



Dallas County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Minutes of the General Meeting

March 24, 2025

Meeting Host/Location

Balch Springs Civic Center, 12400 Elam Road Balch Springs, TX 75180

A meeting agenda was posted, and the proper public notice was given in advance of the meeting.

Meeting Attendees

Tina Sanders, Scott Forster, Laura Sifuentes, Chad Johnston, Brad Harris, Rebecca Banks, Pat McGrath, Bill Brooks, Kelee Lusk, Susan Harris, Randy Rose, Enrique Araiza, Mae Jennings, Brian Chamberlin, Maricarmen Rodriguez Garcia, David Gifford, Swenson Otto, Luke Parren, Erin Buttitta, Krishn Green, Brad Kavanaugh, Chris Santos, Anwar Johnson, Michael Walker, Kevin Bradley, David Ali, Ray Fergus, Darnell Gillie, Nadioi Avalos, Samantha Flowers, Mianuel Thomas, Roy Porras, Lauren Sanchez, and Andy Medina.

Overview:

The Dallas County Emergency Management team convened to discuss ongoing efforts related to Tier II reporting, facility engagement, and regional coordination. A key theme emphasized throughout the meeting was the importance of data trends, city collaboration, and proactive outreach to ensure facilities remain compliant and communities are prepared for chemical-related emergencies.

Speakers and Presentations

Atmos Energy Representative:

- Spoke about the technical specifications of the pipeline.
- Explained safety measures, emergency protocols, and public awareness efforts.
- Emphasized compliance with federal and state pipeline regulations.

Pipeline Safety Program for Schools:

- **Partnership with Danielle Dawn Smalley Foundation:** Promotes safety after a tragic pipeline rupture incident.
 - **Outreach to 200 Schools:** Focuses on schools within 1,000 feet of transmission lines.
 - **Emergency Plan Development:** Meets with school officials every four years to support emergency planning.
 - **Pipeline Awareness:** Educates schools on the importance of calling 811 to report nearby construction activities.
 - **School Pipeline Testing Compliance:** Ensures schools with natural gas/propane systems conduct required leak tests every two years.
 - **Aerial Surveillance:** Uses helicopters and planes to monitor pipeline safety.
 - **Periodic Mailings:** Sends updates to local officials on pipeline safety and regulations.
 - **Voluntary Program:** Despite not being required by law, Atmos has run the program for over a decade to enhance community safety.
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Key Topics:

1. Data-Driven Decision Making:

- Each year, trends from Tier II submissions are analyzed to tailor outreach strategies. A notable trend has been the **decline in facility submissions or closures**, prompting enhanced engagement efforts.
- A streamlined “**At-A-Glance**” summary is provided to cities, including raw data, GIS files, and—this year—a new **dashboard access feature** to visualize and interact with the data more easily.

2. TPQ Facility Focus:

- The team is placing a heightened focus on TPQ facilities. These are sites that are either unresponsive or have incomplete submissions.
- Outreach (via email or phone) will be initiated to request additional documents such as:
 - **Site Maps**
 - **Safety Data Sheets (SDS)**
 - **Emergency Action Plans**

- **Offsite Response Plans**
- Templates for these documents are available on the county website, and feedback on their feasibility is welcomed.

3. Collaboration and Community Engagement:

- Participants were encouraged to **share upcoming events, training opportunities, or exercises**. A few highlights include:
 - **Excavation Safety Day** – April 25 in Plano, covering underground asset risk and response planning.
 - **OSHA VPP Meeting** – A regional best practices conference for safety professionals.
 - **Chemical Safety Board (CSB) Videos** – New educational resources featuring real incident investigations.
 - **Texas Emergency Management Conference** – Held in Fort Worth, last week of May. Volunteer hours can waive the registration fee.
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Training & Exercise Subcommittee

A new subcommittee is being formed to make training more interactive and engaging for facilities.

- Open to all LEPC members (sign-up encouraged)
- Will create tabletop exercise templates for various scenarios
- Templates will include:
 - Guidance
 - Key discussion questions
- Focused on making exercises:
 - Fun and approachable
 - Scalable to any facility size
- Optional training on template use will be offered
- Facilities can partner for peer evaluation

- Ideas and feedback are welcome, even without joining the subcommittee
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Committee Appreciation & Closure

- Special thanks to **Laura** and **Josh** for their contributions over the past two years.
 - The meeting concluded with a motion to close and expressions of gratitude.
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Approval of Minutes and Motions

- Previous meeting minutes were presented and approved unanimously.
 - A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted.
 - Motion passed unanimously
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Public Comments

- An opportunity was given for the public to comment on or ask questions regarding the project.
 - No public comments were made during this meeting.
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Final Notes

- For questions or to request handouts, contact **Denisse Martinez** via email.
- Continued emphasis on communication, feedback, and inter-jurisdictional support.