Staff attended the LEPC Staff and Chairs Meeting, and the State Emergency Response Commission Meeting on June 30 - July 1, 2004 in Tallahassee. The Tampa Bay LEPC met on July 28 and September 29, 2004 at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. At the July 28th meeting, biennial elections for LEPC officers was held. Chief Ernie Hiers and Ed Kinley were reelected by acclamation as District VIII Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.

HMEP Training continued with Bay Pines VA Hospital Awareness/Operations Course on July 13-15, and Bay Pines instructors conducted Manatee County EMS Refresher Training on September 9, 16th and 17, 2004. Chlorine Refresher Training was given for the City of Clearwater on September 27-28th, conducted by District Chief Frank DeFrancesco, Pinellas County HAZMAT Team. METRA-West conducted, under HMEP sponsorship, but at no cost to the program, Hazardous Waste Workshop on September 15, 2004 at the Tampa Bay RPC. HMEP funds were also used to defray expenses for three emergency management personnel from Pasco, Pinellas, and Manatee Counties to attend the CAMEO training in Sanford on September 20-23, 2004.

Staff attended and participated in the following:

- July 6-9, staff attended the 2004 Inaugural Southwest Homeland Security Conference at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando. Conference was useful in preparing for forthcoming 2005 RDSTF Exercise schedule.

- July 13, Tampa Bay Spill Committee Meeting to address Port of Tampa problem areas;

- July 23, Hillsborough County School System Tabletop Exercise and training at Gaither High School;

- July 26, Area 4 DEM Meeting in Crystal River; Tampa Bay RPC will be prime agent for providing training to the 9 counties of Region IV RDSTF under the ODP All-Discipline Training,

- August 24, US Coast Guard Sponsored WMD HAZMAT Tabletop Exercise

- September 16, Participation in USCG SAREX Fire Island 04 Exercise

Tampa Bay LEPC was a Runner-Up for the Chemical Education Foundation’s 2004 Community Award for Chemical Safety in the over 250,000 population category, along with our distinguished LEPC from North Central Florida. The awards presentation was conducted in Orlando on September 23, 2004.