



## **Meeting Minutes**

**February 12, 2026**

### **VIA TEAMS/TELECONFERENCE Attendees**

Kristi Bartlett, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) & Vice-Chair  
Nathaniel Murray, Colonial Pipeline  
Bart Routh, Chairman, SICPA Securink Corp.  
Fire Chief John O'Neal, Fairfax City Fire Department  
John Higginbotham, VDEM  
Mohamed Kamara, GMU  
Adrian Nelson, Inova Fairfax Hospital  
Patrick Sheehan, FRD Special Ops  
Eric Wyatt, FRD Special Ops  
John Zelsnack, Loudoun County LEPC  
Fernando Castaneda, CISA  
William Moreland, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) Special Ops  
Johna Gagnon, citizen  
Adam Armstrong, Fairfax County Police Department  
Michelle Cechowski, FRD Special Ops  
Michael Cronin, Quest Diagnostics  
CW3 Ryan Chambers, Fort Belvoir  
Doug O'Neil, GMU  
Christopher Haupt, VA State Health  
James Sager, Fairfax Water  
Julie Belcher, Sunbelt Rental  
Julien Crolet, Fort Belvoir  
Larry Zaragoza, EQAC  
Edwin Mason, VA State Police  
Michael Galliot, Hilltop Landfill  
Matt Shutltz, Loudoun County LEPC  
Amara Smith, Colonial Pipeline  
Jason Thompson, Fairfax County PD  
Bowman Olds, Prince William County LEPC

### **STAFF SUPPORT**

Trice Burgess, Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office (FRD)

### **FJLEPC MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Bart Routh, called the February 12, 2026, meeting of the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Routh welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting. Roll call was taken by Trice Burgess. (See above)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Bart Routh asked everyone if there were any suggestions or comments to the December 11, 2025, meeting minutes before motion to approve. Meeting minutes approved by show of virtual hands.

### **REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Public Communications:**

No report

#### **Business Outreach:**

No report.

#### **HMERP Exercise Subcommittee:**

Exercise will be held in the fall. Details will follow later in the year.

#### **Ways and Means:**

No Report. Need new chairperson for committee.

#### **Liaison with other LEPC's:**

Trice Burgess attended the Alexandria LEPC meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at Fire Station 210. Nothing major to report. Matt Shultz provide update from Loudoun. They have Hazconnect approved and will be using it for next year's Tier II Reporting. Their next meeting will be on April 28, 2026.

### **SUBCOMMITTEES REPORTS:**

#### **HAZMAT RESPONSE TEAM (HMRT) UPDATE**

#### **RECENT INCIDENTS**

Battalion Chief Kristi Bartlett advised the Hazmat team continues to run lithium-ion battery incidents. Most of them have involved small batteries.

#### **HMRT TRAINING**

Chief Bartlett stated the Hazmat Team is getting ready to start another Hazmat Technician school at the end of February. The FRD is working to get everyone in Special Operations to be Hazmat Technicians. Several members have been sent down to York Town for hazmat specialist certification training. We are looking to do a regional VDEM training session for Northern Virginia.

The COG region is getting ready to host some EV and battery training classes for fire departments in the region. They will be bringing in an outside contractor for this training.

#### **FJLEPC COORDINATOR UPDATE**

#### **Tier II Manager Update and HMERP**

Trice Burgess reported that currently in our HazConnect Records Management System for our Tier 2 facilities we have:

**EPCRA Tier II Report**

Online Tier II Manager Program Stats	
578	Total facilities in system
420	Active Facilities
158	Inactive Facilities
161	Critical Hazard Facilities (CHF)

- For 2026 Reporting cycle (2025 Data):
  - 183 reports submitted and approved
  - 47 reports initiated
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Due app is update for each approved report
  - 43% submittal rate
- Email reminders were sent out on November 17<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, and February 5<sup>th</sup>.

FJLEPC website.

- Updated with October meeting minutes attached.
- Added 2026 FJLEPC meeting schedule
- Updated information on the upcoming 2026 Tier II reporting requirements
- Added link to EV Fire White Paper
- Added links for new EPA Fall 2025 EPCRA fact sheet and guide



EPCRA Fact Sheet\_Fall 2025.pdf



EPCRA guide\_Fall 2025.pdf

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- Stats for December: 199 visitors and 560 views
- Stats for January: 148 visitors and 397 views
- Looking for suggestions to add to the webpage and presentations for future meetings
- Waiting for new EPA SERC-TERC updates since the Federal Government has reopened

Sent out 2026 meeting schedule and invites. All meetings will be virtual for 2026.

Thanks for the new folks from Fort Belvoir and VA State Police for attending today's meeting.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Battalion Chief Billy Moreland provided an overview of the FRD Special Operations Emergency Preparedness Section and introduced the four members of the section including himself, Captain Patrick Sheehan, Lieutenant Eric Wyatt, and Emergency Management Specialist IV Michelle Chechowski. They are tasked with supporting Special Operations and work directly with Battalion Chief Bartlett and the hazmat team. The section does a lot of exercise planning, training and intelligence gathering in regard to emergency preparedness.

**Roundtable / Member Updates**

Trice Burgess called for roundtable/member updates.

- Adam Armstrong with Fairfax County Police Department advised they were building out their Safety Officer program. Adam offered to do a presentation on the program at a later date.
- Battalion Chief Bartlett is planning for an upcoming foam drill and is also looking at conducting additional training with businesses in the County.
- Fernando Castandea with CISA offered training with such topics as IED awareness. Please reach out to him if interested.
- Doug O'Neal with GMU stated they recently rolled out a new lithium-ion polymer battery guide. They have also purchased significant amounts of "Cell Block" for their laboratories that have lithium-ion batteries present.
- Julie Belcher with Sunbelt Rentals advised she is the safety officer for this area. She would like to build a strong community partnership. Sunbelt is a part of the State plan as a resource for incident response. She would be happy to provide a presentation to the FJLEPC.
- Julen Crolet with Fort Belvoir advised they will be holding an active shooter training event on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Bart Routh provided an update on SICPA's new varnish plant and the decommissioning of the old plant. He is not allowed to share photos, presentations, or too much specifics for security reasons.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

Chairman Routh requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Chief John O'Neal and seconded by Larry Zaragoza. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:37.

***The next meeting of the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee  
will be held on April 9, 2026.***