



## RECAP OF OCTOBER 7, 2011 STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION MEETING

The October 7, 2011 SERC meeting was held in Tallahassee at the Betty Easley Conference Center. Mr. George Danz served as meeting Chair and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Following introductions of those in attendance, David Halstead, Deputy Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), acknowledged that the FDEM is now a separate entity under the Governor and no longer has any affiliation with the Florida Department of Community Affairs, which was ultimately merged under the newly-created Department of Economic Opportunity. As part of this realignment, future State Emergency Response Commission meetings are expected to be chaired by the Director of FDEM and/or their designated Alternate.

The items of business were:

- **Approval of July 8, 2011 SERC meeting Minutes.** The *Minutes* from the July 8, 2011 SERC meeting were approved unanimously on voice vote.

### 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 LEPC Districts. As a subset of this approval, the following change(s) was/were recognized for the District 8 LEPC membership:
  - Chief Robert Ballou replaced formerly retired Chief Bill Ward as the “Alternate” for Capt. Steven LeCroy of St. Petersburg Fire Rescue.
- **Approval of LEPC Plans.** As part of the annual FDEM/LEPC Contract, each LEPC is required to perform an annual update of their respective *Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan*. SERC unanimously approved the modified *Hazardous Materials Emergency Plans* submitted by each of the 11 LEPCs.
- **Thomas Yatabe-SERC Award Nominations and Certificates of Appreciations.** The SERC unanimously accepted and approved all individuals, agencies and organizations nominated for the “Thomas Yatabe Award” (TYA) by their respective LEPC as well as those meritorious of a Certificate of Appreciation. The TYA signifies “*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.*” The names of nominees for LEPC District 8 are intentionally being withheld from this Recap until the Award and Certificates are publicly presented in association with the January 6, 2012 SERC meeting.
- **Draft SERC Fee and Regulation Brochure.** Mr. Paul Wotherspoon, FDEM staff, reported that “an information document” has been compiled at the prior request of SERC Member Nancy Stephens for dissemination to industries contemplating relocation to the State of Florida. This document, in the form of

a “four-panel brochure,” can be easily mailed and includes cursory information regarding the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act as well as the Risk Management, Accidental Release and Toxic Release Inventory programs, including citations, rules, fees, corresponding web sites addresses and contact names/telephone numbers.

- **Legislative and Rule Changes.** Mr. Paul Wotherspoon, FDEM staff, advised the SERC members that Chapter 252.85, F.S. currently establishes a finite fee structure for imposing penalties on industry(ies) not reporting in a timely manner and highlighted how these penalties can exponentially increase with time lapsed. Noting that the Technological Hazards Section (of FDEM) is more concerned with “bringing facilities into compliance” rather than potentially imposing a lucrative financial penalties, FDEM staff is currently evaluating legislative revisions which would allow flexibility in determining the extent of penalty to be imposed. This would or could include an amnesty program for first time registrants. SERC supported FDEM staff’s intentions and unanimously approved the seeking of such modifications.
- **Hazardous Materials Awareness Week.** The SERC unanimously declared the week of January 22-28, 2012 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. This year’s theme will be “Mercury Awareness and Education.” FDEM staff indicated that they will make every effort to provide the Governor’s *Proclamation* of such as expeditiously as possible to serve as advisement to the Cities and Counties within the State.

## REPORTS

- **Report on April 2012 National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Conference.** FDEM staff advised that the 2012 NASTTPO Conference has been scheduled at the Trade Winds Resort in St. Pete Beach on April 25-27, 2012. A block of 140± rooms is being reserved for this event on a first-come-first-served basis. The SERC’s quarterly meeting has been scheduled to immediately precede this event (i.e. April 23-24, 2012).
- **SERC’s Training Task Force (TTF).** Aside from some of the above recognized items, the following highlights of the October 6, 2011 TTF meeting were identified by Don Sessions, TTF Chair:
  - Teleconferences. TTF Chair Don Sessions indicated that teleconferences were held on August 31 and September 14, 2011, primarily to discuss the “*TTF Capability Assessment Tool for Types II & III Hazmat Teams*” and discussion regarding modification(s) to the “score sheet” associated with the SERC Hazmat training guidelines in order to better assess potential training vendors, respectively.
  - Approval of revisions for Types II and III Hazardous Materials Team Assessments. Approved the modifications proposed and most recently discussed in the August 31<sup>st</sup> teleconference with one minor revision. TTF Member Matt Marshall inquired whether HMEP Planning/Training money could be utilized to conduct the required self assessment of capabilities for the non State-funded hazmat teams. FDEM staff indicated they will evaluate whether HMEP funds can be used for these purposes and/or whether additional State funds could be made available.
  - Report on SERC Hazardous Materials Training Guidelines. Several TTF members met in the afternoon of October 6<sup>th</sup> to further discuss training guidelines and measures which would/may affect the selection of future training vendors. It was acknowledged that the State Training Plan would need to be modified to reflect any/all revisions.

