



FACILITY DISASTER PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

RECAP

August 18, 2011 Meeting

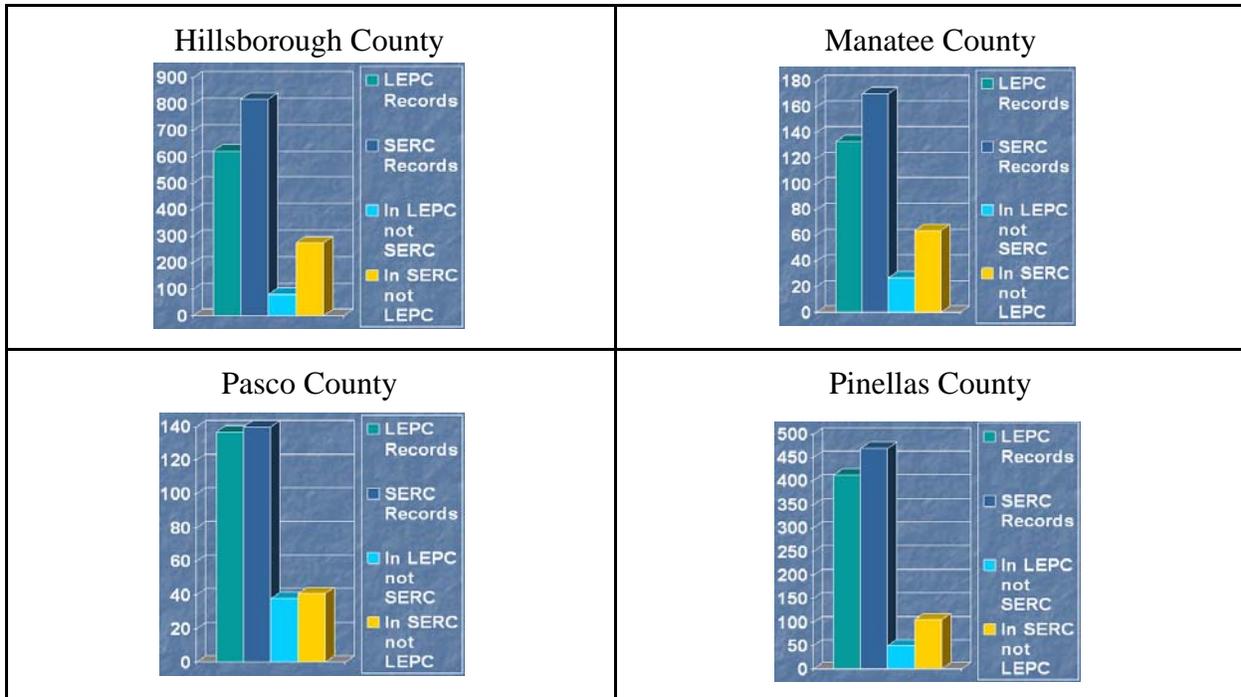
LEPC District VIII, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100, Pinellas Park, FL 33782 - 727/570-5151, Staff Contact: John Meyer

Attendees (Present) - Chet Klinger, John Meyer, Gary Dunmeyer, Steve Knisley, Gary Weiss, Catherine Eichner & Jennifer Garwood
Attendees (via Speakerphone) - Paul Wotherspoon, Steve Elliott, Bob Westly & Nic Howard

1. DISCUSSION OF ITEMS INITIALLY INTENDED FOR THE APRIL 21, 2011 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING THAT WAS CANCELED DUE TO NUMEROUS SCHEDULING CONFLICTS:

TIER II ASSESSMENT

In addition to an EPCRA requirement, the importance of accurately reporting hazardous material inventories is essential to ensure the safety of facility personnel, first responders and the surrounding community in the event of a hazardous material incident. Subcommittee members completed an assessment of the Tier II hazardous material chemical inventories on file with the State vs. that on file in hard-copy form at the LEPC. The following graphics enumerate the findings of Section 312 facilities by County:



Numerous “Observations” were detected while conducting the assessment, including:

- ✓ Many of the chemical types and quantities varied between the two data sources.
- ✓ Numerous “SERC only” facilities are farms, hospitals, golf courses, car dealers, marinas, or oil change/lube companies.
- ✓ Many of the “LEPC only” records involve facilities with the most recent record being 2007 (or earlier). No record of facility closure received by LEPC.
- ✓ Numerous chemicals under thresholds were reported in Tier IIs.
- ✓ Facility contact information was often consulting firm completing Report or out-of-state representative(s).
- ✓ Although not required, e-mail addresses provided for about 10-15% of facilities.
- ✓ Container information appeared to be occasionally transposed.
- ✓ Some facilities continue to recognize “Range Codes” rather than pounds for their “Maximum Daily Amounts.”
- ✓ A significant number of Tier Reports in LEPC records appear without corresponding 311 notices when new facility reports appear for the first time or when new chemicals are added subsequent to previous annual reports.

