



# LEPC MEETING RECAP

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## TAMPA BAY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) DISTRICT VIII, MEETING AUGUST 28, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER** - Scott Ehlers chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. Following a brief introduction of attendees, everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. With 28 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 13 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 May 29, 2013 LEPC meeting. Hearing none, the Chair asked for motion to approve the *Minutes*. Steve Simpson 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 no membership changes were processed for District 8 during the past quarter. It will be requested that the "Alternates" be re-designated for Tampa Port Authority (to Ms. Jackie Julien) and Manatee County Emergency Management (to Ms. Rachel Ingle) in association with the October 2013 SERC meeting.

**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 July 11-12, 2013 SERC Quarterly meetings, held at the Guy Harvey outpost in St. Pete Beach, was included in the LEPC Agenda materials and are additionally available on the LEPC website. In addition, Mr. Meyer indicated that the primary topics consisted of the Domestic Security Oversight Council's recommendation to reduce the number of regional hazmat teams from 30± to a maximum of 18; update of the 2014 Hazmat Training Symposium to be held again in Daytona Beach in association with the annual Fire Rescue East Conference; and updates on E-Plan and the State's Supplemental Environmental Projects website. Mr. Meyer concluded his remarks by identifying that he will not be elaborating on any/all of these topics since each are scheduled as separate discussion later in the Agenda.

**HMEP PROGRAM - PLANNING** - Mr. Meyer stated that Alan Pratt was not able to attend today's meeting but has affirmed that the HMEP/Planning Subcommittee members remain ready, willing and able to conduct Ammonia Siren workshops and Shelter-in-Place presentations at the request of school, community groups or civic associations located in proximity to the Port of Tampa.

**FACILITY DISASTER PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE (FDPS)** - Mr. Meyer recognized that the FDPS held the quarterly meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>. A Recap of the meeting was included with the Agenda materials. Primary discussion topics included: an overview of the successful June 27<sup>th</sup> *Keeping Your Head Above Water: Storm Surge Preparedness for Businesses with Hazardous Materials* Workshop; the DSOC

recommendation; and a request for a presentation on the capabilities of E-Plan at the next LEPC meeting. Mr. Meyer responded, once again, that each of these items are scheduled for discussion later in the Agenda so not much detail was provided.

**HMEPPROGRAM/TRAINING** - Subcommittee Chair James Johnston identified that the HMEP Training Subcommittee is embarking on a new fiscal year of the HMEP/Training contract although the executed Contract has yet to be received. For the second consecutive year, the LEPC will be strapped with the requirement to spend 25 percent of the entire annual HMEP budget (~\$11,767) during the first quarter (i.e. July 1 - September 30). Overages will not be reimbursed and unspent funds must be returned.

Mr. Johnson added that the HMEP/Training Subcommittee met earlier this morning and are proceeding to compile the paperwork necessary for approval and eventual conduct of the following courses in early- to mid- October. Following the conduct of these courses, more than half of the annual funds will have been allocated.

- 40-Hr. Medic course for Pinellas County; and
- 40-Hr. Marine Firefighting “Train-the-Trainer” course for the City of Tampa as well as representatives from Hillsborough, Pinellas & Manatee Counties. The course would include three days of classroom activities and two days of “hands on.”

Subcommittee Chair Johnston encouraged LEPC members to notify him or LEPC Staff John Meyer of any training needs their departments may have that could qualify for funding under the HMEP/Training contract.

The following constitutes the final breakdown of expenditures associated with 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	8-Hr. Foam/Ethanol Training, Zephyrhills Fire Dept.	\$ 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> >	\$ 1,040.00	\$12,054.00	\$35,018.00
2	10/23-25/2012	E-Plan Users Conference (J. Patterson), Atlanta, GA	\$ 955.46	\$13,009.46	\$34,062.54
	11/27-29/2012	24-Hr. Hazmat Life Safety & Command, Manatee	\$ 3,600.00	\$16,609.46	\$30,462.54
	12/18-20/2012	8-Hr. Foam/Ethanol Training, Pinellas Co. Hazmat	\$ 6,100.00	\$22,709.46	\$24,362.54
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/Oct.-Dec., 2012 <Actual <sup>1</sup> >	\$ 1,627.00	\$24,336.46	\$22,735.54
3		NONE	\$ 0	\$24,336.46	\$22,735.54
		3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/Jan. - Mar. 2013 <Actual <sup>1</sup> >	\$ 1,125.00	\$25,461.46	\$21,610.54
4	4/23-25/2013	8-Hr. Chlorine Refresher Course, Pinellas Co. Hazmat	\$ 2,500.00	\$27,961.46	\$19,110.54
	5/13-17/2013	40-Hr. HazMedic Course <sup>3</sup> , Ocala (Sent 10 Students/6 Counted)	\$ 4,228.00	\$32,189.46	\$14,882.54
	6/25-27/2013	8-Hr. “Hazmat IQ” Course <sup>2</sup> , Pinellas Co. Hazmat	\$13,350.00	\$45,539.46	\$ 1,532.54
		4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/April-June, 2013 <Actual <sup>1</sup> >	\$ 2,409.00	\$47,948.46	<b>[\$ 876.46]</b>