- Report on the modification of the SERC Public Safety Sampling Standard Operating Guidelines. The Department of Health continues to provide “Chem Bio Hazards” training and highlights the importance of hazmat teams collecting, packaging and screening the first samples of suspect biological powder incidents for immediate delivery to the State laboratory for prompt analysis. Hazmat teams can conduct field evaluations and risk assessment of any remnants of the unknown chemical to determine immediate actions which may be necessary to alleviate and/or eliminate the risk and exposure to the public. The processes need to be published so that the hazmat incident command, FDLE & DOH understand the procedures and can universally disseminate appropriate direction to the media on an as needed basis.
  - Discussion of (potential) Hazardous Materials Training Symposium. Noting the broad array of hazardous materials knowledge, talents and expertise that exists within the State and acknowledging the commonality of dwindling travel budgets, discussion ensued about the possibility of conducting an annual training symposium which could be hosted centrally within Florida. It would be anticipated that such a event would benefit a much broader audience of Florida first responders than travel annually to Baltimore, MD to attend a similar venue. Partnering the potential symposium with an established Conference (e.g. Fire Rescue East) would undoubtedly reduce program costs and significantly bolster anticipated Statewide participation levels. If such event does come to fruition, a determination would need to be made regarding the possible utilization of HMEP/Training dollars to assist in the funding the travel costs associated with the numerous presenters as well as participation of local members.
  - SERC’s Training Task Force (TTF) “Project Board.” FDEM staff modified the TTF Project Board to reflect two new initiatives [see below] and completion of a third. The Board consists of the name of the initiative, the status of the initiative, a brief description and the lead party(ies). The Board is accessible from FDEM’s website ([www.floridadisaster.org/hazmat/serc/training.htm](http://www.floridadisaster.org/hazmat/serc/training.htm)).
  - New Initiative #1 (for Project Board): “Hazmat Teams Justification” (*or comparably titled*). In these economic times, governments are constantly seeking ways to reduce costs. It is being rumored that consideration is being granted about the possibility of merging (or consolidating) some of the 28 State-funded hazmat teams. Chief Mike Murphy reminded the membership that it was, at least in part, the SERC’s 1994 endorsement which initially lead to the creation of the multiple hazmat teams capable of responding to any/all Statewide hazmat incidents within one hour, as intended. With the premonition that any such merging/consolidation would exacerbate vulnerabilities and capability gaps, Chief Murphy suggested pro-actively developing a policy/plan designed to stave off the possible merger/consolidation in order to maintain SERC’s prior vision.
  - New Initiative #2 (for Project Board): “Bomb Squad/Hazmat Team Integration” (*or comparably titled*). Chief Murphy suggested that recommendations/standards should be developed to address the extent of hazmat team involvement (in terms of number of hazmat team members and type of equipment to be transported) when accompanying the Bomb Squad to bomb threats.
  - Next Scheduled TTF Conference Calls. The quarterly TTF conference calls have been scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> (1:30 p.m.) and December 14<sup>th</sup> (1:30 p.m.).
- **Financial Status Report.** Mr. Sam Brackett, FDEM staff, reported that the SERC Agenda materials contained numerous tables and graphs depicting a comparison of the various revenues and expenditures associated with FDEM’s Hazardous Materials Planning and Risk Management Planning Programs over the past two years.
  - **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 June 1, 2011 and August 31, 2011. Such Reports documented these incidents and portrayed the number of persons evacuated, injured or deceased down to LEPC District and ultimately County 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.	6/13/11	FF	Carbon Monoxide	Unknown	Private Residence	0	7	0
	7/22/11	TR	Natural Gas	288,640	Pipeline	6	0	0
	8/29/11	FF	Unknown	Unknown	Post Office	3	3	0
Manatee	6/21/11	TR	Gasoline or Diesel Fuel	Unknown	Traffic Accident	0	0	2
Pasco	None Identified							
Pinellas	7/23/11	FF	Natural Gas	Unknown	Private Residence	5	0	0
	7/28/11	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline	31	0	0
	8/26/11	FF	Natural Gas	Unknown	Mobile Home Park	0	4	0
<b>TOTAL →</b>						<b>45</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>

