



**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 10 LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) For Hazardous Materials
November 6, 2008**

Committee Members/Alternates Present

Hassan Al-Buhaisi
Brodie Atwater
Richard Daniels
Cheryl Dunn
Cheryl Dunne
Steven Graff
Keith Holman
Scott Johnston
Nicholas Laryea
Frank Lasaga
Etta LoPresti
Dave Maloney
Jack McCart
Paul Meding
John O' Malley
Houston Park
Paul Seldes
Barry Stewart
Herbert Waller
Lisa Wilson-Davis, Vice-Chairman
Dan Wouters
Dennis Zabel

Members Absent

Chris Bushman, Chairman
Todd Deehl
Anthony DiFruscio
Mike Geier
John Gojkovich
Steven Huntsberger
Harry Lux
Joseph Passanesi
Sharon Rayner
Greg Thompson
Carlos Valle

Occupational Category

Local Environmental (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)
Firefighting (Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue)
Emergency Management (City of Port St. Lucie)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Facility Operator (Syngenta Crop Protection)
Law Enforcement (Stuart Police Department)
Emergency Management (Martin County)
Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
Emergency Management (City of Stuart)
Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)
Interested Citizen (Educational Consultants, Inc.)
Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Incorporated)
Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Interested Citizen (NTB Group, LLC)
Local Environmental (Hazardous Waste Services)
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Incorporated)
Non-Elected Local Official (City of Boca Raton)
Firefighting (Martin County Fire District)
Health (Florida Atlantic University)

Occupational Category

Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management
Law Enforcement (Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Interested Citizen (Indian River Community College)
Interested Citizen (Hazmat & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
Law Enforcement (Martin County Sheriff's Office)
Community Group (American Red Cross)
Interested Citizen (Tribune)
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney – Rocketdyne)

Staff

Kathryn Boer
Penny Myszkowski

TCRPC/LEPC District 10
TCRPC/LEPC District 10

Visitors

Gary Willer
Rick Neff
Lizzette Gamanol
Joe Nelson
John Sherry
Mark Anderson
Gloria Lopez
Ryan Cole

Indiantown Cogeneration
Cogentrix
American Red Cross
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Florida Department of Transportation
JFK Medical Center

Vice Chair Wilson-Davis called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Vice Chair Wilson-Davis requested roll call and staff announced a quorum was present. Staff welcomed visitors, including State Emergency Response Commission member Mr. John Sherry, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF NOVEMBER, 2008 MEETING

Mr. Keith Holman moved approval of the November 6, 2008 District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting agenda. Mr. Jack McCartt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2008

Mr. Keith Holman moved approval of the August 7, 2008 District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Jack McCartt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

OLD BUSINESS

2008 SERC Creation of a Task Force/Subcommittee on Training

Staff stated the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Training Task Force (TTF), has proposed a name change to the SERC Subcommittee on Training. This would require no formal membership requirements, and thereby allowing members to consult on projects outside meetings and remain compliant with Florida sunshine laws. The meeting would be noticed. New guidelines will be developed.

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

2008 Thomas Yatabe Awards and Certificates of Appreciation

The SERC met October 3, 2008. The TTF met on October 2, 2008. January 9, 2009 and April 3, 2009 are the next scheduled meetings for the SERC.

The 2008 Thomas Yatabe Award will be presented to Mr. Bruce Pisani, Martin County Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Pisani has attended multiple LEPC exercises and supports all efforts in education and community outreach regarding the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act. He will be issued an invitation to attend the January SERC meeting to accept this award from Mr. Craig Fugate. A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Battalion Chief Dan Wouters, Martin County Fire Rescue. A Certificate of Appreciation was also awarded posthumously to Mr. Wayne Landowski, Florida Atlantic University, who had been a member of the LEPC and passed away in July. His alternate, Mr. Dennis Zabel, has made application to be the primary member representing Florida Atlantic University.

Guidelines for Accessing Florida Data in E-Plan

The SERC directed DEM Staff to grant E-Plan access to the thirty six SERC recognized HazMat teams because they will actively use the E-Plan in response situations and identify issues in usage of the software. Also given access are state agencies and emergency operations centers, first responders, directors of emergency management and LEPC Chairs. This program will allow input of the information in the CAMEO-TM software and forward it to the University of Texas, who will incorporate the information into a nationwide database. E-Plan will not interface with other emergency management programs. The draft guidelines for granting and terminating access to E-Plan are included in the LEPC agenda package.

