

**2015 THOMAS YATABE AWARDS RECOGNITION** - Mr. Meyer advised that Mr. Jack Ashmore of Mosaic's Port Sutton Terminal received the Tampa Bay LEPC's Thomas Yatabe Award for 2015. Mr. Ashmore attended the January 20, 2016 SERC meeting in Daytona Beach to receive his award in person. The Award signifies outstanding contribution(s) made in the implementation and support of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. His nomination read as follows:

**Jack Ashmore.** *As an informational and training opportunity, Mosaic, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, and Port Tampa Bay decided to perform a joint exercise involving an ammonia release at the Port Sutton Terminal of Port Tampa Bay. The*



Left to Right: LEPC Chair Jeff Patterson, Thomas Yatabe Award Winner Jack Ashmore, FDEM Deputy Director Jonathan Lord and Tampa Bay LEPC Staff John Meyer

*planning began many months in advance and included developing the scenarios, scheduling visits to the Port Sutton Terminal to familiarize the potential responding units with the facility; and tabletop exercises conducted over three days to enable all shifts to participate. Due to the great relationship and networking done through Jack and his team, each tabletop had participation from a multitude of organizations which led to an outstanding experience for all involved. Furthermore, the planning continued and culminated into a full scale exercise conducted in December 2014 which included not only the response to a hazardous materials release but also emergency mass notifications, mass evacuation, sheltering, traffic control, perimeter security, media relations and much more. Jack Ashmore led the Mosaic team and hosted all site visits, participated in the three days of tabletop exercises and the full scale exercise. In addition, Jack scheduled HAZMAT technician training for*

*his employees to enable them to participate in the full scale exercise. Outside of this, Jack participates in several safety, response, and operational committees in the Tampa Bay area which shows his pride and devotion to his job. With over 25 years in this field, Jack's commitment to the safety of Mosaic operations and of the community is easily seen in everything he does.*

Mr. Ashmore thanked the members of the Tampa Bay LEPC members for selecting him as the 2015 recipient of the Award for our District. Mr. Ashmore added that he enjoys working with and educating employees as well as a multitude of agencies, organizations and the public in order to promote hazardous materials planning and training. Such efforts significantly reduce the likelihood of a hazardous materials release that could significantly impact the lives (and property) of employees, first responders and the surrounding community.

Mr. Meyer added that additional nominations for the *Thomas Yatabe Award* were received for six other worthy candidates. *Certificates of Appreciation* were prepared for these nominees and provided by the State Emergency Response Commission for their significant contributions this past year. Mr. Meyer proceeded to read their nomination forms depicting their accomplishments and requested that they come forward to receive their awards. Those parties were:

**Sandy Brooking.** *Sandy is a credit to herself and the Pinellas County HAZ-MAT team. Sandy has distinguished herself as a true and fair leader and a technical planner. Sandy has amplified the training and response ability of her team to make them proficient at the skill craft as a HAZ-MAT Technician. Sandy has instituted a 100 percent HAZ-MAT Technician level course and HAZ-MAT Medic programs. Sandy has outfitted her team with State of the art equipment and seeks funding sources in order to keep the team supplied and at the highest level of readiness. Sandy also participates in many facets of the LEPC functions; including hazardous materials workshops, trainings, and exercises. Her assistance has been invaluable to conducting regional training courses and workshops, frequently offering the use of her facility for such events. For this and many other reasons, Sandy should be recognized by the LEPC for her concern for our mission and goals. We are grateful to Sandy for all her hard work and hope that in some small way, this award shows her just how much we appreciate her contribution to our team and community.*



**Edward Hintz.** *Fire Fighter Edward Hintz has demonstrated his commitment to the betterment of the Pinellas County Hazardous Materials Response Team (PCHRT) by providing over 176 hours of instruction to the team, establishment of partnerships with local businesses in the community for on-site training and securing of donated training equipment/props to enhance real life scenarios. FF Hintz was instrumental in coordinating the bi-monthly training provided to the PCHRT.*



**James Johnston.** *Mr. James Johnston is Vice Chair of the Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee and Chair of the LEPC's Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Training Subcommittee. In his capacity as the HMEP Training Chair during FY 2014-15, Mr. Johnston successfully guided the training of local, public-sector first responders from Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties as well as recently-added Citrus and Hernando Counties. This year's training included 17 courses, a nearly \$70,000 budget and more than 5,200 hours of hazmat instruction. Mr. Johnston additionally recruited three members of the Pasco County Hazmat Team to assist by volunteering a cumulative 36 hours of their time collecting data associated with the 2015 Commodity Flow Study/Placard Survey for the Pasco County sites.*



**Joe Mastandrea.** Mr. Mastandrea was instrumental in the development of the “All Hazards Guide for Businesses: Planning for Risks” resource document that was created to assist the local community with Business Continuity Planning as well as serve as a single-source document to a host of hazardous materials information and resources. On behalf of Hillsborough County, Mr. Mastandrea also contributed greatly to the conduct and success of the 2015 Commodity Flow Study/Placard Survey which was selected as the annual HMEP Planning project by the Tampa Bay LEPC. Mr. Mastandrea personally accompanied LEPC staff for all Hillsborough County data collection events, totaling 24 hours. As a side note, Mr. Mastandrea conducts 150+ Hazards Analyses for facilities in Hillsborough County annually, more than any other County in the State, and routinely disseminates pertinent information to the response personnel in his community.



**Mr. Richard Walker.** Mr. Walker was instrumental in the development of the “All Hazards Guide for Businesses: Planning for Risks” resource document that was created to assist the local community with Business Continuity Planning as well as serve as a single-source document to a host of hazardous materials information, data and resources. On behalf of Pinellas County, Mr. Walker also contributed greatly to the conduct and success of the 2015 Commodity Flow Study/Placard Survey which was selected as the annual HMEP Planning project by the Tampa Bay LEPC. As a side note, Mr. Walker conducts 80+ Hazards Analyses for facilities in Pinellas County annually and routinely disseminates pertinent information to the response personnel in his community.



**Ms. Chauncia Willis.** In February, 2015 the Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Florida Department of Law Enforcement held the Facilitated Discussion Workshop for the 2015 Florida Fuels Regional Resiliency Assessment Project (RRAP). Based on what was gleaned from the workshop and open discussion concerning the impact of a fuel shortage at Port Tampa Bay, it was decided that the issue of fuel management pre- and post-disaster was significant and should be elevated. The Emergency Coordinator briefed the EM Steering Committee on the fuel concerns and requested each department provide their daily consumption estimates. The Emergency Coordinator requested that Protective Security Advisor, Ollie Gagnon, assist the City and also provide the RRAP Workshop to the Executive Policy Group as a part of the annual citywide preparedness exercise.

