



# LEPC Minutes

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## TAMPA BAY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) DISTRICT VIII, MEETING November 20, 2013

### *Committee Members/*

### *Alternates in Attendance*

### *Representing*

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Aleguas, Alfred             | Tampa General Hospital/Florida Poison Information Center   |
| Becker, Greg (A)            | American Red Cross - Tampa Bay Chapter                     |
| Brooking, Sandra (A)        | Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration                  |
| Burnett, David              | Plant City Fire Rescue                                     |
| Calig, Hallie               | City of Tampa/Environmental Coordination                   |
| Castonguay, Steven          | Hillsborough County Health Department                      |
| Chambers-Emerson, JoAnn(AA) | Tampa General Hospital/Florida Poison Information Center   |
| Connors, Cpl Lance          | Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office                       |
| Dabrowski, Peter            | Interested Citizen   |
| <b>Ehlers, Chief Scott</b>  | Tampa Fire Rescue  |
| Gonzalez, Roberto           | Florida Department of Transportation                       |
| Griffin, LCDR Navin         | U.S. Coast Guard   |
| Johnston, James             | Pasco County Emergency Management                          |
| Kemp, Jonathan              | Tampa Bay Times  |
| Meyer, John                 | Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council                        |
| Orzech, William (A)         | Bay Pines VA Health Care System                            |
| Rowe, Charles               | Yara North America, Inc.                                   |
| Tobergte, Jeff              | Florida Department of Environmental Protection             |
| Wade, Holley                | Hillsborough County Emergency Management                   |
| Walker Richard              | Pinellas County Emergency Management                       |
| Watson, Alain G.            | Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County |

A = Alternate member with voting standing.

AA = Alternate member attending, but without voting standing due to presence of primary member.

AAA= Pending Alternate attended without voting standing.

**Red** text signifies meeting Chair.

### *Members Absent Without Alternates in Attendance*

### *Representing*

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Atherton, Chris         | Florida National Guard/48 <sup>th</sup> CST |
| Crowther, Charles       | St. Petersburg College                      |
| Davies, Scott           | Manatee Port Authority                      |
| Fernald, Lt. Col. Larry | Civil Air Patrol                            |

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Frady, Terry                          | Florida Department of Health                |
| Guincho, Michael                      | Hillsborough County Fire Rescue             |
| Johnson, Betti [ <i>Excused</i> ]     | Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council         |
| Kinley, Ed                            | Universal Environmental Solutions           |
| Klinger, Chet                         | Interested Citizen                          |
| Lofgren, Col. Bill [ <i>Excused</i> ] | Interested Citizen                          |
| McCarthy, Steven                      | Pinellas Park Fire Department               |
| Pratt, Alan [ <i>Excused</i> ]        | CF Industries, Inc.                         |
| Simpson, Steve                        | Manatee County Emergency Management         |
| Steadham, Phillip A.                  | Tampa Port Authority                        |
| Stewart, Jeffrey                      | Mosaic Phosphates Company                   |
| Touchton, Lesley                      | Southwest Florida Water Management District |

Staff Coordinator

Representing

|             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Meyer, John | Tampa Bay LEPC District VIII |
|-------------|------------------------------|

Guests

Representing

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Azzariti, Dan    | Plant City Fire Rescue                                     |
| Diamond, Jason   | Arcadis  |
| Dolak, Paul      | Brenntag Mid-South   |
| Forziano, David  | Gulf Sulphur Services                                      |
| Greif, William   | Growers Fertilizer Corporation                             |
| Lang, Steve      | USCG   |
| Lashbrook, Scott | Pinellas County Health Department                          |
| Linzer, Kim      | Bay Pines VA Health Care System                            |
| Lynch, Denise    | CSX  |
| Martinez, Robert | DPC Enterprises Tampa #24                                  |
| McManus, Andrew  | Arcadis  |
| Rider, Karen     | FDOT/District 7  |
| Swartz, Doug     | Largo Fire Rescue  |
| Teets, James     | Gulf Sulphur Services                                      |
| Weedon, Warren   | USCG   |
| Woodard, Sterlin | Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County |

**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 21 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 16 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 August 28, 2013 LEPC meeting. Hearing none, the Chair asked for motion to approve the *Minutes*. Jonathan Kemp moved and Greg Becker seconded the motion. The *Minutes* were approved unanimously on voice vote.

