



RECAP OF THE JANUARY 17, 2018 STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION MEETING

The January 17, 2018 SERC meeting was held at the Plaza Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach, FL. The Recap summarized below was enhanced by discussions/dialogues which ensued at the January 16th meetings of SERC's Training Task Force and the LEPC Staff & Chairs. The SERC meeting was chaired by FDEP Director John Johnson. The meeting was punctually called to order at 10:00 a.m. and proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance and a roll call of SERC members.

MEMBER MOMENT

The SERC had instituted a program whereby one SERC member each quarter provides a self-introduction on both a personal and professional level. However, no SERC member provided a "Member Moment" this quarter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 27, 2017 SERC meeting *Minutes* were approved unanimously upon voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEES APPOINTMENTS** - Chair Lachat requested approval of membership modifications sought by each of the LEPCs. SERC unanimously approved all proposed membership modifications upon voice vote. [The membership changes for the Tampa Bay LEPC approved during the quarter were the redesignation of Primary/Alternates for the St. Petersburg College (*Geoff Brown/James Angle*) and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (*William "Marty" Prickett/Robert Bateman*), redesignation of the "Alternate" representatives for Tampa General Hospital/Florida Poison Control Center (*Jemima Desir*), Pinellas County Fire & EMS Administration (*Craig Hare*) and Pinellas County Emergency Management (*Stephanie Hendrix*), as well as added a new "Interested Citizen" (*Charles Crowther*) and an "Alternate" for Manatee Port Authority (*Donald "Buck" Martin*)].

THOMAS YATABE-SERC AWARDS PRESENTATION

- SERC member Richard Delp advised that each year LEPCs are allowed to recognize one recipient from each of their agencies to signify "*outstanding achievement(s), accomplishment(s) or superior participation in hazardous materials planning or response by an individual, agency or organization.*" While each District probably has more than one deserving party, only one will be recognized annually from each District.

The following constitutes a listing of the 2017 Award winners for each District as well as their affiliation:

- **West Florida LEPC** - Kathy Ahlen, LEPC Coordinator (retired)
- **North Central Florida LEPC** - Michael Fowler, Air Liquide Advance Materials
- **Northeast Florida LEPC** - Brooke Martin, CSX Transportation Inc.
- **East Central Florida LEPC** - Michelle Cechowski, LEPC Coordinator
- **Central Florida LEPC** - Fire Chief Anthony Stravino, Polk County Fire Rescue
- **Tampa Bay LEPC** - Capt. Frank DeFrancesco, Hernando County Fire Rescue

- **Southwest Florida LEPC** - Battalion Chief Matt Marshall, Cape Coral Fire Department
- **Treasure Coast LEPC** - Fire Chief David Dyal, City of Stuart
- **South Florida LEPC** - Howard Vollovich, Fire Lt. of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (retired)/LEPC

REPORTS

- **SERC TRAINING TASK FORCE (TTF) REPORT** - The following highlights of the January 16th TTF meeting were identified by TTF Chair Matt Marshall:
 - **Cancer Initiative in the Fire Service.** Matt Marshall recognized TTF's support of a letter being prepared regarding potential cancer issues of firefighters.
 - **Hazmat Team Self-Assessments.** Each of the ten LEPCs have embarked on assisting the Florida State Fire College by conducting Hazmat Team Self-Assessments within their own Districts on a three- to four-year rotational basis. Scott Chappell indicated that a train-the-trainer for those conducting the assessments will be provided in early 2019. Expectation is that the Assessments will flow smoother with each passing year. Pre-explaining to the Teams that the purpose of the Self-Assessments is not to grade the teams, simply to evaluate their present capabilities, which may lead to building their capabilities. Type 2 Teams are typically smaller in size with limited or no hazmat team capabilities. Type 1 Teams typically include some/lots of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) capabilities. Scott Chappell has acknowledged that the Surveys have just been revised to enable data entry to be simpler. In the future, there will only be one Survey, a regular team will stop before WMD questions section.
 - **Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs).** Mr. Dietrich reminded meeting attendees that SEPs are designed to serve as a partial mitigation option for a facility found to be in violation of EPCRA by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selected SEPs can serve in lieu of up to 75% of the full fine payment. Any/all SEPs must be pre-vetted and pre-approved by USEPA. Details regarding the SEP Program will be restored to the SERC/FDEM website. Improving a local hazmat teams capabilities through the purchase of necessary and identified hazardous materials equipment could certainly be a SEP.
 - **Offshore Hazmat Response.** Forest Willis (USCG) identified that significant progress has been made to unite the U.S. Coast Guard's Strike Teams and the regional hazmat teams in response to offshore hazardous materials incidents. This consolidation and coordination piece has been ongoing for the last several years and has been spearheaded by SERC member Chief Mike Murphy.
 - **Future TTF Conference Calls.** The next TTF conference calls have been scheduled for February 14th & March 14th, both at 2:00PM.
- **HAZARDS ANALYSIS WORKING GROUP REPORT.** Mr. Robert Dietrich announced that Mr. Dwayne Mundy was not present to provide an update but did reflect that:
 - facilities can now pay their E-Plan registration fees on-line or automatic ACH check; and
 - development of Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) for the LEPCs may be a beneficial and worthwhile initiative to be pursued by the Hazards Analysis Working Group.
- **FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT.** As informational, Mr. Robert Dietrich indicated that the SERC Agenda

