



LEPC RECAP

TAMPA BAY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) DISTRICT VIII, MEETING February 25, 2009

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The Vice Chair asked for approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting. With no changes or additions, John Ballaron moved and John Kemp seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously on voice vote.

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION AWARDS - The Vice Chair presented the Thomas Yatabe Award to Mr. Bill Lofgren for outstanding performance in the implementation and support of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). Mr. Lofgren's accomplishments during his 14+ year career as the District 8 LEPC Coordinator are too numerous to mention. Mr. Lofgren has unable to travel to Tallahassee to receive the award in person at the January 9, 2009 State Emergency Response Commission meeting.

The Vice Chair also recognized receipt of Certificates of Appreciation for the North River and Parrish Fire Districts for their prompt response and actions associated with a tanker fire at I-75/U.S. 301 on June 4, 2008. Manatee County personnel accepted the awards on behalf of the Fire Districts and will present them to the Fire Districts at a later time.

RECAP of TRAINING TASK FORCE (TTF), LEPC CHAIRS AND STAFF, AND STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC) MEETINGS - The Vice Chair announced that Training Task Force (TTF) meeting and the LEPC Chairs and Staff meeting was held on January 8, 2009 and the State Emergency Response Commission met on January 9, 2009 in Tallahassee. A recap of discussion and/or action items was e-mailed to the membership as part of the LEPC Agenda on February 13, 2009 and posted to the LEPC webpage.

Specifically, the SERC approved membership change requests from each of the LEPCs and also the change in occupational category ceilings and overall membership caps for those LEPCS which had requested the raising of the ceilings. Changes made to the District VIII LEPC are as follows: **Primary Appointment** - LCDR Tom Boyles (U.S. Coast Guard, Category: Law Enforcement). The following **Alternate Appointments**: LTJG William Sanders (*LCDR Boyles*).

The overall membership ceiling for District VIII increases by one (to 38). Mr. Tim Date, DEM Staff, provided update on membership status and asked for SERC approval of nominees, which was done by voice vote.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (HMEP) PROGRAM - PLANNING - Alan Pratt Committee Chair Pratt will provide an update of the HMEP/Planning Program activities, including the conduct of a Siren Briefing Workshop to the parents of children at the DeSoto Elementary School on January 13, 2009. The School is located at 2618 Corrine Street

in the Port of Tampa, immediately adjacent to one of the Ammonia sirens. A total of 48 parents attended this 7:30 a.m. workshop event. Mr. Pratt indicated that the two presentations were held side-by-side, one in English and one in Spanish.

The Planning Subcommittee has been taking a back seat to facility disaster planning, but hopefully we will be able to set as a goal for 2009, the completion of both the ammonia warning system briefing script and the shelter-in-place voice over in Spanish. The script has been completed and reviewed and Univision will be assisting in putting this down on a voice-over version of the excellent SIP presentation. Mr. Pratt indicated that the Spanish script is in the hands of Univision, the area Spanish-language TV station who is assisting the LEPC with this project. Mr. Pratt indicated that he will check on the status of this product and report back to the LEPC.

The subcommittee is currently caucusing to determine what directions will be taken for 2009 since this will still be an important part of our overall HMEP Planning Project on Section 302 Outreach.

Mr. John Meyer, LEPC Staff Coordinator thanked Mr. Pratt and Ms. Erika Wiker for their participation at the DeSoto Elementary presentation.

FACILITY DISASTER PLANNING PROJECT - Mr. Glenn Hall informed LEPC members that the Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee previously met on Monday, November 17, 2008, Tuesday, December 2, 2008 and Tuesday, January 6, 2009. The focus and planning initiative of the Subcommittee is to significantly bolster the hazardous materials section of the Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit, downloadable from the Council's website at: <http://www.fldisasterkit.com>.

