



RECAP OF JULY 13, 2012 STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION MEETING

The July 13, 2012 SERC meeting was held at the Aloft Hotel/Tapestry Park in Jacksonville. Mr. Bryan Koon chaired the meeting and called it to order at 10:02 a.m. and proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance and an introduction of all in attendance.

It was acknowledged that not enough SERC members were present to constitute a quorum and that all items will continue to be discussed today. However, those requiring approval can be considered at the very beginning of the next SERC meeting (i.e. October 12, 2012).

The items of business were:

- **Tentative approval of April 24, 2012 SERC meeting Minutes.** The *Minutes* from the April 24, 2012 meeting were tentatively approved subject to concurrence and presence of a quorum at the next SERC meeting.
- **Hazardous Materials and Explosive Ordinance Teams Integration Protocol.** While the protocol for integration of the Hazardous Materials and Explosive Ordinance Teams initially sought approval from the SERC, it was determined that further “vetting” of the initiative would be appropriate prior to SERC consideration and potential endorsement. Discussion ensued about circulation of the proposed protocol to all hazmat and EOD teams as well as incorporation of the concept and materials into the 160-hr. certification course. The protocol has already been transmitted to the State Working Group.

NEW BUSINESS

- **New/revised Local Emergency Planning Committee Appointments (Statewide).** The SERC tentatively approved all new LEPC appointments requested by each of the 11 LEPC Districts as well as the biennial ratification of all existing members. Subject to “official” approval by SERC upon the presence of a quorum, the following LEPC District 8 LEPC membership changes were formally requested for recognition by the SERC:
 - Ms. Joann Chambers-Emerson to replace Mr. Martin Dorsey as the “Primary” LEPC appointment for Tampa General Hospital - Florida Poison Information Center. In turn, Ms. Chambers-Emerson would designate Ms. Cynthia Lewis-Younger of the same agency to be her “Alternate” on the LEPC.
 - Mr. Jeff Patterson to replace Mr. Martin Montalvo as the “Alternate” LEPC appointment for Hillsborough County Emergency Management (HCEM). The “Primary” LEPC representative from HCEM would remain Ms. Holley Wade.
 - Mr. Bryan Cook to replace Ms. Janet Frazier-Henry as the “Alternate” LEPC appointment for *Tampa Bay Times* (TBT). The “Primary” LEPC representative from TBT would remain Mr. Jonathan Kemp.

REPORTS

- **Report from SERC's Training Task Force (TTF).** Aside from discussion of the HazMat/EOD teams integration protocol recognized above, the following serve as additional topics addressed and encapsulate the other highlights of the July 13, 2012 TTF meeting as identified by TTF Chair Don Sessions:
 - Teleconferences. Teleconferences were held primarily to discuss the HazMat/EOD Team protocol initiative (May 23) and status updates on planned Hazardous Materials Training Symposium (June 27).
 - Hazardous Materials Training Symposium.
 - It was affirmed that hosting the Training Symposium in conjunction with the 2013 Fire Rescue East Conference in Daytona Beach would be most convenient for attendees to enable them to attend both venues at one location.
 - It was determined that scheduling four courses in the evening of Wednesday, January 23 and four courses in the morning of Thursday, January 24, 2013 (4 Courses) would be most beneficial to promote/encourage cross-attendance at both events.
 - It has **not** been determined which source of LEPC funding (and to what extent) could be utilized to offset the training and perhaps travel costs associated with employees from their Districts and/or whether an alternative source of funding can be identified and established by FDEM.
 - Surveys were sent to approximately 1,800 statewide HazMat team members to solicit their training needs. Only about 100 completed surveys were returned. From those received, it was evident that the training would/should include Detection/Analysis and Risk Assessment.
 - Radiological Emergency Preparedness. Previously noting the commonality between the Training Task Force (TTF) and the Radiological Emergency Response Program (REP) in terms of goals, objectives, personnel, equipment and training needs/requirements, it was SERC's prior desire to add Mr. Rankin to the TTF & SERC membership rosters. FDEM staff Paul Wotherspoon introduced Radiological representatives from FDEM (Roger Rankin) and FEMA (Randall Hecht) who were present. Mr. Wotherspoon advised that a petition currently exists to potentially change and expand the radiological response zones. If approved, 64 of the 67 counties would be affected, including all of the counties within the Tampa Bay area. The only Counties that would not be affected are Santa Rosa, Escambia & Sarasota. The proposed changes would relate to the protection zone distances associated with the relevant facilities. It is understood that Roger Rankin will represent REP on the SERC upon appointment by the Governor.
 - Biological Sampling Protocol. The procedures pertain to the collect of evidence sample(s) and transmittal to state lab for analysis/identification. The Biological Sampling Protocol document is nearing completion and should be completed in "about a month." Upon completion, it will serve only as guidance procedures. Extremely expensive technologies exist to avoid the potential of contamination by hazmat teams. However, these procedures have been put on hold due to cost. What has not been addressed is action that would be taken by the hazmat teams while waiting for lab analysis and identification.

