



ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2025

Welcome & Self-Introductions

- Meeting Started at 9:03 a.m. by Joel Ardoin
Quorum determined by Joel Ardoin
Present Voting members: Arlanxeo, Chem 32, Chevron Phillips, Colonial Pipeline, Invista, Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD, Orange County Emergency Management, Orange County Sheriff Department, Orion Engineered Carbons
Present non-voting members: CERT, Ham Radio, National Weather Service, Orange County ESD #1, Orange County Health Services, SETRPC, TCEQ, TDEM, Veolia

September 2025 meeting minutes approval:

Motion: Regius Guillory; Second: Jerry Ziller; Motion carried.

Approval of September and October Treasurer's Report:

Expenditures; \$9072.80 Income; \$00.00 Balance \$49,384.58
Motion: Michael Hennigan; Second: Bill Martin; Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Communications - Leon George (not present) - No Report

Warning Signs/ Warning Signs upgrade - Regius Guillory
Two signs are still down and need batteries. Need a volunteer to take over checking the sign on Roundbunch.

CERT - Lori Waldrum
Lori is now an instructor for CERT. Will start teaching classes in January. Get with Lori if interested.

Bylaws - Robert Crane (not present) - No Report

Planning/Programs - Stephen Tew (not present) - No Report

Membership - Elgin Browning (not present) - No Report

Public Health - Sandee White - No Report

Industry Group - Jerry Ziller - No Report

TDEM - Lathan Gould
An update was provided on the ongoing operation in Hill County. The search efforts continue in Kerrville, where two individuals remain missing. Current operations are focused primarily along the river, with a crane on a barge in Lake Ingram actively removing debris piles. Similar operations are planned to begin soon in Lake Nimitz. While the overall operational footprint is narrowing, the mission remains unchanged—to locate the two missing individuals.

News/Recent Emergencies:

Regius Guillory emphasized the need for improved communication regarding industry drills within the Industry Group and requested a meeting to address this matter.

**Old Business:**

- Burn ban signs were purchased and deployed during the most recent burn ban order, then collected once the ban was rescinded. Regius Guillory inquired about the possibility of displaying burn ban information on digital signs. Joel Ardoin responded that this option could be explored and noted that burn ban updates can also be distributed through STAN.

**New Business:**

- The new warning sign planned for installation at the southwest corner of the Highway 87 and Highway 105 intersection was quoted at **\$14,715**. A **\$5,000** donation from GTP reduces the remaining balance to **\$9,715**.  
**Motion:** Jerry Ziller; **Second:** Mike Hennigan; **Motion carried.**
- The proposed FY 2026 budget was reviewed, and no objections were noted.

**Presentation:**

- Dustin Harris, Operations Manager with Colonial Pipeline presented on: Basic pipeline operations, how we work together during an emergency, how we work to prevent pipeline emergencies, and key contacts and future engagement opportunities. PowerPoint is attached.
- Doug Cramer with National Weather Service presented on the use of Google DeepMind and the National Weather Service. Google DeepMind is an AI model that aims to provide near-real-time forecasts of storm formations, track, intensity, size and structure. Forty years' worth of storms were used to develop the model. Also, if you want to check the KBDI, you can go to [www.weather.gov/fire/](http://www.weather.gov/fire/) to check the fire weather. NWS also recently launched an event support specialized to forecast the weather for future events. If support is needed, reach out to Joel Ardoin.

**Announcements/Additional comments:**

- FY 2026 invoices will be emailed out in December.
- Joel Ardoin spoke regarding an email we received from a homeschooling mother who was teaching her children about emergency preparedness. As part of their lesson, she encouraged them to conduct independent research. Her daughter discovered several useful resources on our website and also found another helpful site she wanted to share in return: [www.firsttimedriver.com/car-emergency-kit-essentials/](http://www.firsttimedriver.com/car-emergency-kit-essentials/).
- Kaylan Arendale with SETRPC reminded members that those needing STAN training should reach out to her or Pat Grimes. She also informed members that the SETX Alerting Network is funded through the Port Security Grant, which has experienced funding cuts. Current funding will remain in place through the next fiscal year; however, local governments will be responsible for covering costs thereafter.
- Bill Martin is retiring from Colonial Pipeline in January 2026. Congratulations Bill!

**Training:**

- Check <https://tdem.geniussis.com/PublicWelcome.aspx> for more training in our area.
- STAM: Staging Area Manager (TDEM) at Ford Park in Beaumont on December 2-3, 2025.
- Industrial Fire School at TEEK in College Station on December 8-11, 2025, is being hosted by SNCA. Registration is on SNCA's website at [www.snchiefs.com](http://www.snchiefs.com)
- G-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents (TDEM) at the City of Beaumont Municipal Court Building on February 23-25, 2026.
- G-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Complex Incidents (TDEM) at the City of Beaumont Municipal Court Building on February 26-27, 2026.
- G-191: Emergency Operations Center Incident Command System Interface (TDEM) at the City of Beaumont Municipal Court Building on March 10, 2026.
- TCEQ Annual Environmental Trade Fair, May 19-20, 2026, Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, TX [www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov)

**Meeting adjourned: Motion:** Regius Guillory;

**Second:** Jerry Ziller;

**Motion carried.**