Mr. Glenn Hall proceeded to introduce Mr. Bob Westly of SCS Engineers who, along with Ms. Thea Dunmire of ENLAR Compliance, has been spear-heading this effort.

Mr. Westly provided a presentation to demonstrate how using the program's internal planning "Wizard" would allow companies to self-evaluate their risks to a variety of natural or man-made disasters in the form of a checklist. This self-evaluation would allow a company to diagnose their greatest threat(s) and, through a series of weblinks, ascertain measures which can be undertaken to reduce their likelihood. Through the intensification of the hazardous materials section on the website, companies would be better informed of hazardous material vulnerability and requirements and would result in better and more thorough Facility Disaster and Business Continuity Plans.

Mr. Westly indicated that Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee would meet immediately following the LEPC meeting.

HMEP PROGRAM - TRAINING - John Meyer provided an update of FY 08-09 HMEP Training activities which have already occurred including the conduct of railroad car incident training for emergency responders, a CSX functional exercise, and a air monitoring/sampling training course. The LEPC has committed to hold a Chlorine Safety training course in May and contemplating a multi-day "Hazmat IQ" Course in August. Mr. Meyer directed indicated that additional training funds are still available and to coordinate suggested training topics/events with the Subcommittee Chair Bob Tollise.

A copy of budgetary expenditures for the new 2008-09 Fiscal Year to date (including those obligated) are as follows and Bob Tollise provided the following funding update:

**RECORD OF BUDGET EXPENDITURES
2008-09 HMEP TRAINING GRANT
Project 31402/132802 Budget: \$41,969.00**

Quarter	Date	Name	Expenses	Cumulative	Remaining
1	11/11-13/08	Emergency Response to Railcar Incident, Manatee Co.	\$10.00*	\$10.00	\$41,959.00
	11/13/08	CSX Transportation Railroad Functional Exercise, Hillsborough County	\$10.00*	\$20.00	\$41,949.00
	12/4/08	Air Monitoring Training, Pasco County	\$2,950.00	\$2,970.00	\$38,999.00
	12/31/08	1 st Qtr Administration Expenses Oct-Dec, 08 <Actual>	\$4,752.00**	\$7,722.00	\$34,247.00
2					
	3/31/09	2 nd Qtr Administration Expenses Jan-Mar, 09 <Est.>	\$1000.00		
3	5/05-07/09	Chlorine Safety Training Course, Manatee County	\$3,800.00		
	6/30/09	1 st Qtr Administration Expenses Apr-June, 09 <Est.>	\$1,000.00		
4					
	9/30/09	1 st Qtr Administration Expenses July-Sept, 09 <Est.>	\$1000.00		

* Indicates that LEPC District 8 received credit for course but the course was funded by a source other than the HMEP Training budget. Only expenses incurred by the LEPC were for advertising, etc.

** Council expenses include indirects (postage, office supplies, copying charges, communications), internal service charges (accounting, information center), auditing, building occupancy, travel time (local mileage, etc.) and small miscellaneous expenses.

EPCRA HOW-TO-COMPLY WORKSHOPS - Mr. Meyer indicated that the annual How-to-Comply Workshops were a success. The workshops are designed to inform participants of EPCRA reporting requirements and assist facilities with filing their Tier Twos prior to the March 1st deadline. In all, 20 participants attended these workshops which were held at both the Council offices and the Tampa Port Authority. Each workshop lasted a little over an hour and concluded with a question and answer session. Attendees received copies of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) *How To Comply Handbook*. Additional information, including all required forms and procedures for electronically filing are available on the SERC website (<http://www.floridadisaster.org/cps/SERC/morformz.htm>).

