024*

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I. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) called the meeting to order at 10:40 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 September 12, 2024, there are no National Response Center incidents so far in September, and as of this meeting, two (2) for the year. One occurred in March. The other occurred in July.

Attendees:

Michael A. Aaron, Summerdale Fire Rescue	Bruce Nelson, Orange Beach Fire Rescue
Chad Brewer, Foley Fire	Anna Odom, ADPH
Tony Burke, Gateswood VFD	Gary Patrick, Retired
Easton Colvin, Gulf Shores Orange Beach Tourism	Michelle Pennington, BCEMA
Bradley Cooper, ADPH-SW District EP	Brian Phelan, American Red Cross
Joey Darby, Foley Fire	Robert Quates, BCEMA
Natascha Dilley, BCEMA	Angelia Simonton, Novelis
Brent Goodwin, BCEMA	Danon Smith, BCEMA
Edie Harville, South Baldwin Regional Medical Center	Stephen Sullivan, Riviera Utilities
David Heinig, Gulf Shores Methodist / VOAD	Tom Tyler, BCEMA
Larry Heinz, Diversicare of Foley	Jessica Wade, ADPH
Tommy Herndon, Diversicare of Foley	John K. Wade, LASAR
Ray Hogans, AARS / LASAR	James Wallace, Riviera Utilities
David Kelly, ADPH	George Waller, American Red Cross
Jenny Kilpatrick, ADPH	Aaron Ward, South Baldwin Regional Medical Center
Wendy Longmire, SARPC Volunteer	Jessica Waters, BCEMA
Christopher McCain, Summerdale Fire Rescue	Valerie Wiggins, SARPC Volunteer
Miranda McKinnon, Foley Fire	David Wilson, City of Foley

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The June 10, 2024, Full Body minutes were up for approval. Ray Hogans (LASAR) made a motion to approve the minutes. David Heinig (Gulf Shores Methodist Church / VOAD) seconded the motion. The present members were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

III. GUEST SPEAKERS: Joe Campbell, Kevin Wilson, and Sawyer McMillan (Baldwin EMC): Electrical Hazards of Generators

The Baldwin EMC crew enlightened us on the electrical hazards associated with using a portable generator and how to prevent them. They are as follows:

Hazard	Definition	Cause	Results	Suggested Solution
<b>Backfeeding</b>	When the current is traveling in a direction it normally doesn't	Improper hook up	1. Generator can catch fire 2. Utility workers can be severely injured or killed tending to downed power lines	Genolink – a product that can prevent backfiring
<b>Carbon Monoxide Poisoning</b>	Breathing in large amounts of carbon monoxide, which is a colorless, odorless gas	Improper use of a generator	1. Illness 2. Death	Keep and use in a well-ventilated area
<b>Fire</b>		Spilled gas while refueling	1. Property damage 2. Injury 3. Death	Shut off generator while refueling

The group concluded by stating that if the public notices an improperly hooked up generator, then those individuals need to contact Baldwin EMC, the Police Department, or the Fire Department. It is illegal for generators to be hooked up improperly.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (ADEM)  
No report today.
- ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (AEMA)  
No report today.
- BALDWIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (BCEMA)  
Tom Tyler, Director, reported that in the wake of Hurricane Francine, BCEMA is interested in feedback on its new methods of messaging. He also reminded everyone that VEOCI is not public. Please do not share information that is on VEOCI. Tom mentioned, too, that the agency is refining its Safer Places program.

Danon Smith, Deputy Director, reminded everyone that the National Weather Service (NWS) is the agency's primary source of weather. She then reported that staffing is down throughout the NWS and advocated for funding. She also encouraged tours of NWS Mobile.

In response to Tom's request for messaging feedback, Brian Phelan (American Red Cross) commented that the messaging was timely, effective, and concise.

- FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No report today.

- FINANCE

Michelle Pennington (BCEMA) reported that LEPC has \$10,150.54 in its account. Ray Hogans (AARS / LASAR) made a motion to approve this report. George Waller (American Red Cross) seconded the motion. All present approved, and the motion passed.

