



## RECAP OF 1/08-09,2009 SERC/ SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRAINING & LEPC CHAIRS & STAFF MEETINGS

4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Suite 100, Pinellas Park, FL 33782  
Phone (727) 570-5151 Suncom 513-5066 FAX (727) 570-5118  
[www.tbrpc.org](http://www.tbrpc.org)

The State Emergency Response Commission and associated Subcommittee meetings were held in Tallahassee at the FDEP Offices in Tallahassee on January 8-9, 2009. LEPC Chairman Ehlers and LEPC Staff Coordinator John Meyer attended. The following serve as recaps for each of these meetings:

### STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC) MEETING

1/09/09 - 10:00 a.m.

The primary items of business were:

- approval of modifications associated with each LEPC District's memberships. Specifically for District VIII, the lone membership change the approval of LCDR Tom Boyles, U.S. Coast Guard to the Law Enforcement Occupational Category, with LTJG Williams Sanders assigned as his Alternate. The ceiling of LEPC membership was increased by one (to 38) to reflect this change.
- provided an update on the status of E-Plan access;
- recognition of Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (January 18-24, 2009) and description of this year's initiative - notifying public of proper disposal procedures for CFL bulbs;
- awards presentation to the Thomas Yatabe SERC Award Winners for each District; and
- authorized transmittal of appreciation letters to each Regional Planning Council regarding devotion and dedication of staff to educating the public of hazardous materials and providing training opportunities for hazardous materials response providers.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRAINING (formerly SERC's Training Task Force)

1/08/09 - 9:30 a.m.

The prominent discussion items included:

- **Liquid Petroleum Gas/Natural Gas (LPG/NG).** Initiative to standardize hazardous materials equipment and training needs for the LPG/NG industry. The desired goal of this industry is to foster a better working relationship with the Local Emergency Planning Committees, the State Division of Emergency Management and the Fire Departments/Hazmat Teams in the event of a hazardous materials incident.
- **Tox-Medic.** Initiative to standardize the qualifications of responders to hazardous materials incidents. Identified the specific credentials/training needed to attain the "Operational, Toxmedic and Hazmedic" qualifications.
- **E-Plan.** The State DEM mentioned that all LEPC, all County Emergency Management coordinators and the Statewide Hazmat teams have now been approved for the access of E-Plan. Any other State agencies desiring access to E-Plan must ultimately be approved by the State Administrator for DEM. Further local approvals can be attained through the Emergency Management Coordinators and/or the LEPC designees.
- **HAZUS Web Portal.** Mr. Richard Butgereit (DEM GIS staff) advised on the status of the HAZUS program. The program is designed to provide damage cost estimates associated with hurricanes, floods and earthquakes of varying intensities.

- **Initiatives for 2009.** Identified the following initiatives: establish “Team credentials” for hazardous materials response teams to be National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant; provide public outreach/education to promote chemical industry as part of the public school curriculum; build a greater relationship with the Public and Environmental Health Department; and identify funding opportunities for cost recovery associated with hazardous material incidents.

## **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRS/STAFF**

**1/08/09 - 1:30 p.m.**

Each District reported on their recent and future hazardous materials training events and activities. The following serve as additional highlights of the meeting:

- Introduced Ms. Gwen Kennan as the new DEM Division Chief.
- LEPC District 7 staff suggested that conducting training events at the fire stations would lead to an increase in training attendance since the fire/hazmat personnel attend most of the training events.
- LEPC District 9 staff distributed 10" x 9" sealable bags for the placement of recycled Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) bulbs. A box containing 250 of these bags will be provided by Veolia Environmental Services in Sarasota to each LEPC District. Each District will be responsible for further marking the boxes to indicate the appropriate disposal locations in their Region.
- LEPC District 6 staff indicated that they will make contact with the providers of the “Hazmat IQ” training course to determine whether a group discount and schedule could occur if such training is requested by multiple Districts.
- Mr. Mark Leon (FBI/Weapons of Mass Destruction Program) summarized the working relationships their Miami, Jacksonville & Tampa offices have with the hazardous materials teams.
- Extensive dialogue continued about possible revisions to the existing LEPC Membership Categories. The Chair requested further discussions within and between all the Districts with the possibility of reaching group consensus and, ultimately recommend specific revision(s) to the SERC at their April 3, 2008 meeting.