**FOOTNOTES:**

1. 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.
2. *Italicization* of course name(s) in **blue**, if applicable, signifies that the course has been committed and approved but not yet conducted.
3. 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.

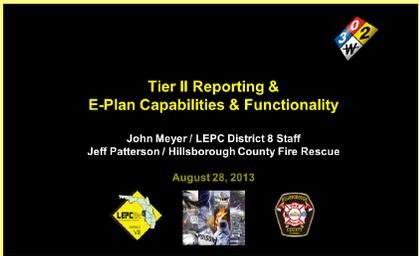
It is presumed that the Subcommittee will next convene one hour prior to the scheduled November 20, 2013 LEPC meeting (i.e. @ 9:30 a.m.) to discuss the status of expenditures and available training opportunities.

**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 identified:

- Status updates to the State Domestic Security Strategic Plan, the State Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) [part of the State Preparedness Report] and the Region 4 Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan
- Region 4 is planning a series of Interoperable Communications exercises to test components of the TIC Plan [December 10, 2013 - TBRPC Workshop on the TIC / Regional Functional Exercise - April 2014]
- State Domestic Security Funding Committees met August 14 -16 in Tampa to develop project templates for FY 2014 DHS Funding. The templates will be discussed and reviewed at the State Working Group meetings the week of September 9 in Orlando and will be presented to the Domestic Security Oversight Council on October 15, 2013.
- The Regional Domestic Security Task Force Committees and General Assembly will meet on October 31, 2013 in Tampa.

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

**E-PLAN CAPABILITIES AND FUNCTIONALITY** - Mr. Meyer identified that 78% of all Tier II reports were submitted electronically through E-Plan within the State of Florida this past reporting year. This was a pretty big accomplishment considering this past year was the inaugural year for allowing electronic submittals through E-Plan within the State of Florida. Significant benefits for E-Plan are derived by both the first responder community and the industries filing reports. While Mr. Meyer described the first few slides, the remainder (and bulk) of the presentation was prepared and provided by Mr. Jeff Patterson of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue.

Video Clip/PPT Presentation	Name/Link/Length	Description
	<p><i>Tier II Reporting &amp; E-Plan Capabilities &amp; Functionality</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc/presentations/08282013/TierII_EPlan_08282013.pdf">http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc/presentations/08282013/TierII_EPlan_08282013.pdf</a></p> <p>Slides: 22 (Some with text “roll in” boxes)</p>	<p>The initial slides provide an abbreviated version of the Tier II reporting requirements. However, the bulk of the presentation revolves around how the data is utilized by first responders and the available links to various other programs, data sources and features within the E-Plan program. The presentation is available for viewing at the link identified immediately to the left.</p>

**ETHANOL TRAIN DERAILMENT PRESENTATION** - Mr. Meyer iterated that 14 railcars of an 88-unit train containing Ethanol became derailed at the front entrance to the Tampa Port Authority in the very early hours of Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. A local news station video clip and two presentations followed.

Video Clip/PPT Presentation	Name/Link/Length	Description
	<p><i>“Heavy equipment needed to lift 14 derailed train cars at the Port of Tampa”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U8auLZ3Q5M">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U8auLZ3Q5M</a></p> <p>Video Length: ~ 3 Minutes</p>	<p>ABC Action News characterized the incident in a short news segment. The video includes initial interviews with responders and an aerial shot of the derailment. The video is available for viewing at the link identified immediately to the left.</p>
	<p><i>“Ethanol Derailment”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc/presentations/08282013/Ehlers%20Ethanol%2008282013.pdf">http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc/presentations/08282013/Ehlers Ethanol 08282013.pdf</a></p> <p># of Slides: 12</p>	<p>Chief Scott Ehlers of Tampa Fire Rescue provided a PowerPoint presentation of photos taken during the response to the Ethanol Train Derailment incident. The presentation is available for viewing at the link identified immediately to the left.</p>
	<p><i>“Ethanol Train Derailment, Port of Tampa”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc/presentations/08282013/Tobergte%20Ethanol%2008282013.pdf">http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc/presentations/08282013/Tobergte Ethanol 08282013.pdf</a></p> <p># of Slides: 7</p>	<p>Jeff Tobergte of FDEP/Office of Emergency Response provided a PowerPoint presentation of photos taken during the response to the Ethanol Train Derailment incident. The presentation is available for viewing at the link identified immediately to the left.</p>

