

THOMAS YATABE AWARDS LEPC DISTRICT 8 - 2014

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 2014 THOMAS YATABE AWARDS FOR LEPC DISTRICT 8 WERE:

Thomas Yatabe Award Winner - Capt. Christopher Atherton, 48th Civil Support Team

Nomination read as follows:

Capt. Christopher Atherton was critical to the establishment and implementation of the "Hightide" exercise conducted in Tampa Bay on April 5, 2014. The scenario involved a terrorist's simulated release of Chlorine within a cargo container aboard a large stationary vessel in Tampa Bay, essentially midway between southern Tampa (Hillsborough County) and St. Petersburg (Pinellas County). The exercise required the establishment of a unified, on-shore, command and a joint mobile response of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Tampa Fire Rescue, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue and FBI hazmat teams to respond to, address, remediate and investigate the Chlorine release. The joint hazmat teams entered the cargo container on three occasions. The first entry was to investigate for potential explosive device(s), the second to secure and mitigate the simulated Chlorine being released and the third entry was for evidence collection. A smoke machine was utilized to emulate Chlorine being released. Participatory agencies included: National Guard/48th Civil Support Team, FBI, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Hillsborough County Emergency Management, Tampa Fire Rescue, Tampa Emergency Management, United States Coast Guard, FDEM/Region 4, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue and the U.S. Army Reserve.



Pictured Left-to-Right: LEPC Staff John Meyer, Award Recipient Capt. Chris Atherton, LEPC Chair Chief Jeff Patterson & FDEM/Technological Hazards Unit Director Paul Wotherspoon.



LEPC District 8 was able to capitalize on this initiative as their biennial exercise requirement.

Tampa Fire Rescue/Office of Emergency Management, Thomas Yatabe “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipient

Nomination read as follows:



Pictured from Left-to-Right: LEPC Chair Jeff Patterson, Tampa's Office of Emergency Management Director Chauncia Willis & staff members Oliver Greene and Peter Ignacio.



Pictured with some of the event Sponsors from Left-to-Right in Front Row: LEPC Chair Jeff Patterson, Chauncia Willis, Lynne Vadelund, Mario Gomez and Denise Lynch. In back row from Left-to-Right are: Oliver Greene, Peter Ignacio and Kris Kinnison.

A multijurisdictional and interdisciplinary outreach initiative was developed by the City of Tampa's Office of Emergency Management in collaboration with Tampa Fire Rescue, City of Tampa's Neighborhood Empowerment Department, Tampa Port Authority, local port tenants and the Local Emergency Planning Committee. With the focus of targeting the residents in the neighborhood immediately adjacent to the Port of Tampa, the initiative centered around providing pertinent information on the utilization and storage of hazardous materials in the Port as well as the corresponding safeguards that are being administered. Information was also shared to address a variety of other natural and man-made disasters. Introduction to the new Port siren alarm/alert system and demonstration of Shelter-in-Place procedures were key components of this inaugural event. The goal was to make area residents more resilient to and educated on these emergencies. This event was well attended by the General Public and Port tenants. Based on its success, this event will be conducted again next year and will be used as a model for future events.

A secondary photo was taken to include some of the event's primary sponsors/partners in attendance at the February 2015 LEPC meeting - Ms. Lynne Vadelund (Mosaic), Mr. Kris Kinnison (Yara North America), Mr. Mario Gomez (Gulf Sulphur Services) and Ms. Denise Lynch (CSX).

Sam Brackett/Florida Division of Emergency Management, Thomas Yatabe “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipient

Nomination read as follows:

Each year, the Local Emergency Planning Committees are required to conduct Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) “How-to-Comply” workshops in their Districts. The workshops are primarily designed for the business community and address such topics as hazardous materials laws, reporting requirements, thresholds and timelines. These workshops are typically scheduled in February to coincide with the March 1st Tier II filing deadline.

For the second consecutive year, Florida's State Emergency Response Commission has promoted the electronic filing of annual facility chemical inventories (i.e. Tier II reports) through the E-Plan

program. The program has been deemed a tremendous success with more than 90 percent of all submittals provided electronically through this program. E-Plan is critical to the first responder community by making a host of facility-specific information instantaneously accessible such as contacts, chemicals inventories and, in many cases, maps. E-Plan is also convenient for facilities due to its ease of use and requirement to only verify and update the information last provided regarding their facility.



Mr. Sam Brackett attended the February 11 & 12, 2014 workshops held at the office of the Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee to additionally guide and assist attendees on the use of the electronic E-Plan program as well as answer any technical issues regarding E-Plan. In fact, with Mr. Brackett's assistance, a couple of the facility representatives actually filed their reporting from the Workshop location. Noting the considerable number of facilities that use, produce or store reportable quantities of hazardous materials in the Tampa Bay area, Mr. Brackett's efforts have certainly contributed to the success of E-Plan

being implemented in both the District and the State. Having such critical information a "key stroke" away is likely to safeguard the lives of first responders.

Update: Mr. Brackett again assisted with the conduct of a E-Plan Filing Instructions presentation in association with the 2015 EPCRA How-to-Comply Workshops hosted by LEPC staff at the TBRPC/LEPC offices on February 2 & 3, 2015.