The schedule of workshops was as follows:

- Tue, 1/20/09** 1:30 pm - Tampa Port Authority Board Room, 1101 Channelside Drive, Tampa
- Fri, 1/23/09** 1:30 pm - Tampa Port Authority Board Room, 1101 Channelside Drive, Tampa
- Tue, 2/03/08** 9:30 am - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Pinellas Park
1:30 pm - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Pinellas Park
- Thu, 2/05/08** 9:30 am - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Pinellas Park
1:30 pm - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Pinellas Park
- Thu, 2/12/08** 9:30 am - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Pinellas Park
1:30 pm - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Pinellas Park

Wed, 2/18/08 9:30 am - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Pinellas Park
1:30 pm - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Pinellas Park

TAMPA BAY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE - Mr. Meyer identified that this is the time of year to initiate the updating of the LEPC's *Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan*. Electronic copies of the 2008 Plan were distributed to members of each County Emergency Management Office serving on the LEPC for review and additional copies will be provided to other members agreeing to review the Plan. Mr. Meyer indicated that all suggested revisions should be provided to his attention **no later than May 1st**. All revisions will be incorporated into the revised Plan, as appropriate, and will be the subject of discussion at the next LEPC meeting (i.e. May 25, 2009). The LEPC will then consider the transmittal of the Revised Plan prior to the June 30, 2009 Florida Division of Emergency Management deadline. Similar to the 2008 Plan, the 2009 Plan will be made available in variety of formats including hard copy, Word, WordPerfect and Adobe formats.

REGIONAL DOMESTIC SECURITY TASK FORCE (RDSTF) - Erika Wiker advised the Committee on recent and current Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) activities and initiatives. The Region 4 RDSTF serves Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties as well as the counties of Hardee, Polk, Hernando, Citrus and Sumter Counties.

The Region 4 IMT Team continues to lead the State in terms of planning, training, and team development. Region 4, through the support of Polk County Emergency Management, will be offering DHS authorized Position Specific Training courses to members of the Region 4 AHIMT.

The Resource Database has been sent out to participating agencies for the 2009 validation and update. Region 4 has adopted IRIS 2.1 as the way-ahead for resource tracking in the area. The implementation of IRIS 2.1 will be a phased approach with IRIS going live ahead of hurricane season.

Input for a Regional 5-year T&E Plan that captured training/exercise gaps based on the Target Capabilities List. CBRNE Detection/Response was one of our listed areas for improvement and has been identified as a priority within the Region. We would like to take a coordinated approach in determining training needs. Various ICS and other classes are being continually offered throughout the region. We are in the process of updating the RDSTF training website to be more user friendly, the new link is <http://www.tbrpc.org/rdstf/rdstf.shtml> , please remember it is a work in progress. If you have any comment or suggestions on making it better let me know.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO LEPC MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES - Vice Chair Tobergte thanked those LEPC members that provided responses to Mr. Meyer's January 13, 2009 e-mail poll of proposed LEPC Category changes. However, the response rate was less than 50 percent. The SERC's Subcommittee on Training (SOT) has requested that each LEPC specifically poll their membership to determine which of the following six proposed changes are reasonable and may better portray the membership of each LEPC. The results of the District 8 polling will be shared with the other LEPC Districts and ultimately discussed at the next SOT. The SOT will determine the next course of action.

A. Do retired members remain in their previously assigned categories?

Vice Chair Tobergte mentioned that the basis for this suggested revision is that a retired person retains the majority of their knowledge regarding their former occupation. Currently, a retired person must be removed from their former occupational category and placed in the category entitled “Interested Citizen.” Mr. Tobergte stated his personal belief that each Category should only be filled with active members of the profession. However, retired persons can still play a vital role on the LEPC with their inherent knowledge and experience under a different Category.

A vote was called on whether it would be appropriate for retired persons to retain their previously assigned categories. The membership unanimously voted “**NO.**”

B. Can categories that contain a “and” as defined by EPCRA Section 301(c) be combined?

Vice Chair Tobergte indicated that, pending a legal review for acceptability, the intent of the suggested revision was to combine one or more of the typically less populated membership categories (e.g. Print and Broadcast Media, Facility Owner and Facility Operator and/or Elected and Non-Elected Local Officials). Mr. Tobergte mentioned his feelings that, if allowed, each LEPC should be granted the option to tailor their categories as appropriate and could benefit the less-populated categories which are typically more difficult to fill in terms of roster spots.