The following remarks/observations were made during the presentations:

- The Tampa Bay area first responder community is “comfortable” with the new Ethanol facility in the Port of Tampa and its associated safety features and protocols. However, the trains transporting the product are greater than one mile in length and traverse hundreds of miles once or twice a week to deliver the product. All jurisdictions along the route are not equally prepared and/or capable of responding to a similar incident in their jurisdiction. This “gap of protection” needs to be addressed through the State.
- The Port of Tampa “stepped up” and stores foam agent on site for use in response to incidents such as this one. It was reported that 1,800 gallons of foam was used initially to coat the derailed cars and

immediate surroundings to reduce the risk of an ignition source. An additional 300 gallons of foam were used during the remainder of the response. The foam used in the response has subsequently been replenished.

- Immediately upon arrival at the scene, Tampa Fire Rescue established the incident command structure.
- While each of the railcars contained approximately 35,000 gallons of Ethanol, only about 4,600 gallons of product leaked onto the ground from three of the 14 derailed railcars. The leaks from two of the three derailed railcars were coming from “manholes” which were subsequently tightened to eradicate the leaks. The leak associated with the third derailed railcar was limited to a valve inside the dome lid, which was subsequently tightened.
- While a small amount of the product leaked into a stormwater drain, monitoring conducted almost immediately revealed “nothing significant” was flowing from the discharge point into Tampa Bay.
- The effective cooperation and coordination between emergency response agencies (Tampa Fire Rescue, CSX, Tampa Port Authority, law enforcement & FDEP/OER) was evident and “seamless.” The actions taken by the environmental response and recovery contractors (i.e. SWS & Arcadis) were equally effective.
- It was identified that the incident lasted a total of 55 hours until the Port of Tampa was able to resume full operations.
- Ms. Denise Lynch identified that the cause of the incident “is still under investigation” but initial reports were a rail failure. The train was going about 4½ mph.
- Cpl Lance Connors identified that the briefings which were held “regularly” were particularly helpful to all those involved and the general public.

**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 (Aug. - Nov. 2013)
- FDEM's Training and Events Schedule/Region 6, Various FL Locations/Times (Aug. - Nov. 2013)

No additional training opportunities or events 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 completed and submitted the 20<sup>th</sup> update to the *Tampa Bay Hazmat Emergency Response Plan* to the FDEM prior to the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. It is anticipated that the updated Plan will be approved by the SERC at their October meeting. Upon approval, LEPC staff will place the Plan (in various formats) on a CD-Rom and transmit to all required entities. The Plan will also be posted to the LEPC website.

**THOMAS YATABE AWARDS FOR 2013** - Mr. Meyer mentioned that *Thomas Yatabe Award* nominations were solicited from the LEPC membership whereby deserving individual(s), agency(ies) or company(ies) that merit recognition for “*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 materials planning or response*” are/were identified. From the anticipated pool of nominations received, only one nomination will receive the meritorious Award for each

District. All “Runner(s)-Up” will be presented a *Certificate of Appreciation*. The submittal deadline for consideration by our District Membership/Award Committee is Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. All nominations must be submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management the following day (August 30<sup>th</sup>).

**“IMPROVING CHEMICAL FACILITY SAFETY & SECURITY” EXECUTIVE ORDER** - Mr. Meyer indicated that the above-referenced Executive Order (EO) was enacted by President Obama on August 1, 2013 and forwarded to the LEPC Membership on the same day via e-mail. An additional copy of the EO was included in the Agenda materials.

In summary, the EO mandates the establishment of a working group comprised of representatives from the U.S. Dept of Justice, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Transportation in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality, National Security Staff, the Domestic Policy Council, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs, and other agencies/offices designated by the President on Chemical Safety and Security matters. The mission of the working group is to provide a “status report” to the President by May 1, 2014. Interim timeline goals were established.

**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

Chair Ehlers identified that the Florida Division of Emergency Management/State Emergency Response Commission is making strides towards establishing a Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) website for the State of Florida. The website will be patterned after the one created for the State of Illinois. They continue to solicit potential SEPs which could be funded and implemented by facilities found to be in violation of EPCRA in lieu of the payment of the majority of their fine.

