



# LEPC MEETING RECAP

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## TAMPA BAY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) DISTRICT VIII, MEETING MAY 29, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER** - Scott Ehlers chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Following a brief introduction of attendees, everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. With 29 members and/or their Alternates present, it was acknowledged that a quorum was present (nine members constitute a quorum). Chair Ehlers welcomed the LEPC members as well as the 14 attending from the public.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - The Chair inquired whether there were any suggested additions, subtractions or modification(s) to the *Minutes* of the February 27, 2013 LEPC meeting. Hearing none, the Chair asked for motion to approve the *Minutes*. James Johnston moved and Jonathan Kemp seconded the motion. The *Minutes* were approved unanimously on voice vote.

**LEPC DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES** - LEPC Staff Coordinator John Meyer recognized that Dr. Alfred Aleguas has recently been named the Managing Director for the Tampa General Hospital/Florida Poison Information Center. As such, Dr. Aleguas has requested being named the “Primary” LEPC representative from this entity and Ms. JoAnn Chambers-Emerson has been reappointed as his “Alternate.”

**RECAP OF QUARTERLY STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC) MEETINGS** - Mr. Meyer acknowledged that a detailed Recap of the discussion and/or action items associated with the April 5, 2013 SERC Quarterly meeting, held at the Betty Easley Conference Center in Tallahassee, was included in the LEPC Agenda materials and are additionally available on the LEPC website. In addition, Mr. Meyer verbalized the following highlights of the SERC meeting:

- FDEM staff is currently evaluating the Hazards Analysis program whereby, each year, 50% of each County’s Section 302 facilities are evaluated, visited, remapped and the data resubmitted.

The Program currently costs approximately \$450,000 annually to administer statewide. Various parties enter into Contract with FDEM to conduct the analyses on a countywide basis. These parties consist of County departments, municipal departments, some RPCs, and even private industry. Within LEPC District 8, each of the Counties conducts the Hazard Analyses for their own facilities.

A Subcommittee of various entities from across the State have been formed to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the Program. As you can imagine, Hillsborough County has one of the busiest workloads in the State in this regard and completes approximately 150 Hazards Analyses yearly. Noting their extensive involvement, FDEM has invited Mr. Preston Cook, Director of the Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management, to participate on the “Working Group,” as would be appropriate.

It was acknowledged that **PROS** (of the program) include face-to-face site visits with facility personnel and ability to answer questions which may arise from the facility and the **CONS** include the cost to administer the program and the potential for duplication with other required site visits.

At minimum, it is anticipated that the Program will be “*streamlined to ensure the elimination of redundancy (if applicable) and increase of efficiency.*” LEPC staff will continue to monitor the status of the Working Group efforts and findings and will report back to the LEPC.

- The State’s Risk Management Planning Program schedule was approved to include three Pinellas County facilities for 2013-14. These facilities are Brenntag Mid-South, the Oberly Pumping Station and the Washington Terrace Pumping Station. In addition to RMP staff evaluating and proposing modifications to a Facility’s Emergency Plans, the accompanying walkthrough of the facility typical yields safety related recommendations with a true “we’re here to help” attitude. While no fines can be levied by RMP personnel, implementation of the resulting safety measures could (and often does) reduce or perhaps eliminate the fines which may otherwise be levied by EPA when it conducts their independent facility inspection.

**HMEP PROGRAM - PLANNING** - Mr. Alan Pratt acknowledged that no request(s) for a presentation on the Port of Tampa Ammonia Siren Notification System and/or corresponding “Shelter-in-Place” video have been recently received. These types of presentations are periodically requested by interested schools, organizations and community groups in proximity of the Port of Tampa although HMEP Planning Subcommittee members stand ready to make Ammonia Siren/Shelter-in-Place Workshops in short order as has been done in the past.

The Subcommittee had initially scheduled a Hazardous Materials Forum Workshop on April 18 to bring the Hazardous Material facilities in the Port together with the intent to self-identify their general business practices, transportation modes, and response capabilities so that neighboring facilities could determine whether additional risks may be placed on their facilities and could perhaps result in corresponding revision(s) to their Disaster Plans. The workshop was canceled for a variety of reasons including recent events (West Texas explosion & suspicious package at a Port of Tampa Cruise Ship Terminal) and the fact that the confirmed attendees only included a handful of the targeted facilities. Subcommittee members convened to discuss strategies to solicit better participation from the targeted industries. It was decided that telephone calls and/or visits with key facility personnel would be the most advantageous. It is anticipated that this endeavor will occur shortly.