materials contained numerous tables and graphs depicting program revenues over the past three years and expenditures over the past two years. The following reports were included as part of the Agenda materials:

- Monthly RMP & EPCRA program revenue allocations since mid-FY 2015-16; and
- Breakdown of General Appropriations and Expenditures by Category for the Hazardous Materials Planning Program and the Risk Management Program during FY 2016-17 and 2017-18 (through November 30, 2017).

- **Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports.** As informational, Mr. Robert Dietrich indicated that detailed listings of Section 304 investigations, fixed facility and transportation-related hazardous materials incidents were prepared and included with the Agenda materials to describe incidents occurring between the period of September 1 - November 30, 2017. Such Reports included documentation of these incidents and portrayed the number of persons evacuated, injured or deceased down to LEPC District and ultimately County levels. These are all incidents reported to the State Watch Office and are broken down into different categories. Mr. Dietrich affirmed that there has been “no major releases or anything catastrophic.”

The following constitutes a consolidation of data associated with “*Transportation Incidents with Evacuations, Injuries and Deaths; Hazardous Materials Incidents with Evacuations, Injuries and Deaths [at fixed facilities]; and Potential Section 304 Investigations*”:

County	Date Released	Type	Chemical	Amount Released (Lbs.)	Business Type	# Evacuated	# Injured	# Fatalities
Citrus	NONE							
Hernando	NONE							
Hillsborough	9/14/17	FF	Sulfuric Acid	3,450	Hurricane Irma Damage - A forklift tipped over	N/A	N/A	N/A
	9/14/17	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	School Pipeline	2	0	0
	10/16/17	TR	Diesel Fuel	444	Traffic Accident	0	1	0
	11/25/17	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Restaurant	1	0	0
Manatee	None							
Pasco	10/25/17	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline - Private Residence	1	0	0
	11/10/17	TR	Freon	Unknown	Hotel	175	0	0
Pinellas	9/05/17	FF	Chlorine Gas	Unknown	Wastewater Treatment Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
	9/29/17	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Construction - Asst'd Living	199	0	0
	10/09/17	FF	Ethylene Oxide	Unknown	Hospital	N/A	N/A	N/A
	10/18/17	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline - Construction	1	0	0
	10/18/17	TR	Gasoline	63	Aircraft Accident	0	2	0
	10/30/17	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline	1	0	0
	11/25/17	TR	Gasoline	1,088	Aircraft Accident	0	1	0
TOTAL →						380	4	0

KEY: FF = Fixed Facility incident / TR - Transportation-related incident / 304 - Section 304 Investigation Launched

- **STAFF ACTIVITIES REPORT BY SECTION.** Mr. Robert Dietrich indicated that two new Risk

Management Plan Inspectors have recently been hired and Mary Green has retired after 32 years with the Department. Mr. Dietrich concluded his remarks by indicating that various graphics were provided within the SERC Agenda materials to depict various staff functions and initiatives.