By design, the program would allow violating industry to optionally fund a SEP(s) in lieu of full fine payment. The following apply to SEPs:

- Potential SEPs continue to be solicited from the LEPC(s), hazmat team(s) and other agencies. While some SEPs are/can be generic and applicable in most areas, other SEPs could/should be “tailored” to the needs of the local community and have varying implementation costs. Allowable SEPs could consist of equipment and/or resources;
- All SEPs should be pre-approved by FDEM & USEPA for quick potential implementation;
- Funded SEPs can not exceed 75% of the assessed fine value. The violating industry would remain liable for payment of the balance; and
- Industry could even put a “spin” on the SEP(s) to make it appear as a good community relations gesture.

As identified in the Agenda materials, candidate SEPs could be derived from the following categories:

CATEGORY	QUALIFYING PROJECT
Public Health	Includes examining residents in a community to determine if anyone has experiences health problems as a result of a company’s violation(s).
Pollution Prevention	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.
Pollution Reduction	Reduce the amount and/or danger presented by some form of pollution, often by providing better treatment and/or disposal of the pollutant.

CATEGORY	QUALIFYING PROJECT
<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 of varying implementation costs and could serve as candidate Supplemental Environmental Projects for our District. No suggestion(s) was immediately shared but it is anticipated that this discussion could stimulate the thought process.

Col. Bill Lofgren added that this endeavor is actually encouraged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since the fines, which would otherwise be levied against violating industry(ies), go directly into “General Funds.”

Chair Ehlers added that one of the SEPs could/would be added to address the purchase of foam for potential use during future firefighting activities at the Port of Tampa and another which could be added statewide would be the costs associated with administration of the SEP website.

**DOMESTIC SECURITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (DSOC) RECOMMENDATION** - Chair Ehlers identified that the DSOC recently issued a recommendation to reduce the number of regional hazardous materials response teams to 18 Statewide, with a maximum of three per RDSTF Region. Currently, our Region is served by a multitude of regional teams including Pinellas, Hillsborough, Tampa, Polk & Citrus Counties.

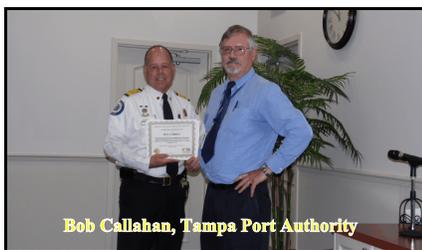
Mr. Meyer added “what was apparently NOT done before DSOC’s issuance of the recommendation to reduce the number of regional hazmat response teams was the conduct and evaluation of a comprehensive Threats & Vulnerabilities Assessment.” We, as residents and constituents of the Tampa Bay area, know first hand the unique vulnerabilities and potential targets located right here in our own back yard (e.g. *Port of Tampa and associated hazardous materials commodities, fuel pipelines, MacDill Air Force Base/Central Command, numerous professional sporting venues, Busch Gardens, the University of South Florida, several nationally-acclaimed hospitals and Institutions.*).

Mr. Meyer announced that LEPC staff is seeking a motion to authorize the Chair to send a letter recommending maintaining the existing structure and funding of the regional Hazmat Teams until, at minimum, a comprehensive, statewide Threats and Vulnerabilities Assessment has been conducted, evaluated and disseminated statewide prior to implementing such reduction. Following the reading of the proposed letter by John Meyer (draft was included in the Agenda materials), the ensuing discussion, and acceptance of a slight modification to the letter proposed by Lt. Col. Larry Fernald, a motion was made by Steve Simpson to authorize the Chair to transmit the letter. A second on the motion was provided by Jonathan Kemp. LEPC members unanimously voted to authorize the Chair to sign and transmit the letter to Director Bryan Koon. Chair Ehlers subsequently signed the letter and the letter was transmitted that afternoon.

A copy of the signed letter is included on **Pages 10-11** of this *Recap*.

***“KEEPING YOUR HEAD ABOVE WATER: STORM SURGE PREPAREDNESS FOR BUSINESSES WITH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS” WORKSHOP*** - Mr. Meyer mentioned that the LEPC’s Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee, in conjunction with the Tampa Port Authority, arranged for the conduct of the very successful, above-named, Workshop held on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Tampa Cruise Terminal #3. The event drew nearly 50 attendees. The presentation topics consisted of “Storm Surge 101” and Meteorological Trends; Identification of Vulnerabilities & Chemical Storage; Business Continuity Planning; Contingency Planning; and Lessons Learned from SuperStorm Sandy.

Several individuals were recognized and thanked by the LEPC for their contributions and/or presentations which were instrumental to the success of the Workshop. The following attended the LEPC meeting to receive their recognition and thanks in person in the form of *Certificates of Appreciation*:



The following individuals were equally important to the success of the Workshop but unable to attend the LEPC meeting to collect their *Certificates of Appreciation* (COA) in person. Each of these individuals were subsequently mailed their COA.



