



LEPC MEETING RECAP

TAMPA BAY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) DISTRICT VIII, MEETING August 31, 2011

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Chair Scott Ehlers inquired whether there were any suggested additions, subtractions or modification(s) to the *Minutes* of the May 25, 2011 LEPC meeting. Hearing none, the Chair asked for motion to approve the *Minutes*. Jonathan Kemp moved and Doug Wenger seconded the motion. *Minutes* were approved unanimously on voice vote.

LEPC DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - Mr. Meyer indicated that SERC approved the following new members in conjunction with the July 8th SERC meeting: LDCR Navin Griffin (U.S. Coast Guard/Sector St. Petersburg) and his designated Alternate LT Jessica Paxton were appointed under the category of "Law Enforcement"; and Scott Davies (Manatee Port Authority) and his designated Alternate William Stanfield under the category of "Transportation." One additional membership modification was requested but inadvertently misplaced by FDEM staff and will actually be considered in conjunction with the October 7, 2011 SERC meeting. The omitted request consisted of the appointment of Chief Robert Ballou as the Alternate to Capt. Steven LeCroy (St. Petersburg Fire Rescue) due to the former retirement of Chief Bill Ward.

RECAP OF QUARTERLY STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC) MEETINGS - Mr. Meyer stated a recap of the discussion and/or action items associated with the July 7-8, 2011 SERC Quarterly meetings held at Pensacola City Hall in Pensacola was included in the LEPC member Agenda materials and additionally available on the LEPC website.

Mr. Meyer recognized several components of the Recap:

- **Risk Management Plan Audits.** FDEM has established the schedule for conducting Risk Management Plan Audits across the State in 2012. The schedule included the audits of two Hillsborough County (Western International Gas & Airgas South) and one Pasco County (Davis Supply) facilities to be conducted February 7-9, 2012.
- **National Association of State Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Conference.** LEPC member's Agenda materials included recognition that the 2011 annual NASTTPO Conference was held in Tempe, AZ. It appears that the 2012 Conference will be held in late April 2012 at the Tradewinds Resort in St. Pete Beach. FDEM is tentatively scheduling the conduct of the SERC quarterly meeting during the same week at the same facility for the benefit of attendees and the hopes of bolstering attendance.
- **Hazardous Materials Awareness Week.** While the dates have yet to be determined in February of 2012, it was decided that the theme would be "Mercury Awareness & Dangers." Details regarding specific statewide and localized initiatives still need to be coordinated.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SERC and EPA.** The State Emergency Response Commission has requested that FDEM staff continue dialogue with EPA staff about the possibility of entering into a MOU to indicate SERC's preference that fines collected for non-compliant industry(ies) within the State of Florida actually be used to fund

Supplement Environmental Projects, localized training of first responders, in lieu of bolstering the EPA General Fund. More often than not, this additionally appears to be the preference of the violating industry.

HMEP PROGRAM - PLANNING - Subcommittee Chair Alan Pratt recognized that there were no updates to provide since the Ammonia/Shelter-in-Place presentation(s) have not been recently requested. However, it is early in the school year and such presentations are often requested in association with school curriculums and/or PTA meetings, primarily for schools in close proximity to the Port of Tampa.

Mr. Pratt also recognized that a Tampa ammonia handlers consortium is planning to assess the local readiness and response capabilities regarding a fictitious release of ammonia resulting from an overturned truck and/or rail car and, in particular, the ability of local contractors to set up equipment to promptly retrieve remaining chemical contents.

FACILITY DISASTER PLANNING PROJECT - Subcommittee Chair Chet Klinger identified that Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee members hosted a Facility Disaster Preparedness Forum on July 14, 2011. The Forum was designed to promote interaction between facility representatives, first responders and others in preparation for and recovery from an areawide natural disaster. More than 20 attended the Forum and one suggestion for a national badging system for assisting facility emergency personnel return to affected areas will be raised to the SERC's Training Task Force for further discussion. A second Forum has been scheduled for September 7th at the TBRPC/LEPC offices.

