



TAMPA BAY LEPC, DIST 8 HAZMATTERS

Second Quarter - April - June 2002

Staff attended the, LEPC Staff and Chairs Meeting, and the State Emergency Response Commission Meeting on April 7-8, 2002 in Tallahassee. The Tampa Bay LEPC met on May 29, 2002 at the offices of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

Pasco County conducted at no cost to the HMEP budget, but under HMEP auspices, 5 classes on All Hazards Awareness Training and two courses on Hospital Awareness. Additionally, Bay Pines VA Hospital HAZMAT Team conducted training on April 9-11, May 7-9, and June 4-6, 2002 at the Bay Pines Training Facility. Additionally, the team also conducted a three-day course for the South Florida Baptist Hospital in Plant City on May 6-7, 2002. The scheduled three-day course at Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton for June 12-14 has been rescheduled to July 24-26. Pinellas County is conducting a HAZCAT Course with DEP Emergency Response Specialist Jeff Tobergte as instructor on June 25-27, 2002. Pasco County is conducting chlorine safety training for the New Port Richey Wastewater Treatment Plant on June 25-27, 2002. The following Awareness/Operations courses for hospitals/medical first responders has been scheduled at Bay Pines for the remainder of the year: Jul 9-11; Aug 6-8; Sep 10-12; Oct 8-10; Nov 5-7; and Dec 3-5.

Three exercises occurred during the period and were reported follows: Pasco County TTX, April 11, 2002: This was a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) exercise which employed an all-hazards approach and was dubbed CABIN COMPOUND. It used interactive CD with 3 SWAT Teams.

A functional Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Exercise, was conducted on April 17, 2002, in support of Tampa International Airport's triennial exercise requirement and supported by the students of Thomas Jefferson High School. Larry Gispert reported that the exercise was a big success with 962 students playing victim roles. It tested the capabilities of 14 area hospitals and 6 free-standing clinics.

Manatee County held a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on May 16, 2002 in preparation of their June 20th scenario. The June 20th exercise involved a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) with Sarasota Bradenton Airport and the scenario involved an aircraft which had crashed in the Intercoastal Waterway. Both exercises were highly successful.

On June 11, the Tampa Bay Regional Domestic Security Force conducted a Regional Bioterrorism Tabletop (TTX) Exercise at the Allstate Center Petersburg College. Focus of the exercise was to respond to a reported outbreak of smallpox.

A U.S. Coast Guard PREP Exercise (Preparedness Response Exercise Program) will be conducted September 24-26, 2002 - at TTX probably involving collision of an oil vessel inside Tampa Bay. Responsible party will be SeaRiver Marine Industries, prime transporter for Exxon/Mobil and will involve first responders as well as spill recovery companies. On July 12, the Marine Safety Office Tampa will have a change of command ceremony to welcome the new Captain of the Port of Tampa, Captain James Mm. Farley. Captain Thompson is being reassigned to Miami area.

The Ninth Revision to the Tampa Bay LEPC HAZMAT Plan has been revised to include inputs from the counties and was forwarded to DEM/DCA for review after having been accepted by the Tampa Bay LEPC on May 29, 2002. A copy of the plan is posted on the LEPC website.

All members were contacted regarding the biennial requirement by the State Emergency Response Commission to recertify all LEPC members interested in serving an additional term. This was accomplished by a roster enclosed for review and corrections as necessary. All members indicated a desire for recertification. Following SERC recertification, biennial elections will be held at our next meeting on July 24, 2002 to elect District VIII Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Membership Chairman Hallie Calig will serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee to propose to the membership, a slate of officers for election to positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The role of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) was discussed by Mr. Terry Stilman, originally based on District IV EPA in Atlanta, and until recently, at Tampa. Mr. Stilman has since been reassigned to the Federal Building in West Palm Beach, but his area of responsibility remains unchanged. His role is to supplement local emergency response organizations in responding to hazardous materials incidents, as needed.

In response to the SERC letters to FDLE Commissioner Tim Moore requesting greater LEPC representation in Regional Domestic Security Task Forces, LEPC Chairman Ernie Hiers was appointed to the District 7 RDSTF as LEPC representative. Additionally, Jeff Stewart from IMC Phosphates was appointed to serve on the RDSTF Business/Industry Working Group. DEM Representative for District IV is Larry Gispert, Hillsborough County Emergency Manager.

Citizen Corps Councils are being formed in District VIII in response to the Governor's appointment of Marcia Garcia as Florida coordinator for CCC. Three of our four counties have already appointed councils as follows: In Pinellas County, the Disaster Advisory Committee (DAC) on May 15, 2002 voted to establish itself as the Citizen Corps Council for Pinellas County. Gary Vickers is coordinator. In Hillsborough County, an existing group, the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group will form this Council. This group's initial charter was to consider projects that would make our communities more disaster resistant. This mission fits closely to the expanded responsibilities of the Citizen Corps Council. Point of contact is Eugene Henry, County Hazard Mitigation Manager. In Pasco County, the CERT Advisory Council serves as the basis for Pasco's Citizens Corp Council. Manatee County has not taken definitive action to establish a Council to date.

One of our members, U.S. Liquids is a founding member and supporter of the Metropolitan Environmental Training Alliance (METRA) -West. METRA provides a variety of training opportunities to smaller companies. One such session scheduled for June 27th is Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CE/SQG) Environmental Workshop - Automobile Industry. This workshop at the Hillsborough Community College, Brandon Campus, Administration Building, Room 101 is free to the public. Working lunch will be provided.