- TRANSACER Initiatives. It is known that large quantities of Chlorine and Ethanol are transported daily via rail car throughout the U.S. There will be a concerted effort to bring response training for hazmat incidents involving the transport of these chemicals (or others) via rail car to the State. However, it typically takes a minimum of eight months to schedule such training considering the delivery of trains and other training equipment that is necessary. Grant funds for backfill and some travel cost would be available to defray some of the expenses. The training is normally a three day event. However, it can be as large or small as the State wants it to be. Facilities have expressed an interest in participating and allowing the use of their equipment and resources. It is anticipated that the training would be shift-friendly & multi-day.
 - Updates from Agencies/Organizations.
 - Mr. Joe Nelson identified that DEA is getting out the business of sampling analysis and the function will now be assumed by DOH. What will they do with their former analysis equipment? A box has been added to the TTF Tracking Chart to explore this and other issues.
 - Mr. Dominic Barrone identified that FDEP has been partially reorganized. The Division of Law Enforcement has been moved under FWC. Emergency Response remained under FDEP.
 - Next Scheduled TTF Conference Call. The next quarterly TTF conference call has been scheduled for September 5th at 1:30 p.m. and will focus on updates to the proposed training symposium and other issues.
- **Report of EPA Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Program Staff Changes.** Mr. Paul Wotherspoon (FDEM staff) announced that EPA has recently implemented several staff assignment changes for their Chemical Emergency Preparedness Program (CEPP). The CEPP is designed as a voluntary program to encourage State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) to identify hazards in their areas and to plan for potential chemical emergencies. Mr. Victor Weeks has been named the CEPP Coordinator for EPA Region 4 and Mr. Jyoti “Jay” Bhushan the liason specifically for the State of Florida. They can be reached at weeks.victor@epa.gov and bhushan.jyoti@epa.gov respectively.
 - **Financial Status Report.** Mr. Wotherspoon 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. There was slightly less revenue this year compared to last year. Some of the difference could be attributed to the waiver process of fines that has been initiated for facility’s that were unaware of filing requirements. There has been a focus to reach out to facilities that are required to report (e.g. golf courses...). The federal HMEP grant pays some of the staff salaries which is not included in the Financial Statement nor is the radiological program which is funded by the power companies.
 - **Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports.** Mr. Sam Brackett (FDEM staff) advised that detailed listings of fixed facility and transportation-related hazardous materials incidents were prepared and included with the Agenda materials to describe incidents occurring between the period of March 2 - May 31, 2012. Such Reports included documentation of 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, including an enumeration of those evacuated, injured or deceased:

| County | Date of Release | Type* | Chemical | Amount Released (Lbs.) | Business Type | # Evacuated | # Injured | # Fatalities |
|----------------|-----------------|-------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Hills. | 3/02/12 | TR | Natural Gas | Unknown | Pipeline/Const. | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| | 5/06/12 | 304 | Anhydrous Ammonia | 3,604 | Cold Storage | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | 5/30/12 | TR | Gasoline | Unknown | Traffic Accident | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Manatee | 4/07/12 | 304 | Anhydrous Ammonia | 20 | Frozen Fruit Mfg. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Pasco | 3/31/12 | 304 | Unknown Hazmat | 250 | Construction | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Pinellas | 4/05/12 | 304 | Hydrochloric Acid | Unknown | Unknown | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | 4/09/12 | FF | Lye (Acid)/Toluene | Unknown | Meth Lab | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 4/20/12 | FF | Natural Gas | Unknown | Private Residence | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | 4/26/12 | TR | Natural Gas | Unknown | Pipeline/Const. | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| | 4/28/12 | TR | Natural Gas | Unknown | Pipeline/Traffic | 41 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL → | | | | | | 89 | 1 | 0 |