Information was provided in the Agenda materials to portray:

- annual enumeration of Hazardous Materials incidents from 2002 to current;
 - breakdown of statewide *Hazardous Materials Incident Reports* by LEPC District and type from September 1 - November 30, 2017;
 - monthly enumeration of Hazardous Materials Incident Reports from January 2007 to current;
 - quantification of *E-Plan Filings* for Year 2016 by LEPC District (as of December 3, 2017);
 - monthly quantification of Technical Assistance calls received from December 1, 2016 - November 30, 2017; and
 - annual enumeration of Chemical Data in E-Plan since 2011 in terms of the # of statewide facilities and # of chemicals as of November 30, 2017. Reporting Year 2016 Chemical data currently denotes 12,103 facilities in Florida with a total of 34,110 chemicals.
- **Update on LEPC Activities.** Mr. Delp acknowledged that many of the topics addressed at today's SERC meeting were dually addressed in yesterday's LEPC Staff & Chairs meeting. In addition to several topics already addressed as part of this meeting he did indicate the following additional topics that were covered:
 - **Initial Responding Unit Exercise.** Chief Richard Knoff (Northeast Florida LEPC Chair) provided a presentation to highlight field exercises to assess responders capabilities in responding to hazmat incident of unknown chemical(s) and extracting downed/simulated personnel from the scene. These assessments/exercises were conducted for St. Johns County Fire Rescue, City of St. Augustine Fire Dept., Nassau County Fire Rescue and Jacksonville Fire Dept.

Mr. Delp concluded his remarks by recognizing his hopes that the recent changes to FDEM personnel will not result in a reduction of support and aid to the LEPCs in administering their functions. Mr. Delp additionally encouraged all to review the *Hazmatters* reports prepared by the LEPCs (for their respective Districts) that were included in the SERC Agenda materials.

The following was identified for the Tampa Bay LEPC District for the period of July - September 2017:

- Tampa Bay LEPC staff was involved in a number of activities during the quarter. Staff attended the SERC quarterly meetings held at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in Miramar, FL on October 26-27, 2017. The quarterly Tampa Bay LEPC meeting was held on November 15th. In conjunction with the November 15th LEPC meeting, much discussion ensued about the preparation measures and lessons learned in association with Hurricane Irma from company, agency and individual perspectives.
- The Tampa Bay LEPC's HMEP Training Subcommittee also met on November 15th. Noting that final training courses have been scheduled regarding the FY 2016-17 HMEP Training Contract, the mission of the meeting was to discuss the initial training objectives and desires for the FY 2017-18 HMEP Training Contract. Training needs and desires will continue to be solicited for each of the LEPC's six Counties and their corresponding municipalities.

- The following constitutes ALL training courses administered by the Tampa Bay LEPC in association with the FY 2016-17 HMEP Training Contract: attendance of 27 students at the 2017 Hazmat Symposium in Daytona Beach (January 17-20); conduct of three, shift-friendly, 3-Hr. Responding to Gasoline Tanker Emergencies courses each in Manatee County (May 1-3), the City of Tampa (May 11, 12 & 16), Hernando County (June 13-15) and Pinellas County (September 19-21); an 8-Hr. Chlorine Handling and Emergency Response course in Manatee County (July 11); a 40-Hr. Hazmat Medic course (August 14-18) and three 8-Hr. Advanced Hazmat IQ courses (August 29-31) [a cost share was implemented with Pinellas County regarding both of these courses]; 160-Hr. Hazmat Technicians Certification courses for 12 Pasco County students (July 17 - October 14) and one Hernando County student (October 30 - December 11); three 8-Hr. Water Injection for Propane Incidents courses in Manatee County (November 7-9); one 16-Hr. Hazardous Materials Safety Officer/Transportation course in Hernando County (November 16-17); and two 8-Hr. Street Smart for Hazmat Response courses, one each in Hernando and Hillsborough County (December 4 & 5).
- The following has been initially identified and are likely to be pursued for conduct in association with the FY 2017-18 HMEP training budget: sending 28 students to the 2018 Hazmat Symposium in Daytona Beach (January 16-19), a 16-Hr. Meter Reading course (Manatee County), Decon classes (Pasco County), and three 8-Hr. Hazmat IQ courses (Pinellas County). Additional training opportunities and needs will inevitably be identified as the year progresses. It is hereby noted that the HMEP Training Subcommittee members continue to consider developing a consolidated, hybrid, 160-Hr. Hazmat Technicians Certifications course curriculum that, if pursued and approved, would provide local, quality certification/instruction at a reduced cost. If implemented, such course may commence as early as this HMEP Training cycle.
- Tampa Bay LEPC staff has completed the Hazmat Team Self-Assessments for Citrus County Fire Rescue, Hernando County Fire Rescue, Tampa Fire Rescue and the 48th Civil Support Team during 2016-17. It is envisioned that the remaining teams (i.e. Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Southern Manatee Fire Rescue, Pasco County Fire Rescue and the Pinellas County Hazmat Team) will all be assessed by September 30, 2018. This ambitious schedule clearly meets and exceeds the Florida State Fire College's request for assistance of the LEPCs to complete this task within their respective Districts over a "three- to four-year period."
- In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff and/or members additionally: coordinated and assisted in the conduct of the Hazmat Team Self-Assessment for Tampa Fire Rescue (September 20th), Hernando County Fire Rescue (September 27th), Citrus County Fire Rescue (September 29th) and Florida National Guard's 48th Civil Support Team Hazmat Team (October 2nd); participated in SERC's Training Task Force Conference Calls (September 20th, November 15th & December 13th); attended the (nearly) monthly meetings of Ammonia Handlers/Operators group (September 26th, October 17th & November 14th); participated in the Hazards Analyses Working Group teleconference (October 10th); facilitated the (nearly) monthly meeting of the Pinellas Police Standards Council (October 11th, November 8th & December 13th); attended the Trademark Nitrogen Safety Day Celebration (October 11th); attended Kinder Morgan's annual Butane Emergency Response Drill (October 17th); attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee (November 14th); and attended Port Tampa Bay's annual Safety BBQ (December 7th).