Capt. Michael Buffington, Tampa Bay Pilots Association  
Thea Dunmire, FDPS Chair/ENLAR Compliance  
Steve Elliot, Elliot Consulting  
Tom Iovino, Pinellas County Communications  
Lynne McChristian, Insurance Information Institute  
RADM William Merlin (Ret.), Tampa Bay Harbor Safety & Security Committee  
Erinn Skiba, HCFR/Office of Emergency Management  
Lynne Vadelund, CF Industries

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

It was with great trepidation and consternation that Chief/Chair Scott Ehlers announced his intentions to retire from Tampa Fire Rescue in April 2014 and his resignation from the LEPC following the November 20, 2013 LEPC meeting. Chair Ehlers proceeded to thank all LEPC members for their commitments, contributions and friendships that have amassed through the years. He concluded by recognizing that it is time to embark onto the next stage of his life.

The membership proceeded to conduct a standing ovation for Chair Ehlers.

Noting that Chair Ehlers and Vice Chair Jeff Tobergte were elected to serve two-year terms ending in July 2014, Vice Chair Tobergte acknowledged that he would be willing serve as "Meeting Chair" in the interim but could not accept the nomination as full-time LEPC Chair.

Mr. Meyer indicated that he will coordinate with LEPC Nominations Subcommittee Chair Hallie Calig prior to next meeting to determine the appropriate course of action and the potential nomination of new officer(s) in association with next (or subsequent) meeting.

**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** - No comments were provided by persons from the public in attendance

**NEXT MEETING** - Chair Ehlers advised that the next LEPC meeting date is Wednesday, November 20, 2013 (same time and location).

**ADJOURNMENT** - Without objection and upon a motion for adjournment by Ron Kobosky with no second needed, the LEPC meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.



Mayor Robert Minning  
Chair

Mr. Andy Núñez  
Vice-Chair

Commissioner Victor Crist  
Secretary/Treasurer

Commissioner Larry Bustle  
Immediate Past Chair

Manny L. Pumariega  
Executive Director

**Tampa Bay  
Local Emergency  
Planning Committee  
District VIII**

August 28, 2013

Mr. Bryan Koon, Chair  
Domestic Security Oversight Council  
% Florida Division of Emergency Mgmt.  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

**Officers**

**Chairman:**  
Asst. Chief  
Scott  
Ehlers

**Vice  
Chairman:**  
Jeff  
Tobergte



**Staff Coordinator:**  
John Meyer  
727/570-5151, x 29  
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**LEPC Website:**  
[www.tbrpc.org/lepc](http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc)

**Subject: Proposed Reduction in Florida’s Regional Hazmat Response Teams**

Dear Mr. Koon:

Local Emergency Planning Committee District 8 was alerted to a recent Domestic Security Oversight Council recommendation to reduce the number of funded regional Hazmat Response Teams from 30± to 18, with a maximum of three per RDSTF Region.

While a financial savings may be realized through the potential reduction, the resulting increase in response times may not be without consequence, one that may jeopardize the lives and safety of the employees and residents in the State of Florida as well as ensuring ample protection of industry property.

Since you also serve in the capacity of Chair of the State Emergency Response Commission, perhaps you do recall that the SERC developed the standards and criteria for regional Hazmat Response Teams in the early 1990s and designated most of their present numbers and locations in order to ensure ample protection. That way, hazmat equipment and capabilities would always be physically proximate to any/all hazmat incidents.

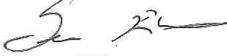
While the Tampa Bay area is a wonderful place to live and work, its uniqueness presents an interesting but concerning number of vulnerabilities and potential targets (e.g. *Port of Tampa and associated hazardous materials commodities, fuel pipelines, MacDill Air Force Base/Central Command, numerous professional sporting venues, Busch Gardens, the University of South Florida, several nationally-acclaimed hospitals and Institutions...*).

4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Suite 100 • Pinellas Park, FL 33782  
Phone: (727) 570-5151 • Fax: (727) 570-5118 • [www.tbrpc.org](http://www.tbrpc.org)

By **unanimous** vote, we the members of Local Emergency Planning Committee do hereby request that the movement towards a reduction in regional Hazmat Response Teams be postponed until, at least, a comprehensive Threats and Vulnerabilities Assessment has been conducted, evaluated and disseminated statewide.

If you should have any question(s) or we can offer any assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,



Scott Ehlers  
LEPC 8 Chair

cc: Paul Wotherspoon, FDEM