



## Tampa Bay LEPC (District 8) *HazMatters* September 2012 – November 2012

District 8 was involved in a number of HMEP and LEPC co-sponsored activities during the quarter. Staff attended the SERC quarterly meetings held in Tallahassee at the Betty Easley Conference Center on October 11-12 and conducted the District 8 LEPC quarterly meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, staff and/or LEPC members attended the FDEM Region 4 quarterly meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> at the offices of the Pasco County Emergency Operations Center under the leadership of FDEM Region 4 Coordinator Paul Siddall. LEPC staff and/or member(s) also participated in: a September 5<sup>th</sup> teleconference to update and further Training Task Force initiatives; two teleconferences administered by FDEM to discuss Florida HMIS Improvements (i.e. November 7<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>); and a second, separate, November 20<sup>th</sup> teleconference to discuss Pros/Cons of the Hazards Analyses program.

The LEPC's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS) met on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Subcommittee focused discussions of considerable enhancements to the annual "EPCRA: How-to-Comply workshop notification process and invites to include a timely Press Release, posting to TBRPC & LEPC websites, and send e-mail invites to members of: the Bay Area Manufacturers Association, Air & Waste Management Association, Florida Manufacturing Chemical Association, Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals, Tampa Bay Propeller Club & the Tampa Bay Spill Committee, as well as fire department representatives. The Subcommittee was also advised of the Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) process that was recently approved by the SERC & EPA. While being patterned after the existing efforts of the State of Illinois, the SEP process would allow industry official(s) to select an alternative(s) for up to 75% of what may otherwise be a fine for violation(s) under the EPCRA. The meeting concluded with a consensus to continue conversation regarding potential interest in hosting a "*Private Sector Preparedness Certification*" workshop in early to mid-2013 at the next FDPS meeting.

The LEPC's HMEP Training Subcommittee met on November 28<sup>th</sup>. As would be/is appropriate, discussion revolved around desired training opportunities and needs across the Region. Approximately one-half of the training funds have been spent or accounted for and about one-half of the contract period remains. It was recognized that all four counties had initially requested Foam/Ethanol training, with only one county stepping forward and hosting the training and one more scheduled in December. One possible alternative for the use of unclaimed training dollars was also discussed. Noting the abundance of hazardous materials that exist in the Tampa Bay Region, the popularity of rail as a transportation means for these materials, and the increasing interest and demand for mass transit, the notion of sending representatives to a January 29-31, 2013 Consortium training event entitled "*A WMD Event: Freight Rail Hazardous Materials Incident Response involving Mass Transit and Rail Systems*" at West Virginia University was discussed. These trainees would likely be valuable assets when building a scenario to be utilized for next year's biennial exercise requirement. It is anticipated that the Subcommittee will next meet on February 27, 2013 with the hopes/expectations of tying up the loose ends of remaining funds. As noted for all HMEP training funding, the pre-requisites consist of: intended for public-sector First Responders; course being deemed "cost effective" by FDEM staff; and course/workshop must at least include a transportation component or nexus.

With funding from the HMEP program, five Pinellas County firefighters were funded to attend the hands-on portion of the "*160-Hr. Hazmat Tech*" course (September 12-28, 2012), one LEPC member/Hillsborough County Emergency Management staff was funded to attend the annual "*E-Plan Users Conference*" in Atlanta, GA (October 23-25, 2012), and a 24-hour "*Life Safety & Command*" course was conducted in Manatee County (November 27-29, 2012).

In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff additionally: submitted Thomas Yatabe Award Nomination for District 8 (September 5<sup>th</sup>); attended the bimonthly Tampa Bay Spill Committee meetings (September 11<sup>th</sup> & November 13<sup>th</sup>); attended the tri-annual U.S. Coast Guard Area Contingency Plan meetings (November 13<sup>th</sup>); facilitated and hosted

the Pinellas Police Standards Council meetings (September 12<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup> & November 14<sup>th</sup>); attended the monthly meetings of the Ammonia Handlers/Operators of Tampa (September 12<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup> & November 14<sup>th</sup>); participated in teleconference discussion with Mosaic staff to facilitate revisions to their Emergency Plan (October 19<sup>th</sup>); facilitated and hosted the October 18<sup>th</sup> Pinellas Local Mitigation Strategies meeting; met with representatives of Tampa Port Authority, C.F. Industries & Ports America about prospect of an early-2013 workshop for Port tenants to self-identify their hazardous materials, usages and processes, in order to familiarize the facilities with business practices of their neighboring industries (October 16<sup>th</sup>); attended meeting to discuss updates to Hazardous Materials section of U.S. Coast Guard's *Area Contingency Plan* (October 25<sup>th</sup>); facilitated and hosted the quarterly meeting of the Preventative Radiological & Nuclear Detection Committee (October 25<sup>th</sup>); and prepared article describing annual LEPC program accomplishments and highlights for TBRPC's annual publication entitled "*Visions*" (November 7<sup>th</sup>).