District 8 was involved in a number of HMEP and LEPC co-sponsored activities during the quarter. Staff attended the Quarterly SERC meeting held at the Betty Easley Conference Center in Tallahassee on October 7-8, 2010 and conducted the District 8 LEPC meeting on November 17, 2010. District 8’s next LEPC meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2011.

The LEPC’s Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS) met on October 28, 2010. The Subcommittee’s prior initiative of bolstering the Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit (www.fldisasterkit.com) with interactive hazardous materials information has been placed on hold until a funding source has been determined to assist with this venture. Current initiatives consist of perpetual updates to the LEPC website (i.e. www.tbrpc.org/lepc); solicitation of local hazardous materials industries’ input of training needs through a brief on-line survey; and to meet the identified training needs to the maximum extent possible and feasible. The next meeting of the FDPS has been scheduled for January 20th. However, several Subcommittee members will be meeting in the interim to ascertain a database of Section 302 & 312 contacts to request participation in the on-line survey described above.

LEPC staff and/or member(s) participated in a series of teleconferences administered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management regarding the Hazmat Field Operations Guide and updates to TTF’s “Project Board.” (September 9, September 29 & November 10, 2010).

Staff has updated and submitted the Tampa Bay Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan prior to the June 30th deadline. FDEM approved the revisions as recognized in their October 1, 2010 correspondence and SERC approved the revisions as part of their October 8, 2010 SERC meeting.

During the quarter, the following courses were conducted under the respective District 8 HMEP Contracts: a Hazardous Materials Life Safety and Command course (September 8-10, 2010/Manatee County) and attendance at the E-Plan Users Conference in Estero, FL on October 21-22, 2010. The LEPC’s Training Subcommittee met on November 17, 2010 to elect a new Subcommittee Chair (James Johnston) and strategize training opportunities for the 2010-11 HMEP funding cycle. A Decon Zones & Scene Management course was pre-approved for Pasco County to be conducted on January 6, 2011.

Staff represented the Tampa Bay LEPC at the September 14 and November 9, 2010 meetings of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee and the U.S. Coast Guard Area Committee which immediately followed. The November 9th meeting of the U.S. Coast Guard included a discussion of lessons learned from Deepwater Horizons and how such lessons resulted in improvements to the local Area Contingency Plan.

The Pinellas Police Standards Council (PPSC) continues to meet at the TBRPC under LEPC sponsorship. Staff assisted with the September 8, October 13 and November 10, 2010 PPSC meetings.

Staff and various LEPC members attended the Ammonia Handlers/Operators meetings held on September 28 (@ CF Industries), October 26 (@ Tampa Port Authority) & November 30, 2010 (@ Mosaic). The meetings are rotationally located and are focused on discussing initiatives and activities of the ammonia operations facilities located within or adjacent to the Port of Tampa.