



Tampa Bay LEPC *HazMatters* April - June 2016

Tampa Bay LEPC staff was involved in a number of activities during the quarter. Staff attended the SERC quarterly meetings held at the St. Petersburg Bayfront Hilton in St. Petersburg on April 7-8, 2016. The quarterly Tampa Bay LEPC meeting was held on May 25th.

LEPC staff and associated exercise partners have been coordinating an exercise entitled “Operation Hot Wheels.” The tabletop exercise scenario involves the simulated derailment of several CSX railcars transporting various hazardous materials commodities and simulated release of product onto land as well as leakage into a tributary leading to Tampa Bay (major water body). The incident will involve and impact various functions of many agencies, including: hazardous materials response, major road closure(s) and associated re-rerouting of traffic, implementation of shelter-in-place procedures in the immediate area and environmental response. The partners include CSX, Hillsborough County Emergency Management, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County, Tampa Emergency Management, Tampa Fire Rescue, Tampa Police Department, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and others. The Initial Planning/Concepts and Objectives Meeting was jointly held on May 11th, the Mid-Term Planning Meeting on May 27th, the Final Planning Meeting on June 17th and the exercise was conducted on June 21st. The After Action Report/Improvement Plan will be developed, discussed and approved shortly thereafter in association with a meeting in early to mid-July amongst the primary participatory agencies.

The LEPC’s HMEP Training Subcommittee met on May 25th to refine the scheduling of courses associated with the FY 2015-16 HMEP Training contract. Currently, the following training courses have already been or will be conducted: 40-Hr. *Marine Firefighting for Land-Based Firefighters* course (Pinellas/Hillsborough/ Tampa); attendance at the 2016 *Hazmat Symposium* (districtwide representation); two 8-Hr. *Hazmat IQ* courses (Manatee/Hillsborough); a 8-Hr. *Chlorine Refresher* course (Manatee); a 40-Hr. *Hazmedic* course (Pinellas); and registration costs associated with three students to attend their 160-Hr. *Hazardous Materials Technician Certification* course (Hernando). LEPC staff recently inquired whether and it was affirmed that unallocated, unused HMEP Planning funds for FY 2015-16 could be converted to additional FY 2015-16 HMEP Training funds. With the additional training funds anticipated, the Tampa Bay LEPC is currently evaluating the following additional training proposals: acquisition of additional training props to be used in future districtwide training and stored in the regional training trailer; three *shift-friendly* 8-Hr. “Ammonia Refresher” courses (Manatee County/Hillsborough County); three *shift-friendly* 8-Hr. “White Powder with Chemist” courses (Pinellas County); three *shift-friendly* 8-Hr. “Utilizing Meters with Chemist Driven Training” courses (Pinellas County); one 16-Hr. “Assistant Safety Officer” course (Manatee/Hillsborough Counties); one 8-Hr. “Hazmedic Refresher” course; and/or other course(s).

In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff additionally: participated in an audit of the Tampa Bay LEPC’s FY 2014-15 & 2015-16 HMEP Program conducted by FDEM staff (April 5th); facilitated the (nearly) monthly meeting of the Pinellas Police Standards Council (April 13th June 8th); attended the (nearly) monthly meeting of the Ammonia Handlers/Operators (May 3rd, May 31st & June 28th); coordinated distribution of 2016 Emergency Response Guidebooks with the various County Emergency Management agencies and other parties (May 6th);

attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee (May 10th); observed the simulated activation of the Pinellas County EOC in association with a hurricane exercise (May 19th); attended the 8-Hr. Chlorine Refresher course conducted in Manatee County (June 1st); facilitated the (nearly) quarterly meeting of the Preventative Nuclear Radiological Detection Committee (June 9th); participated in the Training Task Force teleconference (June 15th); and provided the Tampa Bay LEPC Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan update to FDEM (~June 28th). Much time was spent this past quarter performing the update of this document including the initial incorporation of Citrus and Hernando County data and resources.