



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council



Dist VIII HazMatters First Quarter Jan-Mar 2002

Staff attended the, LEPC Staff and Chairs Meeting, and the State Emergency Response Commission Meeting on January 9-11, 2002 in Gainesville

The Tampa Bay LEPC met on January 30, 2002 and March 27, 2002 at the offices of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Chairman Hiers presented Certificates of Appreciation approved as part of the Thomas Yatabe SERC Awards for 2002. The certificates went to Mr. Paul Panik, Manatee County Environmental Management; Mr. Bill Van Wieren, Plant Manager, Essilor of America, Incorporated/Essilor Lenses, St. Petersburg, Florida (award accepted by Mr. Chet Klinger in Mr. Van Wieren's absence); and the following members of the City of Tampa Water Department: Mr. Bill Hensel, Mr. Dale Skinner, Mr. Leo Bachiochi, Mr. Mike Snider, Mr. Daryl Davis, Mr. Bernie Menendez. Mr. Bebo Smith, award recipient from Manatee Port Authority was absent and will have his certificate presented at a later date.

The Tampa Bay LEPC has selected for its HMEP planning project Attachment A-2, *Community Workshops and Section 302 Facility Outreach*. Eleven How-to-Comply Workshops were conducted this year. The planning committee is working to complete preparations for a workshop for facilities on improving facility security.

HMEP Training funds were partially distributed to the counties and the remainder will be devoted to hospital training to be conducted by the Bay Pines HAZMAT team. Some of the training will be conducted at Bay Pines VA Medical Center, other training will be taken to the counties of need. Pasco County has conducted four All Hazards Awareness Courses, training 94 first responders. Although January and February hospital training classes at Bay Pines had to be canceled when the Bay Pines HAZMAT Team was deployed to Salt Lake City to help train medical and law enforcement personnel assigned to the Winter Olympics, training resumed on March 5-7 when 30 people were trained. Training is scheduled throughout the remainder of the year with one course every month.

The LEPC was invited by the City of St. Petersburg to partner in the participation of a chemical weapons full-scale exercise. The Department of Justice (DOJ) Domestic Preparedness Program (DPP) assisted in the development and execution of the chemical weapons full-scale exercise (CWFSE). As such, the exercise plan was tangible evidence of the public safety partnership in response to a terrorist threat or an act of terrorism using chemical weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The exercise was held Wednesday, February 20, 2002. The administrative load for this exercise was performed by Research Planning, Inc. (RPI). This was a multijurisdictional exercise. Several LEPC members observed the exercise and others participated. The exercise was a success

*Fire Chief Ernie Hiers, Chairman - Dr. Sven Normann, Vice Chairman - Bill Cofgren, Coordinator
Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), District VIII
9455 Koger Blvd, Suite 219, St. Petersburg, FL 33702
Phone 727/577-5151, Ext 248 - FAX 727/570-5118
Email bill@tbrpc.org - <http://www.tbrpc.org>*

and Mayor Baker, who was present for part of the exercise and the hot wash-up. Also attending and observing were St. Petersburg Fire Chief Jim Callahan and Police Chief Chuck Harmon and both spoke at the critique. The exercise was highly successful. There were some mistakes made, but this made all the better the learning. The after-action report will be made available upon completion.

In a “tag-team” arrangement, staff from the Tampa Bay LEPC has been performing the hazards analyses for Pinellas County this cycle. Mandatory site visits of 67 Pinellas County facilities during the current planning cycle will be completed by Lofgren and staff from the TBRPC Planning Department will enter the data in the USEPA’s CAMEO program.

For EPCRA Awareness Week February 24 through March 2, 2002, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council approved the resolution submitted on January 18, 2002 and the LEPC approved the resolution at its last meeting, January 31, 2002. Chairman Hiers sent letters to all mayors and county commission chairmen in the region on January 31st, requesting local proclamations as well. To date, we have received proclamations from the following jurisdictions: Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas County Commissions; Towns of Belleaire Shore, Indian Shores, Longboat Key, and North Redington Beach; and the Cities of Bradenton, Dunedin, Holmes Beach, Indian Rocks Beach, Largo, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, St. Pete Beach, Tarpon Springs, and Treasure Island. For EPCRA activities, Pinellas County ran public service announcements on their AM radio station and sponsored HAZMAT quizzes on-air. Essilor Lenses erected a display devoted to EPCRA Week and conducted a tour of their facility, inviting the LEPC members to participate.

The Ninth Revision to the Tampa Bay LEPC HAZMAT Plan is now in its revision cycle. Revised plans are due to the Division of Emergency Management by June 30th each year. This year’s plan will include the new Section 302 Facilities Hazards Analyses which are currently ongoing and hopefully, will be completed in time for the plan’s inclusion. Counties are requested to have their inputs to the LEPC by April 15, 2002.

LEPC had a booth at the Manatee County Safety Expo on April 13, 2002. Shelter-in-Place video was shown along with the new video on LEPC operations.

Hillsborough County will be conducting a mass casualty exercise to take place at Tampa International Airport (TIA) on April 24, 2002. Students from Thomas Jefferson High School will participate.