



FACILITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FORUM - JULY 14, 2011 - RECAP -

A Facility Disaster Preparedness Forum was conducted on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at the offices of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council/Local Emergency Planning Committee District 8 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

A total of 20 were in attendance representing various facets of the hazardous material industries from facility representatives and/or consultants to responders. While more than one facility had multiple representatives, the following constitute their allegiances:

ACT	Dunedin Fire Department	Salon Centric
Aerosonic Corp.	Hills. Medical Reserve Corps	SATCO
AT&T	HRP Associates	Transitions Optical
Chemical Formulators	HQ U.S. Centcom	Universal Waste & Transit
City of Dunedin	Pasco Cogen	
CSX Transportation	Rooms to Go	

The scheduling of the forum was not arbitrary. It was strategically scheduled early in the 2011 hurricane season, considering hurricanes are one of the more formidable disasters which could pose catastrophic damage and significant danger to hazardous materials facilities, their employees and the neighboring communities. Preparing for and recovering from natural disasters (including hurricanes) requires a significant amount of pre-planning by the hazardous materials industry and others.

The meeting was facilitated by the LEPC's Facilities Disaster Planning Subcommittee Chair Chet Klinger. The forum style of the meeting would be characterized by the introduction of various hazardous materials disaster planning/preparedness topics stimulating the thought process, participant interaction, and sharing of information and ideas from those in attendance.

SCOPE OF PLANNING

- Each hazardous materials facility presumably has Emergency Response Plans, Business Continuity Plans, Disaster Recovery Plans and has conducted hazardous analyses of their chemicals.
- Identified highest risks: flooding and wind may cause disruption of power, water flow, telecommunications and fuel. The issue of a lack of regulators/security due to current/recent budget constraints was additionally raised as a concern/risk.
- Some of the chemicals stored at facilities require refrigeration to maintain their chemical state and water may be required to maintain the cooling of other chemicals. If applicable, these factors need to be addressed in facility disaster plans since power may be disrupted and/or water may be unavailable following a natural disaster.
- During pending hurricanes, "Push" team batten down adjacent to the Port of Tampa. The "Push" teams are comprised of emergency response representatives of the various hazmat facilities located within the Port, Police, Fire... and will serve as the first on the scene to assess facility damage and risk.
- Four feet of water could float a big above-ground tank.

- To reduce the risk of airborne projectiles that may be caused by a hurricane, one Tampa facility relocated their valves of their chemicals inward.
- There are two separate thought processes for the amount of chemicals stored at a facility when a natural disaster is imminent... one is to fill the tanks to make them as heavy as possible in an effort to equalize the anticipated pressure and the other concept is arrange for the removal of as much of the chemical inventory as possible. Chair Klinger did mention that several large oil company tanks were moved off their foundations in association with Hurricane Katrina.
- During large natural disasters, the military may take over resources (e.g. cell phone service, fuel sources) through “Martial Law.”
- Suggestions raised by participants to be incorporated into (or considered as part of) Facility Disaster Plans:
 - Establish a “Rally” Point 3-4 days out for meeting location of employees of facility in affected area.
 - Get phone number(s) of out-of-state relatives for each employee for future coordination.
 - Set up social media or website to serve as communication with employees.
- Training of employees to required for facility emergency response personnel entering affected areas.
- Although your facility may not be significantly affected by a natural disaster, considerable damage to adjacent facility(ies) may pose a significant risk to your facility and/or employees.
- Following a natural disaster, employees must ensure that their families are and secure before returning to work. Prior arrangements to child care would be mutually beneficial to having an employee return.
- Roads have to be cleared and accessible before restoring railroad network.
- Larger companies (like AT&T) have pre-made arrangement to bring in fuel trailers, food trailers and gas grills for their employees.

LESSONS FROM EXPERIENCE

- “People take potential damage too lightly.” Most difficult lesson to grasp is to plan for the unexpected but not necessarily know what the unexpected is...
- The AT&T telephone network was significantly impacted by Hurricane Wilma in Ft. Lauderdale. Changes to AT&T’s Statewide and National networks have been implemented to reduce the potential severity and/or duration of potential outage in the future.
- Pre-negotiated agreements are sometimes moot since the National Guard may takes control if activated and deployed to an affected area.
- Pre-arrangement/Pre-authorization for re-entry with fire departments is encouraged in order for easier access to your potentially impacted facility. Fire Departments can become familiar with your facility, its function, and its associated contents through prior review of Emergency Plans. Fire Departments typically require the consent of a Structural Engineer prior to entering affected facilities.
- It would be a reasonable practice to be conscientious/cognizant of the stress levels of employees following a disaster.
- Employees should bring home pertinent office files and contact information on thumb drives when evacuating from an imminent disaster. Critical employees can “almost run an entire office from home” with necessary files and information.
- Security should be one of top priorities of affected facilities.
- Taking an inventory of hazardous materials present prior to evacuation is essential.

- Often times, a facility's Disaster Planning section staff does not interact with the Business Continuity section staff. Bridging this gap through communication is vital to allow the facility to plan for continued operations following (and recovery from) an areawide natural disaster.
- There is currently a need for a nationally (if not statewide) certifiable badge system recognized by all relevant parties (Law Enforcement, Fire, Military...) to allow re-entry of critical facility personnel and/or resources. Such badge/card could possibly be endorsed (issued?) by the Transportation Security Administration and could function similar to "TWIC" (Transportation Worker Identification Cards) at the Port of Tampa. Discussion ensued about bringing this issue to the State Emergency Response Commission for their information and/or consideration. In hindsight, the SERC has a working group that functions as a forum for planning issues and guidelines. The working group is known as the "Training Task Force." This issue will be brought to the attention of the Training Task Force.
- One attendee recognized the number of cards currently required includes to gain access to Port facilities following a disaster: (1) TWIC, (2) Port of Tampa card, (3) Facility ID card, and (4) First Responder for facility card.
- Facilities can obtain Yellow Page Phone Books from various locations across the State to pre-coordinate the supply of comparable resources that may not be available locally immediately following a disaster. The question is, however, could/would these resources be allowed to get through the re-entry barricades?

The Forum concluded with an explanation of the LEPC's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS), its mission and prior training venues. Subcommittee Chair Klinger emphasized that the FDPS is always seeking new members for invigoration and to share some new ideas. The FDPS typically meets quarterly about one month prior to each scheduled LEPC meeting. Forum attendees were encouraged to provide their e-mails addresses on the bottom of the evaluation form to be notified of future FDPS meetings and/or signify their interest in membership.