OTHER BUSINESS

- **SERC Recognition.** Mr. Robert Dietrich (FDEM staff) presented an award to Mr. Paul Wotherspoon, former Director of FDEM's Hazardous Materials section, from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The Award recognized his numerous years of service to both FDEM and the SERC.
- Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative (PERI). Mr. James Kelly of U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) made a presentation to the SERC soliciting Florida's participation and support of a Florida PERI. Similar programs have already been established in other states. The PERI program Mission Statement is "*ability of emergency responders to manage pipeline emergencies through improved training, cooperation and communication with pipeline operators*" through training...

The program is a public-private partnership between first responders, pipeline operators and public officials in an effort to improve safety. The program is designed to enhance responders understanding of pipeline

risks and hazards while recognizing differences that may exist across each State and the nation. Mr. Kelly acknowledged that 47,340 miles of pipeline exist within Florida and 90,475 miles of pipeline in Georgia.

Mr. Mark Tumlin (SERC member) indicated that pipelines run across each of the Districts within Florida so it is essential to coordinate the initiative with all LEPCs. Robert Dietrich added that Florida's PERI should and will resemble the efforts of the Georgia PERI which has been refined since its inception in 2010.

In closing, Mr. Kelly indicated that grant funding has already been provided to the North Central Florida LEPC to initiate and promote the program statewide. Additionally, PHMSA will continue to coordinate these efforts through Dwayne Mundy, Eric Anderson and Michelle Cechowski on behalf of the LEPCs.

- **2018 Hazmat Symposium Update.** Jonathan Lamm reported that the 2018 Hazmat Symposium is a tremendous success with larger attendance figures and 14 teams competing in the Hazmat Competition [including one from the Tampa Bay LEPC District - Southern Manatee Fire Rescue]. The mission remains to provide quality training to first responders and industry partners. Multiple states sent representatives to the Symposium and even one responder from Germany. In total, there were 552 registrants to the Symposium, 433 students, 40 sponsors, 34 vendors and nearly 200 hours of quality training. In his closing remarks, Mr. Lamm thanked Michelle Cechowski, the Symposium Committee (comprised of 25 people - including Sandy Brooking) and the LEPCs who all played pivotal roles in the success of this event. Without their dedication, support and assistance, none of this could happen.
- **Off-shore Hazmat Response.** SERC member Mike Murphy recognized Forest Willis of the USCG for his efforts to integrate the USCG and regional Hazmat Teams in response to future Off-shore incidents. Mr. Willis indicated that "we are almost there."

COMMENTS

Robert Dietrich advised that Leo Lachat is retiring the end of January. Still uncertain with his replacement under the recent FDEM reorganization.

Don't worry about possibility of a Hawaii thing (missile alert) happening in Florida. In the State of Florida, to even register an "Amber Alert," it needs to go through 4+/- parties. Florida and other States will, however, evaluate the Lessons Learned in Hawaii.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon identification of no more issues to be brought before the SERC, Acting Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting and advised that the next SERC meeting will be held on April 13, 2018 in St. Augustine. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.