Much discussion ensued including the perceived benefit of granting such change, the ability of members to participate outside of a given category, acknowledgment that there is no real affiliation between print and broadcast media used in example. Mr. Doug Wenger concluded the discussion with his observation that the Environmental Protection Agency frequently acknowledges and comments on the lack of filled categories to the State Emergency Response Commissions.

A vote was called on whether it would be appropriate to allow the combining of select categories. By a 26-5 margin, the membership overwhelmingly voted “**YES.**”

C. Can one person represent two categories on the LEPC?

Vice Chair Tobergte stated that the perceived benefit of this modification would be to better demonstrate the true diversity and qualifications of each LEPC District. However, Mr. Tobergte stated his belief that such change would appear to “artificially inflate” the LEPC rosters and may result in voting conflicts of members possibly requesting more than one vote on a given issue. This change may be a benefit to the smaller LEPC Districts.

A vote was called on whether it would be appropriate for a person to represent more than one category. The membership unanimously voted “**NO.**”

D. Do we allow locally specific categories to each district?

Vice Chair Tobergte indicated that such request was primarily driven by LEPCs interested

in soliciting such categories as agricultural industry, a category devoted specifically to retired persons and/or education. Mr. Tobergte interjected his opinion that it would be appropriate depending on the composition and interest of each LEPC.

A vote was called on whether it would be appropriate to allow locally specific categories to each District. The membership unanimously voted “YES.”

E. Do we eliminate categories?

Vice Chair Tobergte mentioned that, pending legal approval, the benefit of eliminating categories would be to replace and/or remove some of the outdated names assigned to various categories established by the regulations established in the mid-1980's and he personally opposed the change it may not be appropriate to modify the originally intended categories and that categories could potentially still be added or combined.

A vote was called on whether it would be appropriate to eliminate categories. The membership unanimously voted “NO.”

F. Should the “interested citizen” category be retained as a membership category?

Vice Chair Tobergte shared his opinion that this category should be retained as a default specifically for retired citizens or company representatives that would not conveniently fit into one of the other categories.

A vote was called on whether it is appropriate to retain the interested citizen category. Based on consistency with the voting consensus regarding Issue #A (above), the membership unanimously voted “YES.”

FLORIDA GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE - Mr. John Long with the Florida Gas Transmission Pipeline provided a briefing on the pipeline and its route and future proposals.

Florida Gas Transmission operates nearly 5,000-miles of interstate natural gas transmission pipelines, a system that extends from South Texas to South Florida. This is the only natural gas transmission pipeline in Peninsula Florida and largest pipeline operator in Florida. They transport natural gas to the citizens and industries of Florida and have been safely operating in Florida for 40 years. Basically, pipelines are transmission pipelines known as the “interstate highway” for natural gas. They are high-strength, large-diameter steel pipe which range in diameter from 6 to 48 inches and move trillions of cubic feet of natural gas from producing regions to market, basically supplying natural gas to local distribution companies, public utilities and power plants.

Gas is transported at high pressure using compression (up to 1200 psi). Located approximately every 75 miles are large turbines, motors or engines pressurize the gas and move it through the pipeline.

There are 15 compressor stations in Florida. Shutoff valves along the line insure safety and are designed to stop the flow of gas. Some are manually operated, while others are either automatic or operated by remote control. They are located every 15 miles along the pipeline. Valves should

only be operated by qualified station personnel.

Transmission pipelines normally follow well-defined easements, and some share the same utility corridor. Pipeline markers alert the public to the presence of pipeline. Markers contain the name of the operator and emergency contact information and are located near road, rail, fence, water crossings & curbs. Markers do not necessarily represent the exact location of the pipeline facilities within the easement.