**LEPC DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES** - LEPC Staff Coordinator John Meyer advised that new Alternates were approved for Tampa Port Authority (Ms. Jackie Julien) and Manatee County Emergency Management (Ms. Rachel Ingle). In addition, Mr. Meyer identified his anticipation that a significant number of membership modifications will be processed in association with the next SERC quarterly meeting or shortly thereafter. This would/could include new “Primary” and/or “Alternate” representatives for: Hillsborough County Emergency Management, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Manatee County Emergency Management, Pasco County Emergency Management, Florida Department of Transportation, Manatee Port Authority and Tampa Fire Rescue.

**RECAP OF QUARTERLY STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC) MEETINGS** - Chair Ehlers acknowledged that two of the major discussion items were the Domestic Security Oversight Council recommendation and the status of the development of the State’s Supplemental Environmental Project database/website. Each of these items will be addressed as separate items later in the LEPC Agenda.

Mr. Meyer added that a status report was provided on the Hazmat Symposium, including Hazmat Team competitions, that is scheduled for January 23-24, 2014 in Daytona Beach in conjunction with the next SERC meetings and the annual Fire Rescue East Conference. The tentative courses were identified (see graphic to right) and were included in the LEPC Agenda materials.

| Time             | Thursday Rm 1   | Friday- Rm 1  | Friday Rm 2  | Friday Rm 3  | Friday Rm 4  |
|------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| 8:00 - 10:00 am  | 24 - Implementing a ToxMedic Program in Your Department<br>Fred Hass                                  | 9.A - Masters of Gas Detection<br>Christopher Wrenn | 17 - Hazmat-Bomb Squad Integration<br>Jeff Gold                              | 26 - Mercury Spill Response for First Responders<br>Jeffrey Waters / Chris Russell           | 14.A - HazMat Medical Response: A Common Sense Approach<br>Rick Stip / Toby Bevelacqua |
| 10:00 - 12:00 pm | 4 - Grounding and Bonding – What Is It? Why Do It, and How Do We Do It?<br>Glen Rudner                | 9.B - Masters of Gas Detection<br>Christopher Wrenn | 7 - Tampa, FL Ethanol Train Derailment July 2013<br>Emilio Salabarría        | 27 - Tavares, FL Blue Rhino Plant Explosion<br>Eric Wages / Randy Jones / Tommy Carpenter    | 14.B - HazMat Medical Response: A Common Sense Approach<br>Rick Stip / Toby Bevelacqua |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm  | LUNCH   | LUNCH   | LUNCH  | LUNCH  | LUNCH  |
| 1:00 – 3:00 pm   | 1 - Emergency Response to a Radiological Dispersal Device<br>Tony Mussorfiti                          | 9.C - Masters of Gas Detection<br>Christopher Wrenn | 5.A - Responding to Incidents Involving Ethanol Blended Fuels<br>Glen Rudner | 3 - Propane Emergency Response<br>Carl Weeks   | 20.A - Meth Lab Awareness<br>Mike Hopkins / Bob Coschignano                            |
| 3:00 – 5:00 pm   | 2 - Haz Mat Tactics - Building a Play Book for Response to Haz Mat/WMD Emergencies<br>Tony Mussorfiti | 9.D - Masters of Gas Detection<br>Christopher Wrenn | 5.B - Responding to Incidents Involving Ethanol Blended Fuels<br>Glen Rudner | 18 The Handling of LP Emergencies at Fixed Storage and Transport<br>Chris Lewis / Jason Kerr | 20.B - Meth Lab Awareness<br>Mike Hopkins / Bob Coschignano                            |

Mr. Meyer further identified that an update on the progress of the Hazards Analyses Contract Workgroup was provided. The Hazards Analyses Contract recipients are required to tour and confirm the data every other year for each Section 302 facilities within their jurisdiction. The Workgroup, in conjunction with FDEM staff, has been tasked to confirm that such process is still necessary and whether it is being implemented as cost effectively as possible. Noting that dozens of these Contracts are awarded each year to various parties, both public- and private-sector alike, the State FDEM is also looking for ways to unify the submitted work products and ensure their consistency.

