



Tampa Bay LEPC (District 8) *HazMatters* December 2011 – February 2012

District 8 was involved in a number of HMEP and LEPC co-sponsored activities during the quarter. Staff attended the SERC quarterly meetings held in Altamonte Springs at Embassy Suites on January 5-6 and conducted the District 8 LEPC quarterly meeting on February 29th. In addition, staff and/or LEPC members attended the FDEM Region 4 quarterly meeting on December 2nd at the Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center under the leadership of FDEM Region 4 Coordinator Paul Siddall.

The LEPC's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS) met on January 19, 2012. Invigorated with new membership garnered from the recent forums and/or workshops, discussion items included: highlights of last Subcommittee meeting (i.e. October 20th); request for previously generated recommendations regarding incorporation of relevant hazardous materials information into the *Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit* prior to posting Kit to FDEM's www.floridadisaster.org website; measures taken to promote Hazardous Materials Awareness Week and, in particular, the current theme of "Mercury Awareness & Dangers"; overview of the Tier 2 reporting requirements and identification of recent refinements to the State's www.floridahmis.org electronic filing program; status update on the potential of a *Memorandum of Understanding* between the SERC and EPA which, if approved, would allow the funding of Supplemental Environmental Project(s) in lieu of payment of potentially lucrative fines by violating industries; status update on the potential for "universal credentialing"; preparation and transmittal of a *Press Release* to the local media to serve as a reminder to facilities of the March 1st EPCRA reporting deadline, recognition of some of the more prevalent mistakes made in reporting as detected during the recently completed Tier 2 quality control assessment, and to advertise the (then) upcoming EPCRA How-to-Comply workshops scheduled by LEPC staff; Scarabeo 9 and consequence of potential oil spill; mutual benefit from soliciting better participation of fire departments; and appointment of Ms. Thea Dunmire as Subcommittee Chair through remaining 2012 meetings.

The LEPC's HMEP Training Subcommittee met on February 29th to strategize opportunities and details associated with LEPC District 8's FY 2011-12 HMEP Contract in which the funds be expended on or before June 30, 2012. Staff emphasized the pre-requisites that such training must be designated for First Responders, must be "cost effective," and must include a transportation component or nexus.

LEPC staff and/or member(s) participated in a December 14th teleconference administered by FDEM staff regarding Training Task Force initiatives.

Three 8-hour "*Hazardous Material Leak/Spill Refresher*" courses were conducted for the Pinellas County Hazmat Team with funding from the HMEP/Training Program (February 21-23, 2012). An additional 24-hour training event, entitled "*Confined Space Rescue for Industrial, Municipal and Transportation Confined Spaces*", was coordinated for the North River Fire District (Manatee County) and will be conducted next quarter in addition to other course(s) currently being contemplated.

Staff and/or LEPC member(s) represented the Tampa Bay LEPC at the January 10th meeting of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee, as well as the December 6th, January 24th and February 21st meetings of the Ammonia Handlers/Operators of Tampa.

In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff additionally: attended a December 13th U.S. Coast Guard Area Committee meeting involving a presentation related to oil drilling off coast of Cuba and potential oil spill trajectories; conducted two EPCRA How-to-Comply workshops (February 15th & 16th); assisted with the December 14th and January 11th meetings of the Pinellas Police Standards Council (PPSC); provided updates regarding the LEPC

program activities to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council in conjunction with their December 14th and February 13th meetings; and transmitted a variety of Mercury awareness and characteristics information and resources through various channels in association with Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (January 23rd).