

THOMAS YATABE AWARDS LEPC DISTRICT 8 - 2009

The Thomas Yatabe Award signifies outstanding contribution(s) 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. Annually, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) awards one individual, agency and/or organization the Thomas Yatabe Award for each LEPC District within the State. The SERC issues “Certificates of Appreciation” for other worthy nominations received.

THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2009 THOMAS YATABE AWARDS FOR LEPC DISTRICT 8 WERE:

Thomas Yatabe Award Winner - Doug Meyer, Pinellas County Emergency Management



(Left to Right) SERC Meeting Chair Richard Smith, District 8 Thomas Yatabe Award Winner Doug Meyer and LEPC District 8 Staff John Meyer (no relation to Doug).

“Doug was one of the original members and part of the organization and implementation of the Pinellas County Hazardous Materials Team in the mid 1980s. He served in various capacities on the Team up to and including Team Commander. After his retirement from Seminole Fire Rescue, he continues his involvement while working for Pinellas County Emergency Management. He has additionally served as the ‘Primary’ or ‘Alternate’ LEPC member throughout. Doug is actively involved in the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and Metropolitan Medical Response System. He was charged with EPCRA reporting for Pinellas County between 2000 and 2006. He is a valued member and resource both locally and regionally.”

Chief Michael Gonzalez, Special Operations Chief, Tampa Fire Rescue, Thomas Yatabe “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipient

“Chief Gonzalez conceived, formalized and exercised the Tampa/Hookers Point Port Reentry Plan. His efforts have ensured The cooperation and coordination with Port facilities possessing hazardous materials along with local, state and federal responders in the aftermath of a disaster.”



Chief Gonzalez (right) accepting Certificate From LEPC Chair Scott Ehlers

Mr. John Hess, Planning & Preparedness Manager, U.S. Department of Transportation/Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Thomas Yatabe “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipient

“Mr. Hess’ efforts directly led to the funding and hosting of the Roundtable on Emergency Response to Anhydrous Ammonia Transportation Incidents (conducted on August 26, 2008) and indirectly to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee Chlorine Workshop (conducted on March 31, 2009). These workshops lead to improved readiness and understanding in the region of toxic inhalation substances.”



Ms. Holley Wade of Hillsborough County Emergency Management accepted the Certificate on behalf of John Hess from LEPC Chair Scott Ehlers

Chief Byron Teates, Fire Chief, East Manatee Fire Rescue District, Thomas Yatabe “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipient

“Chief Teates has been an active voice and participant in the hazardous materials emergency response program of Manatee County for over 20 years. His team role as a public safety firefighter/hazmat technician/officer was in the volunteer Manatee County Hazardous Incident Team, and eventually as one of our responding “on call” County Hazmat Specialists in the recently formed multi-jurisdictional team. His most important role was in the planning aspect of hazardous materials response. As our County Hazmat liaison to the Manatee County Fire Chiefs Association, he enabled the entire program to progress to a new level and become more dynamic. Chief Teates also spent tireless hours participating in the Hazmat subcommittee, a group that put together the public safety HazMat written plan and created a custom 24-hour Hazmat Ops level course for all firefighters. This course enabled firefighters to safely and legally respond to Hazmat incidents, don alternative PPE if needed, perform life safety rescue and decontaminate victims within the first hour of the initial emergency call.”



Certificate of Appreciation presented to Chief Teates (on right) by LEPC Chair Scott Ehlers