Approval of the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan

This plan is updated annually and the Planning Subcommittee will again review it and recommend any changes in protocols and procedures. This past year's plan was approved by the SERC.

Hazardous Materials Incident Reports

Staff provided information through reports and graphs on release of hazardous materials in the District 10 Region for the time period of September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008. Staff noted the entire report is available on-line at <http://www.hazmat.floridadisaster.org/meet.htm>.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs Meeting Update

The LEPC Chairs meeting took place on October 2, 2008 in Tallahassee. Staff reported DEM passed out the current Hazardous Materials Information System state database of all the 67 counties' 302 facilities' updated chemical storage information.

Another issue discussed was the LEPC members' category list. There will be a work group meeting today by conference call regarding the expansion of membership categories. Staff would like to see individual experts listed in a specific category other than the "interested Citizen" category.

Hazardous Materials Awareness Week is scheduled for January 18 – 24, 2009. Once a year the LEPC adopts a resolution and requests that a resolution be adopted by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. The state would like to focus on the safe handling of mercury this year. The focus recognizes light bulbs, thermometers, and other mercury containing objects. A question was asked if there was any state funding available for mercury detection devices. Staff will look into this and report back to the LEPC.

There was a discussion on mercury chemical spills in commercial and residential buildings. Chief Dan Wouters said that the Department of Health (DOH) has a plan for this and in Martin County they refer back to this plan. First responders call Tallahassee for answers in mercury exposure. In the past mercury exposure response has been based on whether it is a public or private facility. If it is a residential home, the clean up is the resident's responsibility.

Staff asked if anyone knew of PSA availability for government channels. Keith Holman has information for Martin County. Chief Wouters said Clear Channel Communications is the main contact point and they own several television and radio communications for this region. He will get that information. TV20 is also a source.

Mr. Fugate would like as much exposure as possible for Hazardous Materials Awareness Week and staff mentioned the possibility of running a large newspaper ad and asked if anyone has information on contacts. Staff also mentioned that a television commercial would be a good tool and asked for volunteers or suggestions.

Addition of New Committee Categories

Members received a list of the current LEPC occupational categories. There are categories that never get filled, for example, the category of Elected Official. A discussion of the categories followed. It was suggested that Hospital and Health categories be separate and EMS be added. Other categories suggested include Agriculture, Safety, Education, EMS, Mass Care, Military Support, Federal Responder, and delete Civil Defense and First Aid, HazMat, Public Works, Facility Operator, Health, Hospital, and to combine Elected State and Local Official, and Media. Staff will send an e-mail to members regarding the discussion after her conference call with the State.

Vice Chair Lisa Wilson-Davis suggested members look at the new list and determine what category they best fit under.

Training Task Force Update – Chief Wouters

Chief Dan Wouters said the Training Task Force has been meeting by conference calls. They are still working on the Tox Medic training guidelines and the new 2007 version of the NFPA 473. First they defined training level components based on where that responder falls into the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) network in dealing with a hazardous materials incidents. There are three different levels of training – EMS Awareness, EMS Operations, and EMS Tox Medic. The ambulance typing is defined by the Department of Homeland Security. The Type III is the ambulance that does not carry personal protective equipment and has to know how to protect themselves. The Type II ambulance carry personnel who respond to an incident and have some level of protection equipment. In previous grant

funds, level C protection was provided to any ALS licensed ambulance whose agency was willing to receive that equipment. Those people need to be trained through Operations Level, having first responders operation level training and basic core competencies in how to don personal protective equipment, in mass casualty decontamination and technical decon, victim rescue, and how to treat a patient based on their local protocols. The Type I ambulance will be the tox medic that can actually transport contaminated victims, has antidotal care, has to be technician level trained, has to have personal protective equipment and have competency in the antidotal medications identified by their medical director.

The Training Task Force is compiling medical and training protocols from around the state to begin creating draft training standards. They will create a composite Advanced Life Support (ALS) hazmat protocol for the State of Florida. The recommendations will be sent to the Department of Health, Medical Director for the state, for adoption of the protocols. Chief Wouters asked members to submit to him any medical and training protocols for Tox Medic they deem appropriate.

They will update the public/private sector guidelines to contain these new recommendations for private ambulances in the community that carry antidotes and personal protective equipment for personnel.

Ms. Boer will e-mail a copy of these responder levels recommendations or make a copy after the meeting for anyone who requests one.

There was discussion regarding the different levels of training and use of the antidotal guidelines. Chief Wouters said the program has voluntary recommendations. Each jurisdiction can determine what level of training they want to require each agency to have.

