



**ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2024**

**Welcome & Self-Introductions**

- Meeting Started at 9:09 a.m. by Elgin Browning
- Quorum determined by Elgin Browning
- **Present Voting members:**  
Acadian Ambulance, Arlanxeo, Baptist Hospital of S.E. TX, Chem 32, Chevron Phillips, Dow, Golden Triangle Polymers, Industrial Rescue, Lion Elastomers, Orange County Emergency Management, Orion Engineered Carbons, Syensqo
- **Present non-voting members:**  
CERT, Christus Orange, Ham Radio/CERT, Orangefield ISD, SETRPC, TDEM, Veolia
- Moment of Silence in Honor of the 2,977 victims of September 11, 2001.

**July 2024 meeting minutes approval:**

**Motion:** Jerry Ziller; **Second:** Stephen Tew; **Motion carried.**

**Approval of March and April Treasurer’s Report:**

Expenditures; \$4,371.36	Income; \$2,050.00	Balance \$48,328.59.
<b>Motion:</b> Stephen Tew;	<b>Second:</b> Oscar Almaguer;	<b>Motion carried.</b>

**Committee Reports:**

**Communications** - L. George (not present) – No Report

**Warning Signs/ warning signs** upgrade - Regius Guillory  
All signs are currently functioning properly. Something has hit the sign at FM 1006 @ Hwy 87 but was fixed yesterday. Elgin sent paperwork to have GTP sponsor purchasing signs. We will also be looking into applying for the TCEQ grant.

**CERT** - Lori Nash - No report

**Bylaws** - Robert Crane (not present) - No Report

**Planning/Programs** - Stephen Tew - Pat Grimes with STAN will present today.

**Membership** - Elgin Browning - No report

**Public Health** - Sandee White (not present)

**Industry Group** - Jerry Ziller – No Report

**TDEM** - Lathan Gould – ICS classes are scheduled for September.

**News/Recent Emergencies:**

Joel Ardoin discussed the Eagle Railcar chemical release from July 2024. He stated that on this day, people were getting sick, and it was unknown what it was from. It took approximately 1 – 1 ½ hours to find the source of the release. It was determined that Eagle Railcar was flaring off a railcar and it caused polarization of the chemical ethyl acrylate. A shelter in place was issued until TCEQ could do an investigation and verify safety.

Mike Rowell with TDEM said the threat of Hurricane Francine was good practice and now is a suitable time to make sure plans are updated and accurate. TDEM was mobilized with water teams at Ford Park during this potential threat. DPS was monitoring the wind for the Rainbow Bridge.

Jerry Ziller spoke of a drone that was spotted flying over Chevron, Lion Elastomers and Arlanxeo on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Stephen Tew advised that Syensqo had one flying on the plant recently. After following the drone, he determined the drone to be from a third-party contractor for Entergy looking at the power lines. Jerry Ziller stated he reported the incident to Cooperate Security and OPD.

### **Old Business:**

- Budget request for promotional material. Received quotes for the tent and will be ordering one soon.
- CPA was found to process 501 (c) 3 status. CPA and filing fees total \$1,150.

### **New Business:**

- Discussion on re-entry letter during a disaster. Our current Judge does not shut down the county border, so a letter is not required in Orange County. Those returning must be self-sufficient. A template letter, which Jefferson County LEPC is using, is available from Mary.
- The Executive Committee restructuring will be voted on at the November meeting. The by-laws state that the Vice-Chairperson would move to Chairperson and the Secretary/Treasurer would move to Vice-Chairperson, requiring a Secretary/Treasurer to be elected. Joel Ardoin is the current Vice-Chairperson and due to his position as Emergency Management Coordinator with Orange County, he should not be sitting in a “Chair” position. The Committee has requested to elect a new Chairperson, Jeremy Carlock would move from Secretary/Treasurer to Vice-Chairperson, and elect a new Secretary/Treasurer. If interested in either of these positions, contact Elgin Browning or Mary Low.

### **Presentation:**

Pat Grimes from SETRPC presented on STAN-Southeast Texas Alerting Network. STAN is a public notification system utilized to get information to the public. On the public side, once registered you can enter up to five numbers to receive notifications anywhere within our region. When an account is created, you can also select weather notifications to receive alerts from the National Weather Service. Voice notifications are geocoded to the location entered in your account. Text notifications indicate the location in the message. Industry uses STAN to communicate with emergency management officials, who determine whether to send messages to residents in affected area and/or post message on website. Facilities can post outreach messages (heavy flaring, drill, maintenance, turnaround, release) on the STAN line. Industry notifications are not sent directly to the public. Currently only six industry partners participate in STAN. It is recommended to encourage industry partners to participate. For more information, contact Pat Grimes at (409)504-3743 or by email at [cjhse@setrpc.org](mailto:cjhse@setrpc.org).

After the presentation, Elgin Browning mentioned how GTP will have approximately 7,000 workers at the facility with no way to shelter in place. He will get a working group together and have a meeting in October or November to produce an evacuation plan.

### **Announcements/Additional comments:**

Due to the recent air release, Orange County Emergency Management is implementing changes where contact with Industry will be more efficient. EM gathered industry contact information and is working with STAN to be able to send messages when needed. EM will be getting an Industry Liaison to be either in the EOC or at the Command Center and they will be the point of contact with the industry representatives during an incident.

Elgin Browning will be doing a class for Orange County Firefighters and First Responders to advise on what to do when responding to hazmat incidents.

**Training:**

- Check [www.preparingtexas.org](http://www.preparingtexas.org) for more training in our area <https://www.preparingtexas.org/Schedule.aspx>
- ICS 300 at Beaumont EOC on 9/23/2024-9/25/2024 few seats still available
- G/ICS 400 at Beaumont EOC on 9/26/2024-9/27/2024 few seats still available

**Meeting adjourned: Motion:** Regius Guillory;                      **Second:** Randy LeJeune;                      **Motion carried.**