Composition of natural gas: it is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon mixture. After being processed, it is composed mostly of methane (about 94%) and also contains ethane (about 4%). It is Non-toxic, but sometimes listed as a “hazardous material” due to its flammability, not due to toxicity. It is 40% lighter than air and in an open area, natural gas rises into the air and dissipates. In an enclosed area, it collects first near the ceiling. Suffocation can occur if natural gas displaces the oxygen in an enclosed area. It is flammable within narrow limits and will ignite only within a narrow range: approximately 4-16% gas-to-air mix. Above or below that combustion will not occur.

Currently, FGT is considering increasing the capacity of its mainline facilities to provide additional firm transportation service capacity to Florida. The potential expansion would include construction of additional large diameter pipeline and other installation of additional compression. FGT also will consider offers from existing shippers wishing to permanently turn back unneeded capacity. The results of the open season would determine the final scope of the project, which includes the configuration of the expansion facilities, the cost of the facilities and the incremental capacity available to shippers. Pending regulatory approvals, FGT would anticipate a spring 2011 in-service date for the project. It would provide Florida with additional natural gas transportation capacity needed for the growing Florida market.

Mr. Long concluded his presentation with a comprehensive list of steps the company takes in the event of a leak or rupture and the safety precautions they use. He is available to speak to other groups upon request. The chair thanked Mr. Long for his presentation and hand-out materials.

TRAINING/CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES - Mr. Meyer identified that information sheets regarding 11 training/conference opportunities to the LEPC members. Four additional training/conference opportunities have subsequently been identified and information concerning these events were placed on the back table. The identified opportunities were:

- EMT Training - Sumterville, FL, February 18, 2009
- State Agriculture Response Team Conference - Cocoa Beach, FL, March 25-27, 2009
- HSEEP Toolkit Lab Training - Tallahassee, FL, March 31, 2009
- State Emergency Response Commission Quarterly Meeting -Tallahassee, April 3, 2009
- Annual Governor’s Hurricane Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, May 10-15, 2009
- Harbor Safety Committee Conference - City of Tampa, May 27-29, 2009
- Emergency Management Accreditation Program Assessor Training - Tampa, FL, April 14-15, 2009
- USEPA’s Chemical Emergency Preparedness Conference - Louisville, KY, July 29-31, 2009
- 24/40 Hour OSHA Hazwoper Classes - Various FL Locations, Various Times (February - October 2009)
- Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Resident Course - Playas, NM, No date(s) specified
- Emergency Planning for Special Needs Communities - West Virginia University, No date(s)

specified

- Homeland Security and Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training Course - Brevard County EOC, March 18-20, 2009
- African Honey Bee Training for First Responders - University of Florida, March 20, 2009
- Florida Catastrophic Planning Webinar - Conducted from Atlanta, GA, March 2-4, 2009
- Hazmat Rail Car Training Course - Tallahassee, FL, February 23-25, 2009 (Three separate days)

Mr. Glenn Hall mentioned that Ammonia training courses will be provided to the Coast Guard Auxiliary on February 28, 2009 and similar training will be provided to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and the Tampa Port Authority on March 4, 2009.

TAMPA BAY LEPC LOGO SHIRTS - Vice Chair Tobergte indicated that LEPC Logo Shirts are still available by contacting Mr. John Meyer.

OTHER LEPC BUSINESS - Vice Chair Tobergte asked for any other LEPC business. No items were raised and/or discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - the Vice Chair then asked for any Public Comments. No items were raised and/or discussed.

NEXT MEETING will be held Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre, Suite 100, Pinellas Park, FL 33782. The mailout for this meeting will be done on May 18, 2009 and posted on the LEPC homepage, and at the meeting.

The remaining meeting schedule for 2009: May 27th, August 26th, and November 18th.

ADJOURNMENT - Without objection, the Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:47 am.