**FACILITY DISASTER PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE (FDPS)** - Mr. Meyer recognized that the FDPS held the quarterly meeting on April 17, 2013, a Recap of which was provided with the backup Agenda materials. The highlight of the meeting included the furthering of guidance associated with a “*Keeping Your Head above Water - Storm Surge Preparedness for Businesses with Hazardous Materials Workshop.*” The Workshop has been scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Tampa Port Authority Cruise Ship Terminal #3. The official date will be determined later this week. The topics of the Workshop include: “Storm Surge 101” and Meteorological Trends; Identification of Vulnerabilities and Chemical Storage; “Have a Plan”; Insurance & Financial Issues; and Lessons Learned. A distinguished panel of speakers has been assembled to address the variety of issues. Following the workshop, it is anticipated that attendees will have a better understanding of the vulnerability of their facility and can make a more informed decision regarding the potential actions which can or should occur with their hazardous materials inventories when a significant storm is imminent or threatening.

**HMEP PROGRAM/TRAINING** - Subcommittee Chair JJ Johnston identified The HMEP Training Subcommittee is nearing completion of another successful year of public-sector first responder training. During the quarter, HMEP Training funds were/will be utilized: to conduct of three 8-Hr. Chlorine Refresher courses (April 23-25); sent ten representatives from our District to a 40-Hr. HazMedic course held in Ocala (May 13-17); and will be used to fund three 8-Hr. “Hazmat IQ” courses (June 25-27). Following the conduct of this final course, all allocated District 8 training funds will have been fully spent.

Next year’s HMEP Contract will include an identical stipulation of that for this year. That provision requires the expenditure of 25% of entire annual HMEP Training budget to be spent in the first quarter alone (i.e. July 1- September 30, 2013). This equates to \$11,768. Funds allocated in excess of this amount will not be reimbursed and unused funds must be returned. The HMEP Training Subcommittee met earlier this morning and bantered potential training opportunities to meet this first quarter funding requirement.

Mr. Meyer reminded LEPC members that training which could potentially qualify for HMEP funding must be for Public-sector First Responders, must be transportation related, and must be pre-approved by FDEM. Part of FDEM’s evaluation criteria includes the conduct of a cost benefit analysis which considers a variety of factors such as course cost, level of trainee personnel, anticipated number of attendees and number of training hours.

The following constitutes the updated status of the 2012-13 HMEP Training Contract:

Quarter	Date	Name	Expenses	Cumulative	Remaining
<b>BASE FUNDING UNDER 2012-13 HMEP CONTRACT</b>					<b>\$47,072.00</b>
1	8/23-25/2012	Three 8-Hr. Foam/Ethanol Courses, Zephyrhills F.D.	\$ 5,199.00	\$ 5,199.00	\$41,873.00
	9/12-28/2012	160-Hr. Hazmat Tech Course (5 Students), Pinellas	\$ 5,815.00	\$11,014.00	\$36,058.00
		1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/July - Sept. 2012 <Actual <sup>1</sup> >	\$ 754.00	\$11,768.00	\$35,304.00
2	10/23-25/2012	E-Plan Users Conference (J. Patterson), Atlanta, GA	\$ 955.46	\$12,723.46	\$34,348.54
	11/27-29/2012	24-Hr. Hazmat Life Safety & Command, Manatee	\$ 3,600.00	\$16,323.46	\$30,748.54
	12/18-20/2012	Three 8-Hr. Foam/Ethanol Training, Pin. Co. Hazmat	\$ 6,100.00	\$22,423.46	\$24,648.54
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/Oct.-Dec., 2012 <Actual <sup>1</sup> >	\$ 1,627.00	\$24,050.46	\$23,021.54
3		NONE	\$ 0	\$24,050.46	\$23,021.54
		3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/Jan. - Mar. 2013 <Actual <sup>1</sup> >	\$ 1,125.00	\$25,175.46	\$21,896.54
4	4/23-25/2013	Three 8-Hr. Chlorine Refresher Courses, Pin. Hazmat	\$ 2,500.00	\$27,676.46	\$19,396.54
	5/13-17/2013	40-Hr. HazMedic Course <sup>3</sup> , Ocala (10 Students)	\$ 4,260.00	\$31,936.46	\$15,136.54
	6/25-27/2013	Three 8-Hr. “Hazmat IQ” Courses <sup>2</sup> , Pin. Co. Hazmat	\$13,850.00	\$45,786.46	\$ 1,286.54
		4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/April-June, 2013 <Estimate <sup>1</sup> >	\$ 1,600.00 <sup>1</sup>	\$47,386.46	[\$ 313.46]

