



TAMPA BAY LEPC, DIST 8 HAZMATTERS

First Quarter - January - March, 2006

District 8 was involved in a number of HMEP and LEPC co-sponsored activities this quarter. Staff attended the Quarterly SERC meetings in Sarasota January 5-6, 2006, and conducted two LEPC meetings on February 1 and March 29, 2006. Staff also attended the annual FEPA Conference at St. Pete Beach on January 25-27th.

Hospital Awareness/Operations Classes for emergency room workers, security and safety personnel continue to be greatly in demand because they are generally unavailable through other sources. The Bay Pines HAZMAT Team conducted Awareness/Operations Course at St. Joseph's Hospital, Tampa on February 7-8 in cooperation with HRSA sponsorship. A HAZWaste Workshop, co-sponsored by METRA-West was held January 18, 2006 at the TBRPC with excellent turnout.

Planning project for HMEP continued with the Port of Tampa Siren Warning Briefings planning efforts to upgrade the briefing and the Shelter-in-Place DVD into Spanish. We are being assisted by Hillsborough County public access television. The briefing in Spanish has been completed and the completion date for the SIP DVD is September 30th. Other HMEP planning projects under the Section 302 Facility Outreach included 17 How-to-Comply Workshops scheduled throughout the Tampa Bay area.

Finally, under HMEP Planning, an LEPC subcommittee has been formed for Facility Disaster Planning. This project is to produce several templates for disaster emergency planning and then to conduct half-day workshops to assist facilities with hazardous materials who have no plans for the protection and mitigation of a hazmat spill or release, or who wish assistance in upgrading their present plans. We envision that this project will continue on with at least 4 workshops a year on an annual basis.

Tampa Bay LEPC is preparing for its biennial exercise by partnering with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office whose medical unit is required to conduct a mass-casualty exercise for annual accreditation. The tasks which must be performed by the medical unit are shelter-in-place, triage, and decontamination. The exercise scenario will involve a truck crash and release of hydrochloric acid adjacent to the Pinellas County Boot Camp, with fumes overpowering both trainees and corrections deputies. Using hydrochloric acid, a persistent chemical, will permit both sheltering-in-place and also the necessity for decontamination. PCSO personnel will role-play both trainee and corrections deputies during the exercise. Security will be a major factor, especially when ensuring after decon, that trainees are properly identified for transport to local hospitals and are appropriately guarded. The exercise is scheduled for May 18, 2006.

Staff represented the Tampa Bay LEPC at the Tampa Bay Spill Committee on February 14; the US Coast Guard Area Committee on January 31st which met to discuss revision of the Area Contingency Plan; and participated in the RMP audits of City of Tampa Water and Tampa Bay Fisheries on February 9 and 10 respectively. The Pinellas Police Standards Council now meets at the TBRPC under LEPC sponsorship and staff assisted with the January 11, February 8, and March 8th meetings.