



Tampa Bay LEPC *HazMatters* July - September 2016

Tampa Bay LEPC staff was involved in a number of activities during the quarter. Staff attended the SERC quarterly meetings held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel St. Augustine on July 14-15, 2016. The quarterly Tampa Bay LEPC meeting was held on August 24th.

LEPC staff and associated exercise partners conducted an exercise entitled “Operation Hot Wheels.” This was a tabletop/functional exercise involving the simulated derailment of several CSX railcars at the approximate boundary of unincorporated Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa. Five hazardous materials, including sulfuric acid (an EHS) were released on the ground and into the water (Tampa Bypass Canal) as a result of the derailment. Among other exercise objectives, response to the exercise injects resulted in the need for simulated implementation of road closures, invoking Shelter-in-Place strategies for surrounding area and placement of boom in designated portions of the waterway. Exercise participants included: Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Hillsborough County Emergency Management, Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Tampa Fire Rescue, Tampa Emergency Management, CSX, U.S. Coast Guard, Florida Department of Environmental Protection/Office of Emergency Response, Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Division of Emergency Management, National Guard/48th Civil Support Team, Hulls Environmental and Arcadis.



The Tampa Bay LEPC’s HMEP Training Subcommittee met on August 24th to refine and strategize final expenditures associated with the FY 2015-16 HMEP Training contract. FDEM/USDOT recently approved the conversion of a large portion of unspent Tampa Bay LEPC FY 2015-16 HMEP Planning to Training funds. The following training activities were or will be conducted during the present quarter: a 8-Hr. *Chlorine Refresher* course (Manatee); a 40-Hr. *Hazmat Medic* course (Pinellas); three 8-Hr. *Meters with Chemist Driven Training* courses (Pinellas); three 8-Hr. *Ammonia Awareness for First Responders* courses (Manatee); and two 8-Hr. *Air Monitoring Detection and Analysis* courses (Hillsborough/Pinellas). Additionally, funding was provided for four Fire Rescue personnel to attend the 160-Hr. *Hazmat Technicians Certification* course (Hernando) and supplemental Chlorine training props were acquired for the regional training trailer being maintained by Hillsborough County Fire Rescue. Previously, a 40-Hr. *Marine Firefighting for Land-Based Firefighters* course (Pinellas/Hillsborough/Tampa), attendance at the 2016 *Hazmat Symposium* (districtwide representation) and two 8-Hr. *Hazmat IQ* courses (Manatee/Hillsborough) were coordinated by and/or conducted for the Tampa Bay LEPC District in prior quarters.

In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff additionally: attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee (July 12th & September 13th); attended the triennial meeting of the USCG’s Area Contingency Committee (July 12th); coordinated and attended the Chemical Formulators Risk Management Plan [RMP]

Audit/Inspection (July 12th) and the Tampa Transflo RMP Audit/Inspection (July 13th); facilitated the (nearly) monthly meetings of the Pinellas Police Standards Council (July 13th, August 10th & September 14th); coordinated but could not attend the Tampa Bay Fisheries RMP Audit/Inspection (July 14th); facilitated and attended the LEPC's *Operation Hot Wheels* biennial regional hazardous materials exercise After-Action Report/Improvement Plan meeting (July 18th); attended the *Hazmat Medic* course conducted at the Pinellas County Fire & EMS Administration building to thank attendees for their interest and attendance and provided brief overview of the LEPC program (July 22nd); attended the (nearly) monthly meetings of the Ammonia Handlers/Operators (July 26th, August 23rd & September 27th); hosted the LEPC's quarterly HMEP Planning Subcommittee [a/k/a "Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee] meeting (July 27th); coordinated for the distribution of *2016 Emergency Response Guidebooks* at two locations within the District (August 3rd); participated in the Hazmat Team Assessment teleconference (August 16th) and the SERC's Training Task Force teleconferences (August 17th & September 14th), each of which were administered by FDEM; presented an overview of the LEPC program to the members of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (September 12th); notified FDEM of Tampa Bay LEPC's 2016 *Thomas Yatabe Award* winner as well as provided all nominations received/prepared (September 14th); provided Tampa Bay LEPC's *Hazmatters* Report to FDEM (September 14th); and submitted a detailed accounting update of FY 2015-16 HMEP Training expenditures to FDEM (September 14th).