**FOOTNOTES:**

- Administrative expenses include indirects, internal service charges, auditing, building occupancy, travel time and small miscellaneous expenses. Please note that the “estimate,” signified in **red**, was established at the time of Agenda materials preparation and is presented for informational purposes only. The cost *estimate* is then revised at the end of each quarter to reflect actual administrative costs once tabulated, as would be appropriate.
- Italicization* of course name(s) in **blue**, if applicable, signifies that the course has been committed and approved but not yet conducted.
- The 40-Hr. Hazmedic course was predominantly funded by LEPC District 5. LEPC District 8 was responsible for costs associated with increasing the size of the course roster size, Per Diem & accommodations at Florida Fire College for the attendees from LEPC District 8.

It is presumed that the Subcommittee will next convene one hour prior to the scheduled August 28, 2013 LEPC meeting (i.e. @ 9:30 a.m.) to discuss the status of expenditures and available training opportunities.

**REGIONAL DOMESTIC SECURITY TASK FORCE (RDSTF)** - Ms. Betti Johnson mentioned that a full listing of the current RDSTF activities and initiatives were included in the Agenda materials but acknowledged the following:

- The State Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MY-TEP) Workshop will be held June 4th, 9:00 - 4:00 at The Safety Harbor Resort, 105 North Bayshore Drive in Safety Harbor. The purpose of the State MY-TEP is to consolidate and prioritize funding in the state using the regional plans to maximize resources and provide capabilities statewide.
- The planning process to determine funding priorities for the 2015 federal Dept. of Homeland Security funding has begun. Committees representing disciplines will meet over the summer to identify their projects for submittal to the State Working Group and, ultimately, approval by the Domestic Security Oversight Committee (DSOC). For more information contact the RDSTF Planners for Region 4, Betti Johnson ([betti@tbrpc.org](mailto:betti@tbrpc.org)) or Lisa Dubord ([lisa.dubord@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:lisa.dubord@fdle.state.fl.us)).

The Region 4 RDSTF serves Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hardee, Polk, Hernando, Citrus and Sumter Counties.

**WEST FERTILIZER PLANT EXPLOSION - VIDEOS & DISCUSSION** - Mr. Meyer iterated that we are all familiar with the April 17, 2013 explosion which occurred at the West Fertilizer Plant in West, Texas in which several first responders and residents lost their lives. While NUMEROUS videos exist, Mr. Meyer selected the following two to show during the meeting:

Video Clip	Name/Link/Length	Description
	<p><i>Fertilizer Plant Explosion - All 3 Angles</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ba8jTkRWiWl">www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ba8jTkRWiWl</a></p> <p>Video Length = 1+ Minute</p>	<p>The April 17, 2013 explosion at the West Fertilizer Plant was captured from three different camera angles. The corresponding audio was apparently taken from occupants of a vehicle, perhaps in the vehicle taking the video presented on the far left of the depicted video clip.</p>
	<p><i>In Memory of the First Responders of West Texas and those that came to their aid!!!!</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSRWJNVyApk">www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSRWJNVyApk</a></p> <p>Video Length = 7+ Minutes</p>	<p>A photo tribute to those involved in the response to the April 17, 2013 explosion which occurred at the West Fertilizer Company. Many heroes were created on this day. The video is accompanied by music.</p>

Mr. Meyer mentioned that the discussion which will ensue following the videos to hopefully dispel some of the early rumors and misconceptions created by the media regarding the cause of the explosion. Discussion is also expected to address identification of safety precautions which are employed locally to reduce the likelihood of a similar event occurring here.

Mr. Alan Pratt indicated that many early reports reflected that Anhydrous Ammonia was the likely cause for the explosion. As we are finding out now through the release of findings by the ATF, it appears that Ammonium Nitrate caused the explosion. Mr. Pratt proceeded to describe the differences between the two chemicals in terms of explosivity and chemical properties. Mr. Pratt also mentioned that, in the second video, there were two Anhydrous Ammonia storage “bullets” on site which remained unaffected following the explosion.

Ms. Holley Wade added that it may be beneficial to show the public how resistant the Anhydrous Ammonia storage “bullets” are in order to alleviate some potential concerns.

Mr. Richard Walker mentioned that it is kind of intriguing to see how close several “critical facilities” (i.e. nursing home & school) were to the West Fertilizer Plant.

