



RECAP OF APRIL 8, 2011 STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION MEETING

Alternate Chair Bryan Koons (Florida Division of Emergency Management Director) called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

The items of business were:

- **Approval of January 7, 2011 SERC meeting Minutes.** Minutes were approved unanimously upon one revision to recognition of an individual's affiliation.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of new/revised Local Emergency Planning Committee Appointments (Statewide).** The SERC unanimously approved all new LEPC appointments requested by each of the 11 LEPCs. As a subset of this approval, the following changes were recognized for the District 8 LEPC membership: Capt. Chris Atherton (48th Civil Support Team/Florida National Guard) as a *Primary* member under the Category of "Local Option." No *Alternate* member was designated by Capt. Atherton. In addition, 2LT Elliot Smith was designated as a new *Alternate* member under Lt. Col. Larry Fernald (Civil Air Patrol) under the "Community Groups" category.
- **Single Reporting Point for Tier II Annual Report.** Regardless of format selected to submit Tier II reports to the SERC in association with the annual March 1st reporting deadline (i.e. electronic or hard copy), current federal regulations require that copies of the Tier II reporting be submitted to the LEPCs and corresponding local fire departments. FDEM staff has conferred with EPA whether electronic filing through the "www.FloridaHMIS.org" software program would/could suffice in lieu of this requirement. EPA suggested establishing a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) with ALL Florida LEPCs and fire departments of the intent. Each LEPC and fire department would then have the opportunity to "opt out" of acceptance of electronic filing. If no response is received, it would be perceived as acceptance. In either instance, if a facility were to continue to submit their reporting via hard copy, hard copies would continue to be required to be submitted to each of the three entities. Upon recognition that any/all future change(s) in MOU verbiage or intent (if applicable) must be re-submitted to LEPCs and fire departments for "re-opt" consideration, the **SERC unanimously approved the processing of the MOU.** (This item will be discussed and voted upon independently at the May 25, 2011 LEPC meeting)

REPORTS

- **SERC's Training Task Force (TTF).** Aside from the above recognized items, the following highlights of the April 7, 2011 TTF meeting were also recognized by Mike Murphy, TTF Vice Chair:
 - Teleconferences. Interim TTF Chair Mike Murphy indicated that teleconferences were held on

February 16 and March 16, 2011, primarily to discuss the Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE), a document used to evaluate the abilities and “regional readiness” of the hazmat teams. The second meeting concentrated on providing status updates on the various tasks included on the TTF’s *Project Board*.

- SERC’s FOG. It was acknowledged that the TTF is about to “embark” on the updating of the SERC’s *Field Operations Guide* (FOG). This document is slightly different than the Hazmat FOG for tactical operations, which was recently updated by the TTF. The SERC’s FOG is intended for large-scale incidents. This item will/should be added to the TTF’s Project Board.
- Tox-Medic Curriculum. Development of a coordinated Tox-Medic curriculum is essential to ensure consistency of responder capabilities. Some of the concerns/discussion items included the following topics:
 - 80 hr. standards of the National Fire Academy vs. 40 hr. statewide standard;
 - any/all developed curriculums must be approved by the Medical Director and must be compliant with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards;
 - with dwindling budgets, course cost and associated travel are likely to be of concern. Train-the-Trainer programs, if available, would reduce incurred costs of bringing program to local level; and
 - Medical competencies must be in accordance with NFPA 473 standards and hazmat competencies in accordance with NFPA 472 standards.

The TTF sought SERC’s concurrence to coordinate with the Florida State Fire College and stakeholders regarding the establishment of a curriculum for a voluntary tox-medic and haz/tox-medic training certification program. By vote during the SERC meeting, **the SERC unanimously approved the future coordination effort.**

- Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) Assessment for Type I & Type II (Hazmat) Teams. As part of a prior TTF work product, comments were received and addressed regarding response policies and procedures of the ORE. Commentary and/or suggested revisions included minimum hazmat equipment inventories, distinctions between hazmat team types, and proper disposal/treatment procedures for Decontamination water.
 - Reduction in Federal Funding for Clandenstine Drug Lab Mitigation. It was acknowledged that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will be cutting back on technicians and members gathering evidence, pushing more of these responsibilities to the locals (e.g. hazmat teams, law enforcement...). The question is how to recover the costs. It was speculated that funding from law enforcement forfeitures may be a possibility.
 - Project Chart. The status of each task was addressed individually during the quarter by TTF members and the status of several changed (e.g. from “active” to “monitoring”). The current Project Tracking Chart is included following this Recap.
- **Report on MOU between FDEM & EPA**. FDEM staff has proposed the SERC to enter into a MOU with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding potential future enforcement actions and the preference for Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) in lieu of EPA levying fines to non-compliant industries. SEPs are preferred since the funds would be spent locally and the resulting training would benefit the local hazardous materials response community. FDEM staff had an initial conversation with EPA staff regarding this topic to a non-committal response. However, EPA staff did invite further discussion with FDEM staff regarding this issue. **SERC authorized the issuance of a MOU endorsing the concept of SEPs in lieu of fines.**

- **Financial Status Report.** Mr. Donald Kunish, FDEM staff, reported that the SERC Agenda materials contained numerous graphics comparing the various funding levels by program and a breakdown of program expenses over the past two years. Mr. Kunish additionally advised the Commission that the SERC 2010 Annual Report is “nearing completion.” SERC members suggested that the FDEM consider preparing the Annual Report electronically to avoid significant publishing and mailing costs. FDEM staff advised that the Annual Report will be made available electronically and posted to the FDEM website.
- **Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports.** Mr. Sam Brackett advised that detailed listings of fixed facility and transportation-related hazardous materials incidents were prepared and included the Agenda materials to describe incidents occurring between the period of December 1, 2010 and February 28, 2011. Such Reports documented these incidents and portrayed the number of persons evacuated, injured or deceased down to the LEPC Districts and corresponding level.

