

THOMAS YATABE AWARDS LEPC DISTRICT 8 - 2013

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 2013 THOMAS YATABE AWARDS FOR LEPC DISTRICT 8 WERE:

Thomas Yatabe Award Winner - Chief Scott Ehlers, Tampa Fire Rescue/Former LEPC Chair

Nomination read as follows:

Having recently announced his retirement from public service and the LEPC, Chief Scott Ehlers is hereby being formally recognized for his dedication and commitment to the Tampa Bay LEPC since October 2005 and his service as Chair of the Tampa Bay LEPC since May 2007. During his tenure with the LEPC, Chief Ehlers rarely missed a LEPC meeting or any the quarterly meetings of the SERC's Training Task Force, LEPC Staff/Chairs and the State Emergency Response Commission that have been conducted across the State. Chief Ehlers is credited with guiding the LEPC membership through a seemingly countless number of exercises, workshops, presentations, and even annual updates to the Tampa Bay LEPC Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan over the past 8+ years. Albeit his busy schedule as Chief of Operations for Tampa Fire Rescue (TFR), Chief Ehlers always made time for his duties as LEPC Chair.

Following receipt of his hazardous materials certification in May 1990, Chief Ehlers has subsequently taught a considerable number of fire and emergency related courses to fire industry and emergency response personnel during his career which spanned more than 29 years with TFR.

His perpetual dedication certainly exemplifies "Outstanding contribution 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 material planning or response."

Chief Ehlers will not only be missed and remembered as a great and supportive LEPC Chair, a LEPC member, a colleague but, more notably, a friend of the Tampa Bay LEPC.



Left-to-Right: SERC Chair/FDEM Director Bryan Koon, Award Recipient for LEPC 8 - Chief Scott Ehlers and LEPC Staff Coordinator John Meyer

Tampa Fire Rescue, Thomas Yatabe “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipient

Nomination read as follows:



Receiving the *Certificate of Appreciation* on behalf of Tampa Fire Rescue were Chief Bryan Riley (Left) and Chief Emilio Salabarría (Center).

Tampa Fire Rescue's prompt and appropriate actions mitigated two potentially-major incidents, (1) an ethanol train derailment, and (2) sulfur tank fires. TFR's action prevented these incidents from causing great damage and hazard to people and the environment, and enabled the Port of Tampa to regain normal operations promptly.

(1) In the very early hours of Thursday, July 25, 2013, 14 railcars of a 88-unit CSX train bound for the Port of Tampa to deliver Ethanol derailed along Maritime Boulevard, blocking the Port's main entrance. Eleven of the derailed railcars had overturned and were lying on their side, three of which were leaking. Tampa Fire Rescue (TFR) responded immediately to the incident, promptly setting up lighting and an ICS structure, and applying large amounts of alcohol-resistant firefighting foam to suppress vapors and successfully prevented ignition of the flammable liquid. TFR worked with CSX and their contractor, SWS Environmental Services, to stop the three rail cars from leaking further. The three-day event ended with the up-righting and removal of the rail cars by CSX. TFR had units present at all times.

(2) On Thursday August 8, 2013, TFR responded to a fire in a bulk storage tank# 8 containing molten sulfur, at the Gulf Sulphur Services/Savage Sulfur Services facility in the Port of Tampa. Due to holes in the roof, the facility's steam extinguishment system was unable to extinguish the fire. TFR was able to get water into the tank to extinguish the fire, thus minimizing the amount of sulfur dioxide gas released. SO₂ is a corrosive, toxic gas, which could have posed a significant risk to other Port tenants, as well as nearby residential areas. A few days later, the sulfur in the same tank again ignited, and TFR again extinguished the fire, and maintained a presence during the unloading of the tank.

SWS Environmental Services, Thomas Yatabe “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipient

Nomination read as follows:



In the very early hours of Thursday, July 25, 2013, 14 railcars of a 88-unit CSX train bound for the Port of Tampa to deliver Ethanol derailed along Maritime Boulevard, blocking the Port's main entrance. Eleven of the derailed railcars had overturned and were laying on their side, three of which were leaking.

SWS personnel assisted Tampa Fire Rescue by clamping the leaking rail car domes, to prevent further leaking of the flammable liquid. SWS used vacuum trucks to remove liquids, which were increased in volume by heavy rains, and also excavated contaminated soils. SWS remained on-scene to respond to any further spills until all rail cars were uprighted and removed.

Thea Dunmire, Thomas Yatabe “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipient

Nomination read as follows:



Ms. Thea Dunmire is hereby recognized for her countless hours of faithful and continuous dedication towards LEPC District 8's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Dunmire has been actively involved with the Subcommittee since its inception in 2006 and has participated in numerous Subcommittee initiatives and workshops during her tenure. Over the past year, while serving as Subcommittee Chair, Ms. Dunmire guided the conduct of the very successful "Keeping Your Head Above Water: Storm Surge Preparedness for Businesses with Hazardous Materials" workshop hosted in the Port of Tampa at Cruise Terminal #3. The workshop drew on the expertise of many from the public- and private-sectors alike. Her perennial dedication exemplifies "Outstanding contribution 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 material planning or response."

Ms. Dunmire is persistently seeking ways to promote and invigorate Subcommittee participation while soliciting new membership.