Chair Ehlers mentioned that LEPC staff recently forwarded an e-mail detailing how it was alleged that the “ATF and state agents” investigating the incident deterred/impeded the progress being made by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), who was attempting to conduct their own independent and concurrent evaluation of the incident. Although challenged by ATF representations, CSB Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso has asserted that CSB was blocked from witness interviews, significant evidence was removed from the site for criminal investigation and that earthmoving equipment altered the site so “massively and irreversibly” that the CSB investigation was compromised. As a result, the CSB “recalled most of the emergency response team it rushed to West after the April 17 blast.”

Mr. Chet Klinger identified that he researched EPA’s website shortly following the incident and that very little information was available regarding the facility.

**TRAINING/WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES** - Chair Ehlers recognized that several 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 (May - Aug. 2013)
- FDEM's Training and Events Schedule/Region 6, Various FL Locations/Times (May - Aug. 2013)
- Hazmat IQ®, TBRPC/LEPC offices, Pinellas Park, June 25-27, 2013

Ms. Sandy Brooking indicated that the 90± slots reserved for the Hazmat IQ course have been accounted for by the Pinellas County Hazmat Team. However, Federal Resources will allow additional attendees, if pre-coordinated at a cost of \$100/attendee. While the 90 slots have been pre-approved for funding, the cost to additional attendees is minimal considering the benefit and expense of the overall course. If interested, please contact Ms. Brooking at 727/582-2077 at your earliest opportunity.

Mr. Steve Simpson identified that the HAM Radio operators will have their annual “Field Day” on June 22-23, 2013. As many as 70,000 are expected to participate nationally. Local participation will occur at various venues across the Tampa Bay area, including at Ft. DeSoto Park in Pinellas County.

Mr. Jeff Patterson acknowledged that the Hillsborough County Hurricane Expo will be held this year at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Betti Johnson indicated that the Second Annual Public Sector/Private Sector Partnership Summit will be held on June 11-13, 2013 at the International Palms Resort in Orlando. The Summit is a collaborative effort between the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA), state agencies, statewide associations and private sector entities. The goals of the Summit include: continue the integration of the private sector into all phases of emergency management - preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation; create and support coordination of private sector resources at the local level during disasters; give the private sector a forum to express areas of interest, concern and explore potential partnerships with local, state and federal officials prior to a disaster; and solicit input from the private sector and local officials on potential training, exercise and future summit activities.

No additional training opportunities were identified by the LEPC membership or the public.

## **LEPC BUSINESS**

***TAMPA BAY LEPC HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE*** - Mr. Meyer indicated that LEPC staff is nearing completion of the 20<sup>th</sup> update to the *Tampa Bay Hazmat Emergency Response Plan* required for submittal to the FDEM by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The more significant updates pertain to population figures, Section 302 facilities and other relevant statistics/information. Upon acceptance by FDEM/SERC, copies of the updated Plan will be provided to all required agencies and the Plan will be posted to the LEPC website. Following a motion by Mr. Bill Lofgren and a second from Mr. Steve Simpson and following a vote, the LEPC Chair was unanimously authorized to transmit the updated Plan to FDEM upon completion. Mr. Meyer acknowledged that upon acceptance by FDEM/SERC, copies of the updated plan will be provided to all required entities as well as posted to the LEPC website.

***E-PLAN ELECTRONIC TIER II DATABASE*** - Mr. Meyer mentioned that this past year, the FDEM/SERC introduced E-Plan as an allowable and preferred Tier II submittal option. This alternative was easy for the facilities to prepare and submit since most of the data was pre-populated based on last year’s facility data and submittal is electronic with links to electronic payment. This alternative was also viewed beneficial to the State and first responders since facility data is instantaneously made available into a database which can be manipulated for planning and response purposes. In total, 78% of all 2012 Tier IIs were submitted through E-Plan, a extremely impressive number considering this is the first year made available in the State of Florida. In addition, this success rate significantly overshadows the fact that only 46% of the facilities submitted their inventories through the former electronic program after three years worth of effort. It was acknowledged that the former program (FloridaHMIS.org) was much more complex and difficult to navigate and manipulate.

E-Plan successfully launched in 2000 with funding by the U.S. EPA. The initial objective of the program was to save lives and minimize property damage when responding to hazardous materials incidents. The USEPA continued to fund the program through 2008 when the program was acquired by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS provided the funding through 2012. The corresponding database has long been maintained and improved by the University of Texas at Dallas. Regardless, a May 3, 2013 letter

from UTD was included in the backup Agenda materials to identify that DHS has elected not to fund the program after August 31, 2013 and that the program is in jeopardy due to lack of funding. Considering that 39 States currently utilize E-Plan, alternative funding sources do exist and were noted in the correspondence.