Chair Ehlers concluded this Agenda item by crediting Chief Mike Murphy with a current initiative of communicating/coordinating a need for a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the U.S. Coast Guard which would/could authorize the mutual deployment of assets/resources offshore regarding particular/potential hazmat incidents prior to bringing a vessel into Port and potentially subjecting residents to public health issues.

**HMEP PROGRAM - PLANNING** - Mr. Meyer stated that Alan Pratt was not able to attend today's meeting but 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 October 16<sup>th</sup> and that a Recap of the meeting was included in the Agenda materials. The highlights of the meeting included the announcement that the current Subcommittee Chair Ms. Thea Dunmire is stepping down due to her current workload with her company - ENLAR Compliance Services. The Subcommittee is currently seeking a new Subcommittee Chair. Aside from an update of recent SERC items, much of the meeting included discussion of the value and benefits of FDPS activities as well as future activities which can be initiated. This could/would include training on the new Tier II reporting fields which will go into effect in March 2014 for the 2013 reporting. Mr. Meyer invited all those in attendance at the LEPC Meeting to attend and participate in future FDPS meetings.

**HMEP PROGRAM/TRAINING** - Subcommittee Chair James Johnston reminded attendees that each year the LEPC is awarded ~\$40K under the HMEP Contract to coordinate and facilitate the conduct of Hazardous Materials training for public-sector first responders. All of the training must contain, at minimum, a transportation element since the funding is provided by the DOT. Following the conduct of a 40-Hr. HazMedic course (October), a 40-Hr. Marine Firefighting for Land-Based Firefighters Train-the-Trainer course attended by 10 representatives from Hillsborough, Tampa, Manatee and Pinellas (November), three 8-Hr. CAMEO course (scheduled for December), and a tentative sampling/air monitoring course being contemplated by Pasco County, approximately \$13,000 of training funds will remain. The HMEP Training Subcommittee continues to solicit training needs and desires of the first responder community. 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 status of the 2013-14 HMEP/Training Contract:

| Quarter | Date                      | Name   | Expenses               | Cumulative  | Remaining          |
|---------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
|         |                           | <b>BASE FUNDING UNDER 2013-14 HMEP CONTRACT</b>                                |                        |             | <b>\$47,072.00</b> |
| 1       | 10/7-11/2013 <sup>3</sup> | 40-Hr. HazMedic Course, Pinellas County Hazmat                                 | \$11,500.00            | \$11,500.00 | \$35,572.00        |
|         |                           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/July - Sept. 2013 <Adjusted <sup>4</sup> > | \$ 268.00 <sup>4</sup> | \$11,768.00 | \$35,304.00        |
| 2       | 11/11-15/2013             | 40-Hr. Marine Firefighting for Land-Based FFs, Region                          | \$11,035.00            | \$23,479.00 | \$24,269.00        |
|         | 12/17-19/2013             | Three 8-Hr CAMEO Courses, Pinellas County Hazmat                               | \$4,999.99             | \$28,478.01 | \$19,269.01        |
|         |                           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/Oct.-Dec., 2013 <Estimate <sup>1</sup> >   | \$1,300.00             |             |                    |
| 3       |                           |  |                        |             |                    |
|         |                           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/Jan. - Mar. 2014                           |                        |             |                    |
| 4       |                           |  |                        |             |                    |
|         |                           |  |                        |             |                    |
|         |                           | 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr Admin. Expenses/April-June, 2014                           |                        |             |                    |

**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

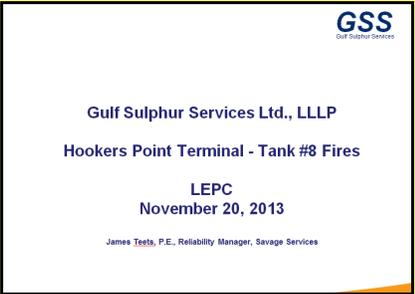
informational purposes only. The cost *estimate* is then revised at the end of each quarter to reflect actual administrative costs once tabulated, as would be appropriate.