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

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

- Annual revenues received monthly by the EPCRA & RMP programs from 2009-10 to current;
  - Detailed breakdown of appropriations for the Hazardous Materials Planning & Risk Management Planning Programs from FY 2010-11 to current;
  - Potential Section 304 Investigations identified by County and date;
  - annual comparison of the Statewide number of Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports since 1999;
  - comparison of hazardous materials incidents reports by District (from Sept. 1, 2010 - Aug. 31, 2011);
  - monthly enumeration of Hazardous Materials Incident Reports since 2001;
  - *Total Chemical Inventory* by District;
  - quarterly quantification of statewide *Notices of Violation/Second Notices* (since June 2008); and
  - quantification of the number of calls received by the Department for Technical Assistance by month since September 2010.
- **Update on LEPC Activities.** Additionally serving as the Chair of the LEPC Staff/Chairs, Mr. George Danz reported that Ms. Linda McWhorter, FDEM staff, made a brief presentation requesting that all LEPCs post their HMEP-funded training events (as well as all other applicable training venues) on the State Training Calendar. Individuals desiring to attend a particular training event are would be encouraged to pre-register electronically through the system. The new software will allow for Certificates to be issued upon completion of the course and verification by the Instructor(s). A pilot program to test the new software capabilities and limitations will go into effect in November. It is anticipated that the system will go “live” in January 2012.

Chair Danz indicated that the majority of accomplishments achieved by each LEPC is captured in the *Hazmatters* section of the backup SERC Agenda materials.

The following serve as accomplishments documented by LEPC District 8 staff, primarily for the period of June - August 2011:

- District 8 was involved in a number of HMEP and LEPC co-sponsored activities during the quarter. Staff attended the Quarterly SERC meetings held in Pensacola at Pensacola City Hall on July 7-8, 2011 and conducted the District 8 LEPC meeting on August 31, 2011. Staff additionally attended the FDEM Region 4 quarterly meeting held at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council on August 26, 2011 under the leadership of Mr. Paul Siddall. District 8's next LEPC meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2011.
- The LEPC's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS) met on August 18, 2011. Invigorated with renewed interest and additional members, Subcommittee members briefly highlighted some of the past FDPS accomplishments for the benefit of new attendees/members, including a presentation of the recently-completed Tier II quality control assessment/initiative, solicited ideas about a possible refinement of Subcommittee purpose, and strategized about future potential training sessions. Training venues included the conduct of a Facility Disaster Preparedness Forum on July 14<sup>th</sup> with a second, identically-themed, Forum scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup>. The Forum would be best characterized as a facilitated interaction between hazardous material facility representatives as well as members of the First Responder community (and others) regarding pre- and post-disaster planning initiatives and objectives.
- LEPC staff and/or member(s) participated in a series of teleconferences administered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management regarding Training Task Force initiatives (June 15 & August 31, 2011) as well as a HMEP Financial Webinar (June 16<sup>th</sup>).
- Several Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) program courses have been scheduled and have been or will be conducted prior to the end of the Quarter. Those courses consist of: 8 Hr. Hazardous Materials Containers 101 (Pinellas County); a 40 Hr. Hazmat Technicians/IC (Manatee County); 8 Hr. OSHA Hazwoper Refresher (Hillsborough County); and 24 Hr. Life Safety & Command (Manatee County).
- Staff represented the Tampa Bay LEPC at the July 12, 2011 meeting of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee and the U.S. Coast Guard Area Committee which immediately followed.
- The Pinellas Police Standards Council (PPSC) continues to meet at the TBRPC under LEPC sponsorship. Staff assisted with the June 8, July 13 & August 10, 2011 PPSC meetings.
- The Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection Committee also met on August 3, 2011 at the TBRPC offices under LEPC sponsorship.
- Staff and/or various LEPC members attended the Ammonia Handlers/Operators meetings held on June 28 (@ Kinder Morgan), July 26 (@ CF Industries) and August 23, 2011 (@ CF Industries). The meetings are essentially rotationally located and are focused on discussing initiatives and activities of the ammonia operations facilities located within or adjacent to the Port of Tampa.
- The LEPC website (i.e. [www.tbrpc.org/lepc](http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc)) is routinely and frequently updated to ensure all activities and initiatives of the LEPC are current.

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Paul Wotherspoon, FDEM staff, advised SERC members that EPA regulations concerning Ammonium Nitrate have recently become more stringent. Purchasers and sellers will now be more heavily regulated and can file the newly-required "paperwork" electronically.

## COMMENTS & ADJOURNMENT.

- **Next Meeting.** It was announced that the next SERC meeting will be held in Altamonte Springs at the offices of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council on January 6, 2012. In addition, members were reminded that the April SERC meeting will be held on April 24, 2012 at the Trade Winds Resort in St. Pete Beach and that the NASTTPO Conference will immediately follow on April 25-27, 2012.
- **Adjournment.** Following a motion and a second, the SERC meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.