

THOMAS YATABE AWARDS LEPC DISTRICT 8 - 2010

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 2010 THOMAS YATABE AWARDS FOR LEPC DISTRICT 8 WERE:

Thomas Yatabe Award Winner - Robert Tollise, Manatee County Office of Public Safety



(Left to Right) FDEM Bureau Chief Gwen Keenan, SERC Meeting Chair George Danz, LEPC District 8 Award Recipient Robert Tollise, LEPC District 8 Chair Scott Ehlers, and LEPC District 8 Staff Coordinator John Meyer. Award presented at January 7, 2011 SERC meeting.

"Mr. Bob Tollise has served the District VIII LEPC as the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Training Subcommittee Chairman since 2007. In this capacity he has aggressively pursued and identified for the four counties of the district, needed hazmat training. As a result, he has been diligent in holding meetings to obtain needs of the counties and cities and has sought to provide this training on a timely and cost-effective manner to the LEPC and State of Florida. During this period he skillfully managed funds in excess of \$118,000 and provided over 31 courses for district training. He was also ever-attuned to possible end-of-year funds which sometimes become available to the districts and was prepared to take advantage of these funds by having courses, venues, dates, and instructors all tentatively committed to take

advantage of the remaining fiscal year funds. Knowing that each course requested and taught brings with it the required paperwork demanded by the State to meet its Federal obligations In every instance, he has been prompt and thorough in providing his requests for training, instructor resumes, class attendance rosters, and student evaluations in a complete and timely manner. Throughout his tenure as Training Chair Mr. Tollise has sought to balance the needs of each county to ensure fair and equitable distribution of budgeted funds and the courses he has selected have obtained the highest student approval on evaluations for both content and instructor expertise. His dedication to his duties as Training Subcommittee Chairman has brought great credit upon himself and the Tampa Bay LEPC and he is most deserving of this honor and recognition."

Larry Gispert, former Hillsborough County Emergency Management Director, Thomas Yatabe “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipient

“As Hillsborough County’s Director of Emergency Management for more than 17 years and a long time member of LEPC District 8, Larry has been a constant advocate for hazardous materials preparation, planning and response. His actions have been a credit to LEPC District 8 and deserve recognition prior to his retirement in February of 2011.”



Larry Gispert (right) accepting Certificate from Chair Scott Ehlers.