Another project is a cross-walk of the National Fire Academy's Advanced Life Support for Hazardous Materials for Continuing Education Units (CEU) approved by the Department of Health. The issue lies in the fact that if an agency submits for more than 25% of recertification in one specific class, it calls for an automatic audit. The ALS for Hazmat program has not been previously identified as being approved for CEUs at any specific amount. No curriculum has been developed as yet.

REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

The Planning Subcommittee met at 9:30 a.m. prior to the LEPC meeting. Staff reported that the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) contract requires the LEPC to do a biennial exercise. This LEPC has done tabletop/functional exercises and would like to do a full scale exercise this year. We

have Nicholas Laryea and Gary Waller from Indiantown Cogeneration who have invited the LEPC to use their facility to do a full scale exercise. Staff would like to have the exercise at three different sites, one in

Stuart, one just inside Indiantown, and one at Indiantown Cogeneration. Chlorine would be the chemical. Chief Wouters said he doubts that would be approved by fire rescue support because of budget needs, but he will review the details and take the request forward. Mr. Lasaga, City of Stuart, said that if there is money available for backfill and people could be brought in on overtime, it might work. Vice Chair Wilson-Davis suggested that the Planning Subcommittee continue with determining their objectives, develop a scenario, and let the agencies decide how they can participate. Mr. Lasaga said that because the scenarios dictate the involvement of the departments, the agencies need to know what is being proposed. Staff will formalize the scenario and objectives and forward it to the members.

Mr. Jack McCartt said he is working on a project for the Department of Homeland Security to develop objectives for model exercises. One of them is a chlorine exercise in the community. He will make that information available to the subcommittee. He feels the real need is in the overall management from the Emergency Management point of view, and if there was a large exercise involving the entire community, that the tabletop planning would be challenging and effective.

Chief Wouters said that two years ago the LEPC had a tabletop radiological exercise with St. Lucie/Martin County Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs). Agency trucks fed information back to the EOCs.

Public Information/Marketing Subcommittee

Staff reported that this committee has not met recently. They will forward information on mercury for Hazardous Materials Awareness Week coming in January. We are still using the workshop outreach presentations for the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) and Tier II reporting for 302 facilities in this region. Staff can put on the LEPC website any information that members want to go out to the public, including information about events and exercises.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

A list of the LEPC planning activities since the previous meeting of August 7, 2008 is included in the agenda packet.

Contract Activities Update

Staff is preparing the annual staff report to the state for the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Training Grant training. The LEPC has held 20 classes with 418 participants. Funding from the Department of Transportation (DOT) has increased our annual funding in planning from \$11,000 to \$18,000. Training fund increased from \$20,747 to \$36,238.

The Hazardous Materials Analyses for Martin County has been submitted to DEM for review. St. Lucie County site visits will begin next month. Individual Section 302 Facilities will be notified as to the availability of their specific analysis once the analyses have been approved by DEM in June.

Membership – Officer Nomination/Elections and New Appointments

Staff reported that as of the August 7, 2008 meeting, the District 10 LEPC reelected the currently serving officers, Chairman Assistant Chief Chris Bushman, who is attending an ICS 400 class and Vice Chairman Ms. Lisa Wilson-Davis, who is chairing our meeting today. The LEPC is welcoming two new primary members, Mr. Paul Seldes, NTB Group and Mr. Anthony DiFruscio, Martin Memorial Health Systems. New alternate members are Sharon Andre, Martin Memorial Health Systems, for Mr. Anthony DiFruscio and Mr. Clint Sperber, St. Lucie County Health Department, who will attend for Mr. Todd Deehl, who has been deployed. **Motion**

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR and STAFF

The SERC adopted, in 1998, the Interim EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Enforcement Response Policy. Members received a copy in their agenda packet. It has not changed since 1999, but the SERC approved and recognized the 1998 interim draft version. There was a question from an attorney from the Department of Emergency Management regarding the 1999 final version. The 1999 version will probably be approved and adopted at the next SERC meeting. The differences are highlighted in the handout.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Cheryl Dunn asked if there will be future trainings in other counties because there were none in Indian River County. Staff said they were fairly evenly distributed and a HazMat IQ in Indian River County was planned but there were not enough participants. Cheryl Dunn said she would like to see the Hazardous Awareness Level I class and a Hazwopper class in Indian River County. Mr. Barry Stewart said he can combine those classes for them. Ms. Boer will schedule classes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting will be held February 5, 2009 at Indian River State College Chastain Campus, Stuart, Florida.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.