



ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2026

Welcome & Self-Introductions

- Meeting Started at 9:04 a.m. by Elgin Browning
Quorum determined by Elgin Browning
Present Voting members: Acadian Ambulance, Arlanxeo, Chem 32, Chevron Phillips, City of Orange, City of West Orange, Dow, Energy Transfer, Industrial Rescue, Jefferson Railport Terminal, Orange County Drainage District, Orange County Emergency Management, Orange County Sheriff Department, Syensqo, Westlake Pipeline
Present non-voting members: CERT, ExxonMobil Pipeline, Ham Radio, National Weather Service, Orange County ESD #3, Orange County Health Services, SETRPC, TDEM, Texas GLO, USG, Veolia

November 2025 meeting minutes approval:

Motion: Jerry Ziller; Second: Tommy Wells; Motion carried.

Approval of November and December Treasurer's Report:

Expenditures; \$9,365.08 Income; \$6727.50 Balance \$46,747.00
Motion: Regius Guillory; Second: Jerry Ziller; Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Communications - Leon George (not present) - Elgin Browning mentions P25 radios are going to dual band and may need to add more features.

Warning Signs/ Warning Signs - Regius Guillory
The warning lights at Roundbunch, Irving and Cove are not functioning. The vendor has been contacted. The new sign quote Hwy 87 and Hwy 105 for \$14,715 needed to be signed to approve purchase and has been delayed due to miscommunication.
Chevron will be checking the Roundbunch sign.

CERT - Lori Waldrum
Meetings will start next month.

Bylaws - Robert Crane (not present) - No Report

Planning/Programs - Vacant
Position is now vacant. Please get with Elgin Browning or Mary Low if interested.

Membership - Elgin Browning -
Bo Gieger with ExxonMobil is interested in joining the group.
Tumblers have been handed out to voting-members. See Mary if you have not received one.

Public Health - Tommy Byers
Orange County Health Services is hosting the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Tabletop Exercise, at the Orange County Expo Center on January 28, 2026, 8:00 am-12:00 pm. See attached flyer.

Industry Group - Jerry Ziller - No Report

TDEM - Lathan Gould

Several training opportunities are available. See training at end of minutes.

News/Recent Emergencies:

Simmie Gibson reported on the Railcar derailment on Friday, January 9th in West Orange. The train contained thirty-nine cars and seventeen derailed. The road was shut down for approximately eight hours. Doug Cramer requested to be contacted on SLACK in situations like this so he can make a plume model if there is a leak.

Old Business:

- Purchase of the new warning sign at Highway 87 and Highway 105 was previously discussed.
- OCARC made the burn ban signs and order brackets. TXDOT provided brackets for the signs and the brackets are to remain property of TXDOT. However, each agency is responsible for putting out and picking up the signs. OCARC is reaching out to the vendor of the brackets about a refund.

New Business:

- FY 2026 Budget was reviewed at last meeting. Budget adopted for 2026.
Motion: Joel Ardoin; **Second:** Jerry Ziller; **Motion carried.**
- Acadian Ambulance has requested landing zone updates from members. Get with Sharon Patton with any questions. Forms were available at the meeting and can be returned to either Mary or Sharon.
- Discussion on Industry partners drills and exercises being pushed out through STAN. Currently it gets posted to the STAN website and the information is also sent to Emergency Management. Emergency Management will decide if it should be pushed out to the public due to the level of importance. LEPC members would like to see it set up where the push out can go to other Industry partners.
- We have our 501(c)(3) status. Tax documents will need to be filed every year.
- Hazmat tabletop exercise-Joel Ardoin would like to have a committee set up. TEEX has been contacted and it is costly. Alex Dorgan indicated the exercises could be done through TDEM at no cost. Joel is looking at the September or October time frame for class. Let Joel know if you are interested.

Presentation:

Alex Dorgan with TDEM presented on “The Essential Role of the Local Emergency Planning Committee.”

Contact information: (737)376-8000.

Alex.dorgan@tdem.texas.gov

See PowerPoint attached.

Announcements/Additional comments:

- Bo Gieger indicated that Exxon Mobil partners with TEEX to do HazMat Liquid & CO₂ Pipeline and Industrial Fire Emergencies Training. ExxonMobil covers all fees. See attached flyer.
- West Orange Fire Department will host the OCFFA meeting on March 2, 2026, at 6:30 pm. ExxonMobil will be doing a presentation at the meeting. Get with Billy Moore for more information.

Training:

- Check <https://tdem.geniussis.com/PublicWelcome.aspx> for more training in our area.
- H-502 Hazmat IC¹ at Port Arthur Fire Department on February 2-3, 2026.
- TPUB-200 Executive Guide/Public Officials Workshop at the Orange County Expo on February 5, 2026.
- Free Naloxone Trainings in Jefferson and Orange County on multiple dates February 17-19, 2026. Contact Macky Newman at (903)315-9407 for details.
- G-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents (TDEM) at the City of Beaumont EOC on February 23-25, 2026.
- H-501 Hazmat Technician Course¹ at Orange Fire Department on February 23-27, 2026.
- G-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Complex Incidents (TDEM) at the City of Beaumont EOC on February 26-27, 2026.

- G-191: Emergency Operations Center Incident Command System Interface (TDEM) at the City of Beaumont EOC on March 10, 2026.
- L-950 AH Incident Commander at the City of Beaumont EOC on March 23-27, 2026.
- L-967 AH Logistics at the Orange County Expo on April 6-9, 2026.
- Resilience Strategies for First Responders at the Grove Fire Department on April 21, 2026.
- TCEQ Annual Environmental Trade Fair, May 19-20, 2026, Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, TX www.tceq.texas.gov
- TDEM Emergency Management Conference in Fort Worth, TX on May 26-29, 2026.

Meeting adjourned: Motion: Payton Smith;

Second: Joel Ardoin;

Motion carried.