

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Overview of the LEPC Program



Local Emergency Planning Committees

Establishment

- Significant hazardous materials releases occurred in Bhopal, India in 1984 ([VIDEO](#)) and Institute, WV in 1985.



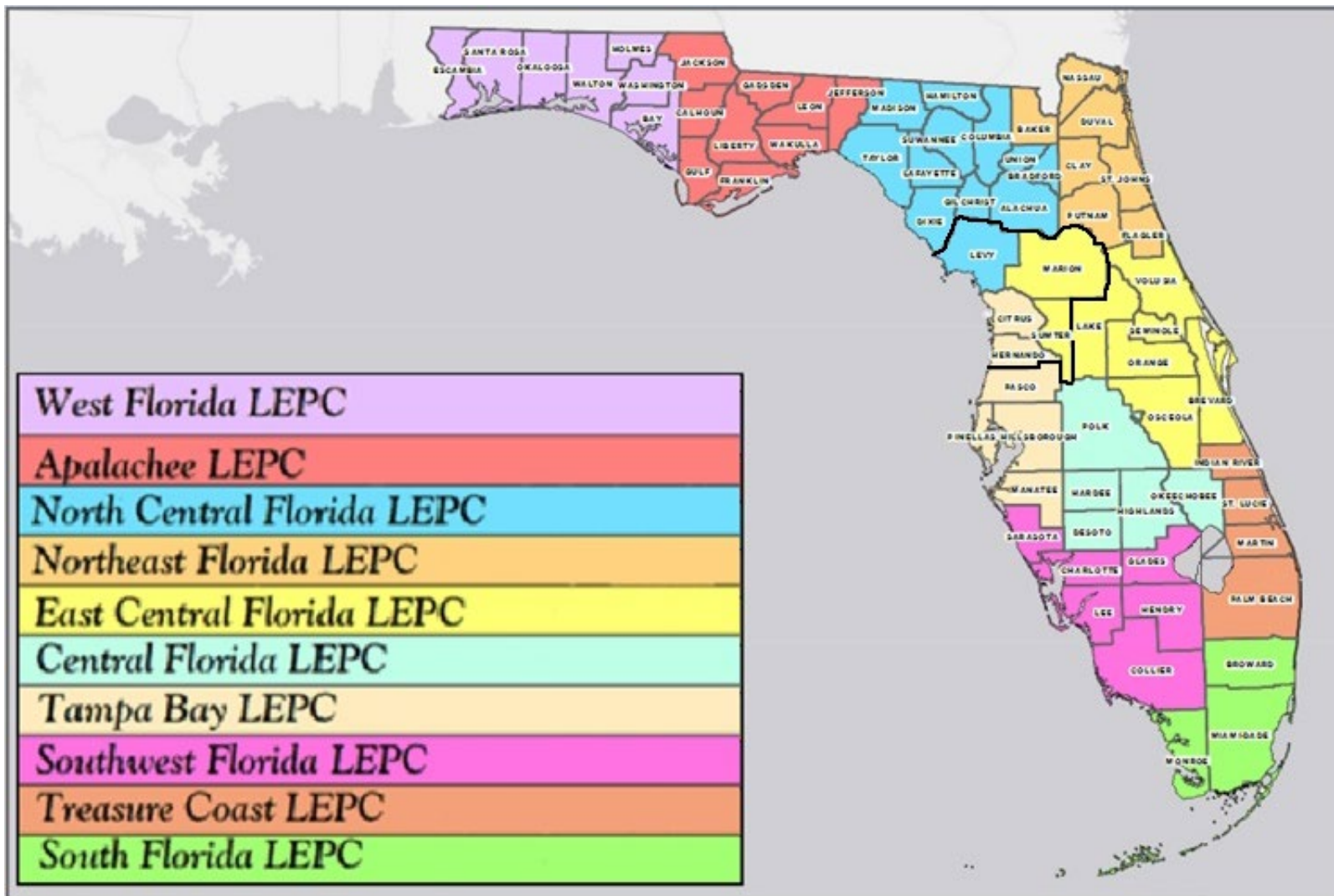


Local Emergency Planning Committees

Establishment

- With the intention of safeguarding the lives of residents and workers from future hazardous material incidents in the U.S., Congress enacted the *“Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act”* (EPCRA) in 1986.
- In 1988, each State was tasked with creating their own State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and defining/establishing their LEPC Districts.

Local Emergency Planning Committees





Local Emergency Planning Committees

Purpose

- The mission statement of the LEPCs is to “*partner with citizens and local emergency management officials to protect communities from the adverse effects of hazardous materials*” through a focus on Planning, Coordination, Education and Awareness.



Local Emergency Planning Committees

Membership

The following constitute the LEPC membership categories:

Community Groups (1)	Interested Citizens (4)
Elected State & Local Officials (1)	Law Enforcement (2)
Emergency Management (7)	Local Environmental (2)
Facility Owner/Operator (5)	<i>“Local Option” (4)</i>
Firefighting (10)	Non-Elected Local Officials (1)
First Aid/EMS (1)	Print & Broadcast Media (1)
Health (2)	Transportation (3)
Hospitals (1)	Water Management District (1)

**** There are a total of 46 “Primary” members of the Tampa Bay LEPC presently representing the various categories in the quantities specified above.**



Local Emergency Planning Committees

Mandated Responsibilities

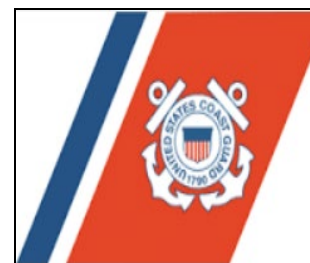
- Host quarterly LEPC meetings;
- Attend quarterly SERC meetings;
- Update LEPC Hazmat Plan annually;
- Conduct annual *EPCRA How-to-Comply Workshops*;
- Facilitate an annual multi-jurisdictional exercise;
- Provide annual *Shelter-in-Place* presentation(s); and
- Facilitate training of public-sector first responders under the annual HMEP Training program.

Local Emergency Planning Committees

Tampa Bay LEPC Affiliations

In the Tampa Bay area...

- LEPC staff regularly attends the nearly bi-monthly meetings of the Ammonia Operations Group;
- LEPC staff regularly attends the bi-monthly meetings of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee; and
- LEPC staff regularly attends the triennial meetings of the U.S. Coast Guard's Area Contingency Planning Committee.



Local Emergency Planning Committees

Notable Tampa Bay LEPC Work Products/Accomplishments

- Completed a vulnerability assessment of local Ammonia industries (1995);
- Developed the *All Hazards Guide for Businesses* on-line resource document (2014);
- Prepared *Tampa Bay LEPC Information Sheet* for distribution at meetings and/or site visits (2015);
- Conducted *Commodity Flow Study* of hazardous materials being transported by truck locally at pre-designated locations (2015);



Local Emergency Planning Committees

Notable Tampa Bay LEPC Work Products/Accomplishments

- Conducted annual/biennial exercises known as “*A Grand Response*” (2010), “*Investigate Every Danger*” (2012), “*Hightide*” [Terrorism Exercise] (2014), “*Operation Hot Wheels*” (2016), “*CSX [Hazmat Cars] Derailment*” (2019) & “*Operation Jet Lag*” (2020); and
- Coordinated 14 training courses for 246 first responders with a total of 736 hours of classroom/hands-on instruction with 9,712 student hours of attendance in FY 2020-21.



Questions?



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