Mr. Ed Murphy contributed the fact that a universal badging system is a good concept but one that has been around for a couple of years. The issue of funding has always precluded the potential implementation of such a system. Mr. Steve Simpson added that having a facility-issued photo ID with the signature of a company authority figure on the back will currently aid in the returning of appropriate facility personnel to affected areas. Considering that this issue was raised by facility representatives in attendance at the Forum, Mr. Meyer agreed to bring the concern forward to the attention of the SERC's working group - the Training Task Force for their consideration.

Mr. Meyer recognized that the Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee held their quarterly meeting on August 18th. Several new members garnered from the July 14th Forum did attend. The meeting included: an overview of the recent Tier II assessment conducted by Subcommittee staff, including a commendation by FDEM's Paul Wotherspoon on the initiative and work product; identification of past Subcommittee accomplishments; overview of the Forum purpose and notes; discussion of ways the Fire Departments can assist in the dissemination of critical hazardous material information and LEPC purpose.

HMEP PROGRAM/TRAINING - In the absence of Subcommittee Chair James "JJ" Johnston, Mr. Meyer acknowledged that HMEP Training Subcommittee staff has been exceptionally busy this past quarter scheduling four courses to be conducted prior to the end of the HMEP contract period (i.e. September 30, 2011). Those courses, which accounted for the balance of HMEP Training funds for Calendar Year 2011, were: a "Hazmat Containers 101" course (in Pinellas County), a 40-Hr. Hazmat Tech/IC course (in Manatee County), a shift-friendly 24-Hr. Life Safety & Command course (in Manatee County) and an 8-Hr. OSHA Hazwoper Operations Refresher course (in Hillsborough County).

Not wanting to schedule an abundance of HMEP-funded courses late in the Contract period again, Subcommittee Chair Johnson has suggested hosting a HMEP Training Subcommittee meeting one hour prior to the next scheduled LEPC meeting (i.e. 9:30 a.m. on November 30, 2011). It is hopeful that next year's HMEP training opportunities and requests will be fielded much earlier in the Contract period.

Mr. Bill Lofgren reminded LEPC members that the HMEP Training program pre-requisites have been renewed to emphasize that the training must include a hazardous materials transportation-related component for public sector first responders since the Contract is ultimately funded by the Department of Transportation. Mr. Meyer added that each recent (and future) proposal has highlighted the transportation component when submitted to the FDEM for course consideration and approval.

REGIONAL DOMESTIC SECURITY TASK FORCE (RDSTF) - Ms. Amanda Shaw provided an overview of the recent RDSTF Program initiatives and indicated that additional information regarding these activities are included in the detailed LEPC Agenda materials. The Region 4 RDSTF serves Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hardee, Polk, Hernando, Citrus and Sumter Counties.

NATIONAL GUARD'S WMD CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM CAPABILITIES PRESENTATION. Capt. Chris Atherton, Operations Officer for the 48th Civil Support Team, provided a PowerPoint® presentation denoting their team's capabilities, expertise and technologies that are available to assist local, state and federal agencies in planning for and response to a potential chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident.

DHS/TSA PROJECT JACK RABBIT VIDEO PRESENTATION. Alan Pratt obtained and presented a video of a test project that was commissioned by the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration and conducted at a military test site (Dugway Proving Grounds) outside of Salt Lake City, UT in 2010. The test objectives were to simulate large-scale (90-ton rail car) ammonia and chlorine releases in order to determine vapor and aerosol behaviors of both chemicals in such a release and to evaluate instrumentation for potential future actual large-scale testing. Up to two tons of each chemical were released instantaneously during the testing.

Having attended the test in person, Mr. Pratt shared his belief that ammonia/chlorine industry facility personnel were consulted and brought in late in the testing phase. Industry personnel could have otherwise predicted many of the test outcomes in terms of chemical reactions and characteristics. In addition, ammonia vapors do not dissipate rapidly following the utilization of piping to transfer the chemical. In fact, when the ammonia piping was dismantled at the conclusion of the testing, personnel were injured by the remnants of ammonia and required medical attention.

TRAINING/WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES - Chair Ehlers recognized that numerous training opportunities were identified within the Agenda materials. Information concerning the following events was provided.