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 actually conducted one week into the second quarter but the course was authorized as a first quarter expense since course prepayment was provided prior to September 30, 2013.
4. While the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Administrative expenses were *actually* \$965, only \$268 is being recognized in the above Table since, per Contract stipulation, the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter training expenses + administrative costs could not exceed 25% of annual Contract value (i.e. \$47,072 X 25% = \$11,768). The unreimbursable amount (i.e. \$697) was absorbed by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

It is presumed that the Subcommittee will next convene one hour prior to the scheduled February 26, 2014 LEPC meeting (i.e. @ 9:30 a.m.) to discuss the updated status of expenditures and available training opportunities.

**REGIONAL DOMESTIC SECURITY TASK FORCE (RDSTF)** - Mr. Meyer stated that Betti Johnson was presently attending a Threats and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) workshop in Orlando and therefore unable to attend today’s meeting. The ongoing listing of activities and initiatives of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) program was included in the LEPC Agenda materials. The recap included information about 2014 DHS funding and Regional Interoperable Communications.

**GULF SULPHUR SERVICES TANK #8 FIRES PRESENTATION** - Mr. Meyer iterated that separate fires occurred Gulf Sulphur Service’s Tank #8 on August 8 & 13, 2013. A local news station video clip describing the latter event was shown followed by a presentation which was co-prepared and co-provided by James Teets (Gulf Sulphur Services) and Sterlin Woodard (Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County). The intent of the presentations were to describe the incidents, response activities, remediatory actions and preventative measures which will be implemented in order to reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence. As identified below, links to the video and PowerPoint presentation have been established.

| Video Clip/PPT Presentation   | Name/Link/Length  | Description   |
|---|---|---|
|  | <p><i>“Crew Contains Port of Tampa Fire Again”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUeVIA69_AY">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUeVIA69_AY</a></p> <p>Video Length: ~ 2 Minutes</p>                                    | <p>ABC Action News characterized the incident in a short news segment. The video includes an interview with a Tampa Fire Rescue spokesperson describing the incident and response actions. The video is available for viewing at the link identified immediately to the left.</p>           |
|  | <p>Gulf Sulphur Services Tank #8 Fires Presentation</p> <p><a href="http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc/presentations/GSS_Tank8Fires112013.pdf">http://www.tbrpc.org/lepc/presentations/GSS_Tank8Fires112013.pdf</a></p> <p># of Slides: 27</p> | <p>This presentation was prepared and provided by James Teets (Gulf Sulphur Services) in conjunction with Sterlin Woodard (Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County). The joint presentation is available for viewing at the link identified immediately to the left.</p> |

The following remarks were made during or in association with the presentations:

- Savage Services (SS) is the operator for Gulf Sulphur Services' Port of Tampa location. The company has 150 locations worldwide and is committed to the safety of the employees, customers and neighboring communities.
- Sulfur is about one-third of the cargo that goes into and out of SS's Port of Tampa facility. Eight molten sulfur storage tanks exist on site. The tanks are insulated and skin protects the tank insulation from the elements.
- Holes in the roof of Tank #8 were detected in late July 2013 and the tank was immediately taken out of service for repair. The ventilation system was employed on August 7<sup>th</sup> in addition to the opening of the tank vents to cool the sulphur. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, a fire ignited in Tank #8 in the morning hours and the internal fire suppression system was activated, resulting in smoke/steam that billowed through the holes in the roof. The emissions contained small amount of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). In the process, steam escaped the tank. Monitoring was immediately instituted which revealed that the emissions did not exceed health & safety limitations. Tampa Fire Rescue (TFR) arrived at the scene around 9:00 a.m. and quickly applied a "water curtain" to curtail the smoke. Based on the wind speed and direction at the time and in an abundance of caution, TFR issued a "Shelter-in-Place" order for the Davis Island community which remained in effect until shortly after the fire was extinguished about 45 minutes later.
- On August 13 - SS employees had performed visual inspections at the top of the tank with no signs or observation of trouble. However, later in the afternoon, a fire ignited, once again, in Tank #8. The fire suppression system was activated. TFR quickly arrived on scene to extinguish the fire. However, this time a "Shelter-in-Place" order was not issued due to favorable wind conditions and the results of the air monitoring which had been conducted.
- The following pro-active measures were taken/implemented after the second fire to reduce the likelihood of another fire(s) while readying Tank #8 for draining, internal inspection and repair:
  - ✓ hired Southeast Coastal to provide continuous monitoring of Tank #8 until it was fully drained and ready for inspection;
  - ✓ funded TFR crew and resources to remain on-site until draining activities were completed;
  - ✓ hired a Contractor to install temporary patches over the holes in the roof in order to minimize further SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and potential for another fire inside the tank; and
  - ✓ kept the tank's Fire Suppression System activated until the tank was fully drained.
- SS fully cooperated with inquiries from the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County, Tampa Port Authority and TFR and coordination continues.
- The fires were thoroughly investigated with the assistance of Third Party experts. The findings were that:
  - ✓ the fire was caused by a pyrophoric reaction;
  - ✓ the tank's steam smothering system should be improved; and
  - ✓ holes in the roof impaired the effectiveness of the steam smothering system

- The facility was acknowledged that they will: diagnose potential community impacts; update their Emergency Response Procedures & Communication Plan; conduct annual emergency response drills/site familiarization activities; and become actively involved with the Port's Safety Council and the EPC Industry Group; implement corrective measures consisting of overall process, tank inspection, and tank maintenance improvements; and implement new Emergency Response Communication & Coordination Plan
- Aside from the requirement for SS to strictly adhere to the rules, regulations and permits, the Board of the Environmental Protection Commission (EPCHC) requested that SS:
  - ✓ develop written Emergency Response Plan (24 hr Notification) in conjunction with Tampa Port Authority, State Watch Office, TFR, and EPCHC; ✓
  - ✓ conduct annual training & biennial exercises with TPA & TFR
  - ✓ become member of Tampa Bay Spill Committee and the LEPC's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee; and
  - ✓ submit copies of API-653 tank inspections to EPCHC.

The following were commentary was provided by LEPC members and/or the public:

- Chair/Chief Ehlers acknowledged that the responses were “seamless” with everyone working together.
- Mr. Paul Dolak inquired about how much insulation there was in the tank. Mr. James Teets identified that insulation varies by its location on the tank and that there is no unified standard for insulation thickness for all portions of the tank.
- LEPC member Hallie Calig acknowledged her understanding that the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners are concerned about the lack of communication with the public regarding notification of incidents. Mr. David Forziano identified that the facility is now working with the Tampa Port Authority and Tampa Fire Rescue on improving communication with the communities and that future notification of incidents/releases, if applicable, will remain the responsibility of Tampa Fire Rescue. Mr. Forziano further identified that SS is working on internal modifications to their Communication element within their facility Plan.
- Mr. Paul Dolak identified that it was his observation nationally that most “Shelter-in-Place” (SIP) orders are issued during daylight hours when children are in school but inquired whether there is a concern that many parents may arrive at the school to ensure their children's safety and jeopardize their own health/safety? LEPC member Holley Wade responded that Hillsborough County Emergency Management's position is (and has been) that a “structured notification” is essential to prevent misinterpretation of SIP orders and provides assurance of what measures are being taken to safeguard the children which prevents the potential chaos. LEPC member David Walker added that Pinellas County School system already sends out various notifications electronically to parents through various forms of electronic media (i.e. text messages, automated/informational telephone calls...). LEPC member Pete Dabrowski identified that such notification would only be applicable to parents of public school system children. Similar notifications do not presently exist for parents whose children are enrolled in private schools.
- Chief/Chair Ehlers concluded by identifying that there are certainly ramifications when issuing Shelter-in-Place orders (e.g. stop surgeries at hospital...). When feasible, it may more advantageous to coordinate/communicate “Preventative Precautions” rather than issue Shelter-in-Place orders.