The following constitute the hazardous material incidents recorded for District 8 during this period involving evacuation, injury(ies) and/or death(s):

County	Date of Release	Type*	Chemical	Amount Released (Lbs.)	Business Type	# Evacuated	# Injured	# Fatalities
Hills.	2/10/11	TR	Oil	Unknown	Traffic Accident	0	2	0
Manatee	12/14/10	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline/Construction	8	0	0
	1/14/11	TR	Diesel Fuel & Hydraulic Oil	92/94	Traffic Accident	0	1	0
Pasco	None Identified							
Pinellas	1/27/11	FF	Natural Gas	Unknown	Restaurant (Outside)	40	0	0
	2/02/11	FF	Natural Gas	Unknown	Private Residence	3	0	0
TOTAL →						51	3	0

* - FF = Fixed Facility incident / TR - Transportation-related incident.

Supplemental information also contained in the SERC Agenda materials, including annual comparisons of:

- Potential Section 304 Investigations identified by County and date;
- comparison of hazardous materials incidents reports by District;
- annual comparison of the overall Statewide number of Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports;
- *Total Chemical Inventory* by District;
- annual quantification of statewide *Notices of Violation/Second Notices* annually from 2007; and
- statewide number of *Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Reports* annually from 2007.

- **Update on LEPC Activities.** SERC Member George Danz recognized that the majority of accomplishments achieved by each LEPC is captured in the *Hazmatters* section of the backup SERC materials.

The following accomplishments were identified for District 8, primarily for the period of December 2010 - February 2011:

- attended the Quarterly SERC meetings held at the Crowne Plaza in Ft. Myers on January 6-7, 2011 and conducted the District 8 LEPC meeting on February 23, 2011. Staff additionally attended the FDEM Region 4 quarterly meeting conducted at the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office on February 25, 2011;
- the LEPC’s Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS) met on January 20, 2011. Current Subcommittee initiatives include an assessment of LEPC Tier 2 records received over the past three years in comparison with the current electronic SERC listing. Although not completed at time of this Report preparation, initial findings were that the LEPC does not have record of nearly 450 facilities within the District and that the SERC apparently does not have record of

about 200 facilities that the LEPC possesses records in hard copy form. This task was subsequently completed and submitted to FDEM staff for review, comment and possible supplementation of LEPC records. Subcommittee members are additionally being tasked with ascertaining contact information and e-mail addresses of the facilities for future communications purposes;

- conducted two “EPCRA: How-to-Comply Workshops” held on February 8-9, 2011 at the Council/LEPC office, drawing 36 attendees;
- LEPC staff and/or member(s) participated in a series of teleconferences administered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management regarding the TTF’s initiatives (December 8, 2010 & February 16, 2011), as well as discussion of “FloridaHMIS.org” electronic filing program issues (February 10, 2011);
- facilitated the conduct of a *Decon Zones & Scene Management* course on January 6, 2011 in Pasco County. LEPC’s Training Subcommittee met on February 23, 2011 to strategize further training opportunities for the 2010-11 HMEP funding cycle;
- represented the Tampa Bay LEPC at the January 11, 2011 meeting of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee and the U.S. Coast Guard Area Committee which immediately followed, as well as the luncheon honoring the retiring Hillsborough County Emergency Management Director – Mr. Larry Gispert (January 14, 2011);
- assisted with the December 8, 2010 & January 12, 2011 meetings of the Pinellas Police Standards Council; and
- attended the Ammonia Handlers/Operators meetings held on January 18 (@ Tampa Port Authority) and February 24, 2011 (@ CF Industries). The meetings are rotationally located and are focused on discussing initiatives and activities conducted by or of interest to the ammonia operations facilities located within or adjacent to the Port of Tampa.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Mr. Tracy Poole, Radiological Emergency Response Manager for FDEM.** Mr. Tracy Poole made a brief presentation concentrating on a comparison of nuclear facility characteristics and requirements within Florida to those abroad, primarily Japan. The following serve as highlights of the meeting:
 - Florida is not very susceptible to earthquakes and tsunamis. In fact, wave heights associated with tsunamis would not be expected to exceed one foot for the State of Florida. In addition, the east coast of Florida should expect at least a two-hour warning of any tsunami.
 - there are three nuclear reactors in the state of Florida.
 - Florida uses “pressurized water reactor” technology while Japan uses a “boiling water reactor.”
 - In the U.S., there is a 10-mile risk zone surrounding the facilities in which residents would be asked to evacuate or shelter-in-place.
 - The average age of nuclear plants in the U.S. is 34 years. In Japan, it is 35.6 years.
 - The 1954 Atomic Energy Act established 40 year license terms for the nuclear facilities in the U.S. In March of 2000, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) authorized potential renewal of facility licenses on a case-by-case basis.

COMMENTS & ADJOURNMENT.

- **Next Meeting.** It was announced that the next SERC meeting will be held in Pensacola on July 7, 2011. SERC members were advised that the October 7th meeting will return to Tallahassee.
- **Adjournment.** Following a motion and a second, the SERC meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.