



Tampa Bay LEPC (District 8)

HazMatters

March - May 2014

District 8 LEPC staff was involved in a number of activities during the quarter. Staff and Chair attended the SERC quarterly meetings held in Tallahassee at the Betty Easley Conference Center on April 3-4, 2014. Staff and/or members of the LEPC attended the FDEM Region 4 quarterly meeting on March 21st at the Hernando County EOC under the leadership of FDEM Region 4 Coordinator Paul Siddall. The quarterly LEPC District 8 meeting was held on May 28th.

The LEPC's HMEP Training Subcommittee also met on May 28th. While all District 8's HMEP training had been scheduled and/or conducted for FY 2013-14 (i.e. ending June 30, 2014), quarterly training expenses consisted of funding two to attend the 160-Hr. Hazmat Technician certification course and a 24-Hr. Air Monitoring for Hazardous Materials Technicians course attended by representatives from across the region. As requested by FDEM, the Subcommittee subsequently proposed training expenditures in association with the anticipated FY 2014-15 HMEP Contract. The tentative expenditures consisted of: **three** 24-Hr. Life Safety & Command courses [Manatee], E-Plan Annual Conference registration and accommodations (for One), **three** 8-Hr. Chemical & Chemistry courses [Pinellas], **four** 3-Hr. "E-Plan for 1st Responders" courses [Regionwide], Hazmat Symposium (One Lodging each County), attendance of **up to 10** at 160-Hr. Hazmat Tech Certification course [Pasco], and **three** 8-Hr. Hazmat Spill/Leak Containment [Pinellas].

LEPC staff and several LEPC members participated in the coordination and conduct of an April 5th regional exercise entitled "*Hightide*." While designed in a compressed timeline, the combination full-scale/walk-through exercise scenario involved a terrorist's simulated release of Chlorine within a cargo container aboard a large stationary vessel at the "Explosives Anchorage" in Tampa Bay, approximately midway between from the shorelines of southern Tampa (Hillsborough County) and St. Petersburg (Pinellas County) [i.e. ~5-6 miles from each shore]. Unified command and control was established on land. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission opened the exercise action by being sent to the scene to mimic the capture and removal of three detected terrorists (actors) shortly upon arrival at the vessel. A joint mobile response, comprised of hazmat team members from Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Tampa Fire Rescue, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue and FBI hazmat teams, was then assembled and dispatched to the scene to respond to, address, remediate and investigate the Chlorine release. The responders were transported to the incident aboard their own agency's marine boats. The joint hazmat teams proceeded to enter the cargo container on three occasions. The first entry was made primarily to investigate for potential explosive device(s), the second to secure and remediate the Chlorine being release and the third entry was for evidence collection. A smoke machine was utilized to emulate Chlorine being released. Participants included: National Guard/48th Civil Support Team, FBI, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Hillsborough County Emergency Management, Tampa Fire Rescue, Tampa Emergency Management, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation



Commission, United States Coast Guard, FDEM/Region 4, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and the U.S. Army Reserve. Subsequent to the exercise, LEPC staff gathered parties presumed to have roles, responsibilities and/or oversight in determining and implementing mitigation associated with a similar, real-life event. The goal was to formulate a series of anticipated actions and recommendations that would have likely been taken in response to the Chlorine release, as well as to speculate on the potential contamination consequences in the waters of Tampa Bay. Participants in this latter meeting included representative(s) from the U.S. Coast Guard, Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection/Office of Emergency Response, Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue and SWS Environmental Services as a potential (and likely) On-Scene Response Organization.

The LEPC's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS) met on April 16th. The primary topics included: overview of SERC and LEPC initiatives; recognition of new Subcommittee Chair (Ms. Patricia Krajnyak); and establishing progress towards initiative of compiling data, resources and links to serve as an all hazards guide for businesses. As currently envisioned for the work product, it will likely be a single, county-specific (if and where applicable), electronic database containing various resources and links that could/would assist facilities in planning for a variety of hazards (e.g. hazardous materials, storm surge, hurricane, flooding, tornados...).

In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff additionally: attended the bi-monthly meetings of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee (March 11th & May 13th); attended the tri-annual meeting of the U.S. Coast Guard's Area Contingency Plan Committee (March 11th); facilitated the monthly meetings of the Pinellas Police Standards Council (March 12th, April 9th and May 13th); attended the Risk Management Plan audits for Brenntag Mid-South Risk Management Plan in Clearwater (March 18th), Oberly Pumping Station RMP Audit in St. Petersburg (March 19th) and the Washington Terrace Pumping Station in St. Petersburg (March 20th); attended the planning meetings of the Port Safety Outreach Committee (March 20th & April 29th) and the associated Port Tampa Bay "Community Day" prep meetings held at DeSoto Park (May 23rd & May 29th); attended the (nearly) monthly Ammonia Handlers/Operators meeting (March 25th & April 29th); attended Regional Multi-Year Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (April 22nd); attended the Regional Coordinators (Specialty Teams) and Emergency Management meeting (April 30th); attended RMP Audit for Mosaic Fertilizer LLC in Riverview (May 13th), Port Sutton Ammonia Terminal in the City of Tampa (May 14th) and Tampa Port Services, LLC/Port Sutton in the City of Tampa (May 15th); and facilitated the (nearly) quarterly meeting of the Preventative Nuclear Radiological Detection Committee (May 15th).