- FIRST RESPONDERS/HAZMAT

Chris McCain (Summerdale Fire) announced that on October 24, 2024, Summerdale Fire will host two (2) sessions of Traffic Incident Management (TIMs) training.

Ray Hogans (AARS / LASAR) announced that the AARS Conference will take place November 7, 8, and 9, 2024, at the Orange Beach Events Center, and a FEMA Disaster Preparedness and Survival course taught by TEEEX will also be in Orange Beach on November 7 and 8. To sign up, go to [alars.org](http://alars.org).

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) stated he was pleased to have the level of support from the first responders that occurred during the hazmat exercise.

- HEALTH AND MEDICAL

Anna Odom (ADPH) reported that ADPH will hold an exercise in the spring.

Aaron Ward (South Baldwin Regional Medical Center) reported that the new tower will open around late October.

Tommy Herndon (Diversicare of Foley) reported that Diversicare of Foley is working on a Hazard Vulnerability Assessment.

- INDUSTRY

Angelia Simonton (Novelis) reported that Novelis will be opening at the end of 2026. She also reported that the plant utilizes two weather alert systems: Thorguard, which has the capability to predict lightning, and the Weatherbug app. She further stated that tornado shelters are on site.

- MILITARY

No report today.

- SCHOOL SYSTEMS

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) discussed the incident at Foley High School. Foley High School currently has about 1600 students. He stated the response from the responders and the School Board were excellent, and the kids and teachers did what they were supposed to do. The After Action Report comes out later this week.

- TOURISM

Easton Colvin (GSOBT) reported that Gulf Shores and Orange Beach are experiencing 45% occupancy and that it would be that way for the next 90 days. He also stated that the number of bodies was the same if not more.

- TRANSPORTATION

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) commented that CSX is a great partner and that he appreciated their help for the hazmat exercise.

- UTILITIES

Stephen Sullivan (Riviera Utilities) made announcements regarding Coastal Cleanup and OWA's Safety Day. He also reported that capital projects have been approved for the water ways.

- VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER (VOAD)

George Waller (American Red Cross) reported that he just got back from Mississippi.

Chief Darby (Foley Fire) reported that this year's Fire Safety campaign in October is about smoke alarms.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Full Scale Hazardous Materials Exercise Recap (Multiple people reported)

A draft After Action Report (AAR) will be presented to the Baldwin County Commission. The AAR contains approximately 10-12 pages of things we as a county need to improve on.

To review: The Baldwin County Commission approved matching funds to go into a \$50,000 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant that was awarded to LEPC. The goal of the exercise was to find gaps in response. LEPC contracted with The HazMat Guys (FDNY) to develop a good, reasonable, comprehensive plan. CSX gave the initial railcar training and provided other resources for the exercise. Communications, Baldwin 911, and local responders were tested with respect to gathering resources, working together, and handling the scenario.

The final two paragraphs of the AAR were positive, stating, "collaboration exceeded expectations, and the group can respond and communicate effectively."

Great participation from the fire departments.

A special word of thanks was expressed for the Exercise Planning Team.

This marks the start of the county preparing and planning for the next exercise and / or event.

- Approval Vote: Farm Fresh Meats Expenses (\$400.00) for December Meeting

Ray Hogans (AARS / LASAR) made a motion to approve the \$400.00 for meat for the December meeting. Easton Colvin (GSOBT) seconded the motion. All present approved, and the motion passed.

- Officer Election Process In Progress: Nomination Period Closes at 4:30 pm, September 17, 2024

Michelle Pennington (BCEMA) reminded everyone of the announcement listed above and encouraged everyone to make their nominations. She also explained the voting process past that.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michelle Pennington (BCEMA) announced the upcoming meeting dates, which can be found below. She also reported that next year's meeting schedule is in the works and that a draft of the updated bylaws should be ready by the December meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned to lunch at 11:40 am.

*Special thanks to South Baldwin Regional Medical Center for sponsoring today's lunch from Chick-fil-a!*

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](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 / September 18, 2024 / 10:00 am / Hybrid*

*LEPC Full Body Meeting / December 16, 2024 / 10:30 am / Central Annex*

