



## Tampa Bay LEPC (District 8) *HazMatters* September - November 2013

District 8 LEPC staff was involved in a number of activities during the quarter. Staff attended the SERC quarterly meetings held at the Betty Easley Conference Center in Tallahassee in Tallahassee on October 3-4, 2013. The quarterly LEPC District 8 meeting was held on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Staff and/or members of the LEPC attended the FDEM Region 4 quarterly meeting on October 31<sup>st</sup> at the Hillsborough County Training Center under the leadership of FDEM Region 4 Coordinator Paul Siddall.

It is with great reluctance that LEPC District 8 recognized the pending resignation of our current Chair, Chief Scott Ehlers, effective at the end of January 2014. Chief Ehlers has served as Chair since May 2007 and as a member of the LEPC since October 2005. While his Chairmanship can and certainly will be replaced, Chief Ehlers will long be remembered for his effectiveness to communicate as LEPC Chair, LEPC member, and colleague but, more notably, as a friend of the Tampa Bay LEPC.



The LEPC's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS) met on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The primary topics included: discussion regarding the October 3-4 SERC meetings, solicitation of new FDPS Chair and discussion regarding the value and the recommended future direction of the Subcommittee.

The LEPC's HMEP Training Subcommittee met on November 20<sup>th</sup>. As would be/is appropriate, discussion revolved the training needs and opportunities of public-sector first responders prior to the June 30, 2014 Contract expiration. LEPC staff also referenced the fact that the requirement to expend exactly 25% of the entire annual HMEP Training funds during the first quarter alone (i.e. July 1 – Sept. 30) was addressed through the conduct of a 40-Hr. *HazMedic* course for 29 members of the Pinellas County Hazmat Team. This stipulation was, again, imposed within the FY 2013-14 HMEP Contract. Additional training conducted so far during the second quarter includes a 40-Hr. *Marine Firefighting Training for Land-Based Firefighters* course in Ft. Lauderdale. This event drew 11 representatives from across the Region and training will be further disseminated since it was presented as a Train-the-Trainer venue. Attending were members of Tampa Fire Rescue, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Clearwater Fire Department, North River Fire District and the West Manatee Fire District. Later in the quarter, an 8-Hr. *CAMEO* course will be conducted for 90+ members of fire departments within Pinellas County. As is appropriate, the pre-requisites for all HMEP training is that the course: must be designed for public-sector First Responders; must be pre-approved and deemed "cost effective" by FDEM staff; and, at minimum, must include a transportation component or nexus.

In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff additionally: attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee (September 10<sup>th</sup> & November 5<sup>th</sup>); facilitated the "Disaster Planning for Seniors" workshop (September 16<sup>th</sup>); attended the monthly meetings of the Ammonia Handlers/Operators (September 24<sup>th</sup> & October 23<sup>rd</sup>); coordinated and assisted in "Ammonia Siren/Shelter-in-Place" presentation to Florida Aquarium administrative staff (September 25<sup>th</sup>); facilitated the FEMA RISKMAP Modeling Committee meeting (September 26<sup>th</sup>); facilitated the nearly monthly meetings of the Pinellas Police Standards Council (October 9<sup>th</sup>

& November 13<sup>th</sup>); assisted in facilitation of “Florida Mitigation Workshop” by FDEM staff (October 22<sup>nd</sup>); submitted the LEPC & HMEP Quarterly Reports (October 29<sup>th</sup>); attended the U.S. Coast Guard’s Area Contingency Plan triennial meeting (November 5<sup>th</sup>); participated in a “Show Cause” administrative hearing held in Atlanta, GA with USEPA, USF, FDEM & Tampa Fire Rescue personnel (November 7<sup>th</sup>); coordinated a Tampa venue for a two-day TRANSCAER training event scheduled for February 2014 (November 13<sup>th</sup>); attended the “Concepts & Objectives” meeting for the USCG’s 2014 Government-Lead Prep Exercise (November 15<sup>th</sup>); and attended a tour of the Martin Gas Terminal in the Port of Tampa (November 19<sup>th</sup>).