



## Tampa Bay LEPC *HazMatters* January - March 2016

Tampa Bay LEPC staff was involved in a number of activities during the quarter. Staff attended the SERC quarterly meetings held at the Hilton Oceanwalk hotel in Daytona Beach, FL on January 19-20, 2016. The quarterly Tampa Bay LEPC meeting was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

While Jack Ashmore (Mosaic's Port Sutton Ammonia Terminal) did attend the January 20<sup>th</sup> SERC meeting to receive the 2015 *Thomas Yatabe Award* for the Tampa Bay LEPC in person, nominations were also received about six other worthy individuals. Each of those individuals were recognized for their various accomplishments/contributions and were presented with a *Certificate of Appreciation* (COA) from the State Emergency Response Commission at the February 2016 LEPC meeting. Aside from one individual that was unable to attend, pictured from left-to-right were Sandy Brooking (Pinellas County Fire & EMS Administration), Chauncia Willis (Tampa Emergency Management), Rick Walker (Pinellas County Emergency Management), James "JJ" Johnston (Pasco County Emergency Management) and Joe Mastandrea (Hillsborough County Emergency Management). LEPC Chair Jeff Patterson is standing on the far right. Ed Hintz (St. Petersburg Fire Rescue/Pinellas County Hazmat Team) was not present but was subsequently provided his COA.



The LEPC's HMEP Planning Subcommittee (aka "Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee") met on October 28<sup>th</sup>. This Subcommittee primarily functions to facilitate and assist with many of the planning endeavors conducted by the LEPC. As typical, the meeting included a variety of discussions topics. It was identified that a "*Tampa Bay LEPC Information Sheet*" was recently completed that serves as a one-page summary of pertinent information, dates and resources of the Tampa Bay LEPC. Such publication can and would be provided at future meetings, events and inspections. It was acknowledged that the Subcommittee recently updated the "*All Hazards Guide for Businesses: Planning for Risks*" resource document to reflect resources and links of Citrus & Hernando County although LEPC staff is currently awaiting a staff member's time to post to the LEPC website. It has been requested that the Subcommittee reconvene efforts designed to make the documentation/information required to allow critical parties to access their facilities in affected areas more universal. Currently, the required credentials vary by jurisdiction.

The LEPC's HMEP Training Subcommittee met on February 24<sup>th</sup> to refine the scheduling of courses associated with the FY 2015-16 HMEP Training contract. Currently, the following training courses have already been or will be conducted: 40-Hr. *Marine Firefighting for Land-Based Firefighters* course (Pinellas/Hillsborough/Tampa); attendance at the 2016 *Hazmat Symposium* (districtwide representation); two 8-Hr. *Hazmat IQ* courses (Manatee/Hillsborough); a 8-Hr. *Chlorine Refresher* course (Manatee); a 40-Hr. *Hazmedic* course (Pinellas); and registration costs associated with three students to attend their 160-Hr. *Hazardous Materials Technician*

*Certification* course (Hernando). To account for remaining Tampa Bay LEPC HMEP funds for FY 2015-16, the LEPC is currently considering and evaluating the following training proposals: “white powder” course (Pinellas) and/or proposed conduct of a 8-Hr. “Ammonia Refresher” course (Manatee). Finally, Mr. Meyer solicited guidance and input on partnerships that can be developed in the short-term in order to conduct the biennial regional hazardous materials exercise to be undertaken and completed in HSEEP format prior to June 30, 2016. The group consensus was that the timeframe was “very doable” and recommended that the exercise to be of the tabletop variety catered to the “Command and Control” level. Many of the attendees offered to participate. A suggestion was raised to approach CSX with the concept to see if they would be willing and able to partner in the exercise since they exercise often and typically transport many of the chemicals that our first responders have been receiving training about. This suggestion is actively being pursued.

In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff additionally: attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee (January 12 & March 8); facilitated the (nearly) monthly meeting of the Pinellas Police Standards Council (January 13 & March 9); facilitated attendance of 26 to attend the 2016 *Hazmat Symposium* (January 20-22); attended a drone demonstration conducted by the Florida State University Emergency Management Program for the Pinellas County Fire/EMS Service (February 5); conducted the annual EPCRA How-to-Comply/E-Plan Filing Instructions Workshops in conjunction with Sam Brackett (February 8 & 9); facilitated the (nearly) quarterly meeting of the Preventative Nuclear Radiological Detection Committee (February 16); participated in the SERC’s Training Task Force teleconference (February 17); participated in the Florida Department of Health (FDOH)/Pinellas County *Final Planning Meeting* associated with the exercise scheduled for conduct on March 23<sup>rd</sup> (February 18); attended Port Tampa Bay’s annual *Port Safety & Risk Management Summit* (February 19); attended the (nearly) monthly meeting of the Ammonia Handlers/Operators (February 23 & March 22); facilitated the conduct of two 8-Hr. Hazmat IQ courses (March 1/Manatee & March 2/Hillsborough County); attended the tri-annual meeting of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Area Contingency Planning Committee (March 8); attended Sunshine Law and Ethics Training held at the offices of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (March 15); observed the FDOH/Hernando County exercise (March 17); and observed the FDOH/ Pinellas County exercise (March 23).