**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)

Mr. Meyer added that “Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response” (TRANSCAER) training has been tentatively scheduled at the 34<sup>th</sup> Street TRANSFLO Yard in Tampa on February 18-19, 2013. Mr. Meyer agreed to transmit more information regarding the event to LEPC members and the public as the event approaches and more details are made available.

No additional training opportunities or events were identified by the LEPC membership or the public.

**LEPC BUSINESS**

**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

Chair Ehlers reminded those in attendance that the Supplemental Environmental Projects program is designed to allow a facility found to be in violation of the EPCRA an alternative to the full payment of EPA fines.

FDEM staff has been tasked with establishing and maintaining a SEP website by the State Emergency Response Commission. Upon implementation, the website would include everything from the definition of a SEP... to potential projects... to contact information... to applicable regulations... It is envisioned that the website would be patterned after the efforts of the State of Illinois Environmental Protection Commission due to the website’s intuitiveness, convenience, and practicality ([www.epa.state.il.us/enforcement/sep](http://www.epa.state.il.us/enforcement/sep)). However, progress towards this initiative has yet to rendered due to time and/or staffing constraints.

The screenshot shows the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency website. The header includes the agency name and the website URL [www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us). The Governor's name, Pat Quinn, is also displayed. A navigation menu on the left lists various topics such as Air, Land, Water, and Permits. The main content area is titled "Supplemental Environmental Project Idea Bank" and includes a sub-header "What is a Supplemental Environmental Project?". Below this, there is a definition of a SEP and a link to a "SEP Fact Sheet". Another sub-header asks "What is the Supplemental Environmental Project Idea Bank?" followed by a description of the program. A final sub-header asks "What projects are appropriate for the Supplemental Environmental Project Idea Bank?" and lists categories of projects.

On May 30, 2013, a 450-gallon tank of Sodium Hypochlorite ruptured at the University of South Florida/Tampa campus. The NRC and the State Watch Office were not notified of the incident in the required 15 minutes, potentially subjecting the USF to fines under Section 304 and CERCLA. Noting the computer expertise of the professors and graduate students, USF Administration had graciously agreed to create the electronic database and website as an alternative to the full fine payment if determined to be in violation and subject to a considerable fine. On November 7, 2013, USF representatives attended a “Show Cause” hearing at the EPA offices in Atlanta, GA to discuss the incident, the response actions taken and subsequent actions taken. Convinced the release did not leave the site, EPA dismissed all penalties but those associated with a CERCLA release. While the initial fine assessment was \$2,200, a cumulative fine reduction of 50% was recognized to account for “working efficiently with EPA”, “willingness of expeditious settlement” and the fact that USF was determined to be a “small facility.” Noting that the fine was now \$1,100, USF elected NOT to pursue the website development SEP. Alternatively, they will be coordinating with Tampa Fire Rescue staff to alternatively identify needed hazmat equipment in the ballpark of \$1,000 to propose as their new SEP proposal.

While the SEP website development SEP proposal was scrapped in this instance and the knowledge that such initiative could be beneficial to the entire State of Florida, future violators could potentially propose coordination with USF to develop this site as their SEP.