* - FF = Fixed Facility incident / TR - Transportation-related incident / 304 - Section 304 Investigation (Closed)

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

- annual revenues received monthly by the EPCRA & RMP programs since 2009-10;
- detailed breakdown of annual appropriations for the Hazardous Materials Planning & Risk Management Planning Programs since FY 2010-11;
- potential Section 304 Investigations for each District and County by date;
- comparison of hazardous materials incidents reports by District (from June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2012);
- annual comparison of the Statewide number of Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports since 2000;
- monthly enumeration of Hazardous Materials Incident Reports since 2002;
- *Total Chemical Count* by District; and
- quantification of monthly Technical Assistance Calls Since June 2011.

Mr. Brackett identified that the overall number of releases have gone down 33%, mostly on account of fuel incidents. While Ammonia releases have gone up presumably to relate to the recently experienced heat wave, it was speculated that the number of Chlorine incidents have been reduced since alternatives now exist to the use of Chlorine. In fact, the number of Chlorine incidents have been reduced from 285 to 218 in the just the past year and a half.

- **Update on LEPC Activities.** Subcommittee Chair George Danz announced that this will be his final meeting on the SERC and has submitted his letter of resignation in this regard. In fact, Mr. Danz had recently tendered his letter of resignation as LEPC District 11 Chair since he and his wife have recently relocated from their south Florida residence to Naples, FL. SERC Chair Bryan Koon thanked Mr. Danz for his dedication to hazardous materials planning and awareness and his years of faithful public service.

- Mr. Danz recognized that Ms. Jennifer Hobbs of LEPC District 6 has been nominated as his replacement as the Chair for the LEPC Staff and Chairs and additionally, following her official appointment by the Governor, will serve as the representative on the SERC in this capacity.
- Mr. Danz recognized that over the past several years, the Governor has proclaimed a *Hazardous Materials Awareness Week* and the various LEPCs promoted education regarding a particular, statewide, pre-determined theme. It was agreed that the Governor shall continue to proclaim a *Hazardous Materials Awareness Week* but each LEPC would be encouraged to select their own topic(s)/initiative(s) to promote during this specified time period.
- Mr. Tim Date had agreed to research and resolve the discrepancies between “Manager Rights” vs. “Administrative Rights” identified by LEPC staff when posting HMEP courses to the State Training Calendar.
- Mr. Date also reminded all LEPC staff and Chairs that the Thomas Yatabe Award winners and nominations must be provided in conjunction with the October 2012 SERC meetings.
- Mr. Paul Wotherspoon indicated that each LEPCs should be gathering list of potential SEPs. The potential project(s) must be beneficial to State and local communities. There are eight categories of projects (eg. solar panel(s), parks, lake cleanups, alternative fuel vehicle, training, equipment...).
- Mr. Danz concluded his remarks by recognizing 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 the documented tasks identified by LEPC District 8 staff for the period of March-May 2012:

- District 8 was involved in a number of HMEP and LEPC co-sponsored activities during the quarter. Staff attended the SERC quarterly meetings held in St. Pete Beach at the Tradewinds Resort on April 23-24 and conducted the District 8 LEPC quarterly meeting on May 30th. In addition, staff and/or LEPC members attended the FDEM Region 4 quarterly meeting on March 2nd at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center under the leadership of FDEM Region 4 Coordinator Paul Siddall.
- The LEPC's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS) met on April 19, 2012. Invigorated with new membership garnered from prior forums and/or workshops, discussion items included: highlights of last Subcommittee meeting (i.e. January 19th); discussion regarding the future conduct of a "Private Sector Preparedness Course" which would allow smaller facilities to "self certify" their hazardous materials plans; and the future scheduling of a workshop to be entitled "Fire Departments - Promoting Useful EPCRA Reporting." It is envisioned that the attendees will be apprised of useful reporting information that can be further disseminated to hazmat facilities during their routine inspections conducted by fire department personnel. This workshop has tentatively been scheduled for Thursday, September 20th.
- The LEPC's HMEP Training Subcommittee met on May 30th to strategize addressing FDEM's directive to plan, schedule and conduct \$10,000+ in training for first responders during the first quarter of the next HMEP contract (i.e. between July 1- September 30). Based on the consensus and needs identified by the Subcommittee members present, it appears that the conduct of a Foam/Ethanol course(s) will be pursued. The HMEP Training pre-requisites were, once again, recognized to be destined for First Responders, must be "cost effective," and must include a transportation component or nexus.
- LEPC staff and/or member(s) participated in a May 23rd teleconference administered by FDEM staff regarding the furthering of Training Task Force initiatives.
- Three 4-hour "Hazcat Kit Training" courses were conducted for the Pinellas County Hazmat Team (April 24-26, 2012) and a 24-Hr. "Confined Space Rescue Operations for Industrial, Municipal and Transportation Hazardous Materials Environments" course (May 8-10, 2012) was conducted for members of the North River Fire District (Manatee County) with funding from the HMEP/Training Program. An additional 40-hour training event, entitled "Hazwoper/Clandestine Drug Lab Certification" has been approved and will be conducted.
- Staff and/or LEPC member(s) represented the Tampa Bay LEPC at the March 13th & May 8th meetings of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee, as well as the March 20th, April 26th & May 30th meetings of the Ammonia Handlers/Operators of Tampa.

- With a special thanks extended to the Department of Homeland Security/Transportation Security Administration, the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office, the Tampa Police Department, Tampa Fire Rescue, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Hillsborough County Emergency Management, Tampa Port Authority & CF Industries for assistance in scenario development and participation, LEPC staff conducted their biennial exercise on Friday, May 25th. The scenario of the "walk through" exercise involved the placement of a simulated bomb device on C.F. Industries' Anhydrous Ammonia pipeline by anarchist in association with the Republican National Convention and required their response actions. The secondary component of the exercise, added for the benefit of the LEPC, involved an acknowledgment of a slight rupture of the pipeline and associated release caused during the removal of the bomb and solicited the corresponding facility, emergency management & first responder actions and evacuations associated with the incident.
- In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff additionally: attended the March 13th U.S. Coast Guard Area Contingency Plan meeting; assisted with the March 14th, March 21st & April 11th meetings of the Pinellas Police Standards Council; facilitated the quarterly meeting of the Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection Committee (April 4th & 24th); and provided updates regarding the LEPC program activities to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council in conjunction with their March 12th, April 9th & May 14th meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Jennifer Hobbs introduced a representative from the Space Florida industry. While the Governor has yet to officially and recently make new appointments to the SERC, the SERC had unanimously agreed to expand their membership roster to include a representative from the industry.
- Mr. Richard Smith urged SERC Chair Bryan Koon to encourage the Governor to fill the numerous vacancies identified in the current SERC membership roster and acknowledged that the list of vacancies has just grown by one with Mr. Danz's resignation today. Mr. Smith added that by making such timely appointments, the potential for not having a quorum at future SERC meetings would be dramatically reduced.
- SERC Chair Bryan Koon acknowledged that he will work with Heather Stearns to confirm that the SERC meeting date changes (recognized above) can/will be authorized through advertisement and/or notification processes.

COMMENTS & ADJOURNMENT.

- **Next Meeting.** It was announced that the next SERC meeting will be held in Tallahassee on October 12, 2012 although the particular venue has not been established at this point. It was further identified that the January 2013 SERC meeting would be held in Daytona Beach in conjunction with the Fire Rescue East Conference/Hazardous Materials Training Symposium on January 24, 2013.
- **Adjournment.** The SERC meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.