As staff to the Tampa Bay LEPC, Mr. Meyer solicited a motion to authorize the Chair to provide a Letter of Support for E-Plan and expressing our desire for its continued operation. Ms. Holley made a motion in this regard, a second was provided by Ms. Betti Johnson. Following the resultant unanimous vote, the letter was signed and forwarded to Tampa Bay area legislative delegation as well as the Florida contingency of federal representatives.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

Mr. Meyer identified that the Florida Division of Emergency Management/State Emergency Response Commission is in the process of establishing a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) website linked to their homepage. By design, the program would allow violating industry to fund a SEP(s) in lieu of full fine payment.

While many SEPs are generic and applicable in most areas, FDEM is soliciting a listing of potential SEPs which may be specific to our local area and have varying implementation costs. All SEPs should be pre-approved by FDEM & USEPA and be “shelf-ready” for quick potential implementation.

The following were recognized as allowable Supplemental Environmental Project categories:

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>QUALIFYING PROJECT</b>
<b>Public Health</b>	Includes examining residents in a community to determine if anyone has experiences health problems as a result of a company’s violation(s).
<b>Pollution Prevention</b>	These SEPs involve changes so that the company no longer generates some form of pollution. For example, a company may make its operation more efficient so that it avoids generating hazardous waste along with its product.
<b>Pollution Reduction</b>	Reduce the amount and/or danger presented by some form of pollution, often by providing better treatment and/or disposal of the pollutant.
<b>Environmental Restoration &amp; Protection</b>	Improve the condition of the land, air or water in the area damaged by the violation. Example, by purchasing land or developing conservation programs for the land, a company could protect a source for drinking water.
<b>Emergency Planning &amp; Preparedness</b>	Provide assistance to a responsible state or local emergency response or planning entity to enable these organizations to fulfill their obligations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA).
<b>Assessment &amp; Audits</b>	Agree to examine its operations to determine if it is causing any other pollution problems or can run its operation better to avoid future violations. Audits go well beyond standard business practices.
<b>Environmental Compliance Promotion</b>	Provide training or technical support to other members of the regulated community to achieve, or go beyond, compliance with applicable environmental requirements.
<b>Other Projects</b>	Projects with environmental merit which do not fit within the other categories. Must be fully consistent with all other provisions of SEP policy and approved by the EPA.

Mr. Meyer challenged the membership to identify local projects, which meet the above-defined criteria, and could serve as candidate Supplemental Environmental Projects within our District. No suggestion(s) was immediately shared but it is anticipated that discussion item will be brought back before the LEPC once ample opportunity for consideration has occurred. Mr. Meyer concluded his remarks by recognizing that four pages of examples of SEPs that have been implemented in other States were provided as part of the Agenda materials to hopefully stimulate the thought process.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Ehlers recognized that Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the 2013 Hurricane season. Please ensure that you and your families are prepared.

Ms. Betti Johnson indicated that copies of the current Hurricane Guides have been placed in the back of the room for all to take and to contact her if additional copies of the Guide are needed (727/570-5151 ext. 39).

Chair Ehlers also recognized that June 16-22, 2013 is “Stand Down for Safety Week” whereby public-sector first responders focus of internal safety issues and procedures, including equipment and gear. Chair Ehlers challenged private-sector facilities to employ a similar program.

**TAMPA BAY LEPC LOGO SHIRTS** - Chair Ehlers reminded members that LEPC Logo Shirts will always be made available in a variety of sizes, styles and colors. If interested, please contact Mr. John Meyer.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Mr. Steve Knisley inquired about the likelihood of E-Plan not being funded after August 2013. Mr. Jeff Patterson responded that the possibility is very remote due to the fact that E-Plan now has some deep roots and a lot of support in Florida. Mr. Patterson also mentioned that options for continued funding were identified in the University of Texas at Dallas correspondence as well as others being contemplated by the E-Plan community. Mr. Meyer additionally acknowledged that Florida Division of Emergency Management staff has assured him that potential partnerships are currently being explored to ensure the vitality and long-term funding of the program.

**NEXT MEETING** - Chair Ehlers advised that the next LEPC meeting date is Wednesday, August 28, 2013 (same time and location).

**ADJOURNMENT** - Without objection and upon a motion for adjournment by Jonathan Kemp with no second needed, the LEPC meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.