- FDEM's Training and Events Schedule/**Region 4**, Various FL Locations/Times (Aug. - Nov. 2011)
- FDEM's Training and Events Schedule/**Region 6**, Various FL Locations/Times (Aug. - Nov. 2011)
- 8-Hr. Hazmat Containers 101, Pinellas Park, August 23-25, 2011
- 40-Hr. Hazmat Technicians/IC Course, Manatee County, August 29 - Sept. 2, 2011
- 8-Hr. OSHA Hazwoper/Operations Level Refresher, Plant City, September 13-15, 2011
- 24-Hr. (3 Shifts), Hazardous Materials Life Safety & Command, Manatee County, Various Dates between August 31 - Sept. 16
- Mental Health in the Aftermath of a Disaster, Ft. Myers, August 25, 2011
- Communicating with the Media during a Hazmat Incident & Other Disasters, Ft. Myers, August 26
- Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness, Ft. Myers, August 26, 2011
- Recognition of and Response to Biological and Chemical Agents of Bioterrorism, Ft. Myers, August 26

The following additional course(s) were additionally identified by Mr. Greg Lindgren (Pasco County Emergency Management):

- Medical Management of CBRNE Events, Pasco County EOC, January 17-18, 2012

TAMPA BAY LEPC HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE -

Mr. Meyer advised members that the 18th annual update of the LEPC's *Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan* was completed and transmitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management prior to the June 30, 2011 deadline. Many of the edits corresponded to population updates and updates to Section 302 facilities within each County. FDEM staff has reviewed the Response Plan and provided a few minor suggested revisions, all of which were subsequently incorporated. It is anticipated that the modified Plan will be accepted and approved by the State Emergency Response Committee in conjunction with their October 7, 2011 meeting. Upon SERC approval, LEPC staff will prepare a CD containing the updated Plan in various formats for distribution to the required entities. The updated Plan will additionally be posted to the LEPC website.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN SERC AND LEPCs REGARDING FUTURE ELECTRONIC REPORTING -

Mr. Meyer identified that SERC is proceeding with the proposed implementation of a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) with all 11 LEPCs and 400+ Fire Departments statewide. If the terms and conditions of the MOU are accepted by the LEPCs and fire departments, Florida facilities submitting their annual hazardous materials inventories (i.e. equivalence of Tier II reporting) electronically through the Florida HMIS database (i.e. www.FloridaHMIS.org) would be exempt from the additional obligation of providing hard copies of the Report(s) to these agencies. Commentary previously received by LEPC members Ed Murphy, Chet Klinger, Chief David Burnett and Doug Wenger, as well as from Jennifer Garwood of Progress Energy at the May 25th LEPC meeting were shared with the SERC/FDEM staff for their information, guidance and consideration. These comments were reflected in the May 25th LEPC meeting *Minutes* as well as restated in the current LEPC Agenda materials.

FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (FDEM)/REGION 4 QUARTERLY MEETING -

Mr. Meyer indicated that FDEM Region 4 held their quarterly meeting on June 1st at the Hillsborough County EOC. A summary of the meeting was included in the LEPC Agenda materials. A subsequent quarterly meeting was held at the Tampa Bay Regional

Planning Council offices on August 26, 2011. A recap of this meeting will be included with the November 30th LEPC Agenda materials.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION - JOHN BALLARON. Mr. John Ballaron of the Manatee Port Authority was presented a *Certificate of Appreciation* for his nearly 11 years of faithful service on the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Mr. Ballaron will be retiring from the Port Authority in September 2011. Mr. Ballaron's appointment on the LEPC from the Port Authority has been succeeded by Mr. Scott Davies.

OTHER LEPC BUSINESS/THOMAS YATABE AWARDS NOMINATIONS. Mr. Meyer acknowledged that he sent an e-mail to all LEPC members on August 30th soliciting nominations for the *Thomas Yatabe Award*. Individuals, Agencies or Organizations are all eligible to receive the Award denoting "Outstanding contribution made in the implementation and support of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act through achievement(s), accomplishment(s) or superior participation in hazardous material planning or response." However, each year, only one nomination is selected to receive this award of distinction within each District. All others will receive a Certificate of Appreciation to recognize their contribution(s).

NEXT MEETING - Chair Ehlers announced that the next LEPC meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT - Without objection and upon a motion for adjournment by Mr. Doug Wenger and a second by Greg Lindgren, the LEPC meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.