Mr. Paul Wotherspoon, FDEM/Technological Hazardous Section, commended the efforts of the Subcommittee for this significant undertaking and recognized that each of every disparity identified by the Subcommittee is being evaluated and, often times, the facilities are being contacted to make the noted revisions. Mr. Wotherspoon has confirmed that the Subcommittee should expect a written correspondence to address FDEM’s actions taken in this regard. Mr. Wotherspoon identified the improvements to the Florida HMIS database since 2009 with many more to come... In addition, LEPC District 11 (Miami area) has recently embarked on the same initiative and, in fact, biennial Tier II assessments may be reflected in future LEPC Contracts.

Ms. Jennifer Garwood, Progress Energy, thanked Paul for FDEM’s assistance regarding electronic filing of last year’s reports from Progress Energy facilities. Ms. Garwood inquired how facility’s will be notified of which LEPC(s) and/or Fire Department(s) “Opt Out” of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding future reporting and, in particular, the continued obligation to provide hard copies of Tier II Reports annually [*see next section of this Recap*]. Mr. Wotherspoon responded that it is his understanding that a listing of such agencies/departments will be posted electronically, perhaps as part of the “FloridaHMIS.org” submittal program.

Mr. Steve Knisley, AT&T, indicated his concern with difficulty in coordinating and scheduling site inspections for many of the AT&T facilities by numerous fire departments. Mr. Gary Weiss identified that contact should be made with Training Divisions (for larger fire departments) or the Operational Chiefs (for smaller fire departments).

Ms. Garwood asked if notification forms can be completed electronically if (and when) facility inventories fall below the Threshold Reporting Quantity and are no longer required to report. Mr. Wotherspoon indicated that it was a great idea but that the capability does not exist at the present time. Such notification capability could be used to satisfy the Section 311 notices on chemicals or nee facilities, assuming that LEPC and local fire departments are informed.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN SERC AND LEPCs?FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Meyer indicated that the SERC is continuing their pursuit of the MOU process with all 11 LEPCs and 400+ Fire Departments statewide to exempt facilities submitting their annual Tier II inventories through the FloridaHMIS database from the continued burden of providing hard copies of reporting to the LEPCs and Fire Departments. Each of these entities will make an independent determination of whether to “Opt In” or “Opt Out” of the terms of the MOU. It is anticipated that the terms of the MOU will be finalized in conjunction with the October 7, 2011 SERC meeting and would therefore be a consideration at the November 30, 2011 LEPC meeting.

2. REVIEW OF SUBCOMMITTEE MISSION/PURPOSE STATEMENT.

LEPC District 8's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee was established in 2006. While locating the formerly established Subcommittee "Mission Statement" appears to be somewhat elusive, the past and perceived future goals and objectives of the Subcommittee appear to be pretty well defined:

- ✓ Outreach and educate area hazmat facilities and share planning experiences
- ✓ Arrange speakers to support workshops
- ✓ Recognize facilities having great planning, readiness, and response
- ✓ Encourage facilities to share lessons learned from past disasters
- ✓ Help large facilities improve disaster preparedness with training workshops
- ✓ Assess and rate disaster potential from Tier II Review
- ✓ Assess preparedness of high risk facilities for area-wide disasters

3. AREA-WIDE DISASTER BRAINSTORMING WORKSHOPS

Subcommittee members Chet Klinger, Ed Kinley and John Meyer conducted a Facility Disaster Preparedness Forum on July 14, 2011 at the Council/LEPC Offices. More than 20 were in attendance. The Forum was "*designed to promote interaction between representatives of facilities storing hazmats, first responders and others regarding preparations prior to and following area-wide natural disasters.*"

Invaluable insight and input was provided by those in attendance, which included:

- ✓ The potential need for a nationally, regionally, or locally-recognized certifiable badge system to allow access of appropriate personnel into affected areas and/or across State/County/City lines.
- ✓ The strategies involved with determining whether to fill above-ground storage tanks to equalize anticipated pressure and make unfloatable or reducing the vulnerability by removing hazardous materials from region when a natural disaster is imminent. Regardless of which strategy selected, it is crucial to conduct a pre-strike inventory of chemicals.
- ✓ Public disaster response agencies may take command of area-wide cell phone service and/or fuel sources.
- ✓ Although a facility may be spared from significant damage, they may still be at great risk from adjacent affected facilities.
- ✓ Noting that local resources may be scarce or not available immediately following a disaster, it may be advantageous to pre-coordinate necessary resources from other parts of State and/or entirely out of State.
- ✓ Facilities may want to consider: establishing a "Rally Point" 3-4 days following disaster for uniting facility personnel of affected areas; getting Out-of-State contact information for employees; getting Out-of-Area contact information for alternate contractors/vendors which may likely be unaffected by a local disaster, and/or setting up social media network or website to serve as communication network with employees.

Other remarks/recommendations of attendance consisted of: need for better instruction/guidance for completing Tier II electronic filing; need for a presentation on anticipated tidal surges; and identification of some of the County (and regional) procedures in disaster situations – especially focusing on area-wide disasters.

Mr. Weiss concurred with the importance of a somewhat universal response personnel identification system. In the event of a large disaster, many unfamiliar individuals and teams will descend to the affected area to offer assistance, perhaps from other areas of the State or country.

A second, identically-themed, Forum has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 7 at the TBRPC/LEPC offices from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

4. ASSISTANCE OF LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN OUTREACH EFFORTS

Subcommittee Chair Klinger identified that the Fire Departments could be a great asset to the Subcommittee in sharing outreach efforts. Mr. Klinger acknowledged that Subcommittee members previously had a beneficial meeting with a representative from the local Fire Chiefs Association but little follow-up afterward. Such interactions with local and area fire departments (FD) can be a means of improving the LEPC's outreach to potential Tier II and other hazmat facilities within fire districts resulting in improved EPCRA 311 notices and Tier II reporting, improved attendances at LEPC workshops, and improved FD awareness of issues facilities face in keeping track of the hazardous materials and planning for emergencies. Such interaction in turn could motivate local FDs to get on-line and review Tier II reports and evaluate the extent to which hazardous materials could impact their fire districts.

Mr. Gary Weiss suggested that the Fire Bureaus/Marshals would be a good start for this coordination effort. Mr. Chet Klinger suggested inviting the head of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association to one of our meetings to discuss this intent.

It was concluded that inviting member(s) from these organizations to future LEPC workshops to speak may be advantageous to further explore the opportunity to coordinate future outreach efforts. Meanwhile, Mr. Meyer and Mr. Klinger agreed to research the identities of such leaders and invite them to the next Subcommittee meeting to elaborate on alternate ways of communicating with facilities in their area.

5. OTHER ISSUES/COMMENTS

Subcommittee Chair Klinger inquired as to the frequency in which the LEPC's Tampa Bay Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan is updated and the extent of updates. Mr. Meyer reported that the Plan is updated annually (per the LEPC Contract) with the assistance of the County Emergency Management Departments and others. Annual revisions have typically reflected changes to City/County population figures, updated listings of Section 302 facilities and the like. Mr. Klinger asked if facility input has typically been solicited. Mr. Meyer indicated that this is a Regional Plan with very little facility specific information. Mr. Meyer further stated that the LEPC Plan was previously placed on the LEPC website but subsequently removed. Mr. Meyer agreed to further restore this resource to the LEPC website shortly following approval of the 2011 update of this document by the SERC in conjunction with their October 7, 2011 meeting. Ms. Catherine Eichner indicated that this may be an extremely beneficial resource to assist facilities in preparing their Emergency Plans. Mr. Meyer concurred.

6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING(S)

Subcommittee Chair Klinger identified that the Subcommittee has determined that scheduling the Subcommittee meetings on the third Thursdays of January, April, July and October was beneficial since this was one month prior to each quarterly LEPC meeting. This schedule would allow sufficient time to prepare a meeting Recap for inclusion in the LEPC Agenda to serve as advisement of Subcommittee initiatives and actions. With this being stated, **the next Subcommittee meeting will occur on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the offices of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council/LEPC from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Employing this same strategy to determine the 2012 meeting schedule would yield the tentative dates of January 19, April 19, July 19 and October 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.