**DOMESTIC SECURITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (DSOC) RECOMMENDATION** - Chair Ehlers identified that, as previously advised, the DSOC had generated a recommendation to reduce the number of recognized Regional Hazmat Response Teams statewide from 35 to 21, with a maximum of three teams per Region (i.e. Primary, Secondary & Tertiary). In fact, the LEPC previously sent a letter suggesting that the DSOC postpone any reduction until a Comprehensive Threats and Vulnerabilities Assessment has been conducted. Each Team had previously received about \$15,000 annually in DHS federal funding. Subsequently, in a relatively close vote (i.e. 15/13), DSOC finalized the recommendation at their October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The vote pretty much followed affiliation lines with fire and emergency management opposing the recommendation and law enforcement supporting it. As a result, it appears that the Pinellas County and Polk County Hazmat Teams will no longer receive their former share of federal funding. However, Chair Ehlers concluded his remarks by indicating that UASI may supplement the lost State Homeland Security Grant Program funding.

**LEPC MEETING DATES FOR 2014** - Mr. Meyer announced that the 2014 meeting schedule for LEPC District 8 needs to be established. Typically, the meeting dates are the last Wednesdays of February, May, August and November. However, similar to this year, the corresponding November 2014 meeting would occur during Thanksgiving holiday week. Due to the conflict, Mr. Meyer proposed November 19<sup>th</sup> or December 3<sup>rd</sup> as alternative meeting dates. A motion was made by Mr. Jonathan Kemp and seconded by Ms. Sandra Brooking to select November 19, 2014 as the alternative meeting date. The motion was approved unanimously upon voice vote. Therefore the schedule for Tampa Bay LEPC meetings in 2014 is as follows:

- February 26<sup>th</sup>
- May 28<sup>th</sup>
- August 27<sup>th</sup>
- November 19<sup>th</sup>

## ELECTION FOR LEPC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

LEPC Nominations/Membership Subcommittee Chair Hallie Calig identified that, with the recent announcement of the pending resignation of LEPC District 8 Chair Scott Ehlers and the flexible LEPC membership guidelines, it has been determined that it would be advantageous for LEPC District 8 to proceed to elect a new LEPC Chair and Vice-Chair at our next scheduled meeting. Chief Jeff Patterson, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, has expressed a willingness, ability and desire to succeed Chief Ehlers as Chair for the LEPC. Mr. Jeff Tobergte has expressed a willingness to maintain his Vice Chair designation. The LEPC Membership Subcommittee has accepted these nominations but inquired whether other member(s) was additionally interested in seeking these positions. If so, notification of interest shall be provided by the candidates themselves, in writing, to Mr. John Meyer (LEPC Staff Coordinator - [johnm@tbrpc.org](mailto:johnm@tbrpc.org)) and Ms. Hallie Calig (LEPC Nominations/Membership Subcommittee Chair - [hallie.calig@ci.tampa.fl.us](mailto:hallie.calig@ci.tampa.fl.us)) on or before Friday, February 7, 2014. Nominations for these positions will not be accepted on the floor on the day of the meeting. If nominations are received for either or both of these positions, a formal election process will be conducted in conjunction with the February 26, 2014 LEPC meeting. Otherwise, these nominees will assume respective positions/titles following the meeting.

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Meyer reminded those in attendance that this is the final meeting of Chief Scott Ehlers as Chair of LEPC District 8. Mr. Meyer presented Chair Ehlers with an inscribed pen set as a token of gratitude from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for his service as LEPC Chair since May 2007.

Chief/Chair Scott Ehlers proceeded to thank all LEPC members for their dedication, commitments and contributions they have provided during his tenure as Chair as well as the friendships that he has established. After much well-deserved applause, the attendees conducted a standing ovation for Chair/Chief Ehlers.



- LEPC member Pete Dabrowski suggested that the May 2014 LEPC meeting include presentations by the various County Emergency Management Departments and the Tampa Port Authority to discuss the upcoming 2014 hurricane season, recent preparedness activities/initiatives undertaken, and vulnerabilities. Mr. Meyer acknowledged the request and indicated that it would be reasonable to consider and/or pursue the requested presentations from respective agencies.

**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, February 26, 2014 (same time and location).

**ADJOURNMENT** - Without objection and upon a motion for adjournment by Pete Dabrowski and a second by James Johnston, the LEPC meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted and signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014,

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John Meyer, Coordinator

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Jeff Tobergte, Interim Chairman