



**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 10 LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
August 6, 2009**

Committee Members/Alternates Present

Chris Bushman, Chairman
Hassan Al-Buhaisi

Brodie Atwater (Alternate)
Clint Sperber (Alternate)
Cheryl Dunn
John Gojkovich
Steven Graff
John Holman
Keith Holman
Steven Huntsberger
John Johnson
Gloria Lopez (Alternate)
Paul Meding
John O'Malley
Paul Seldes
Barry Stewart
Sally Waite
Herbert Waller (Alternate)
Dan Wouters
Arthur Wyman (Alternate)
Dennis Zabel

Occupational Category

Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
Local Environmental (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)
Firefighting (Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue)
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Law Enforcement (Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Law Enforcement (Stuart Police Department)
Law Enforcement (Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Emergency Management (Martin County)
Interested Citizen (Indian River State College)
Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)
Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Incorporated)
Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)
Interested Citizen (NTB Group, LLC)
Local Environmental (Hazardous Waste Services)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)
Firefighting (Martin County Fire Rescue)
Community Group (American Red Cross)

Members Absent

Mark Anderson
Richard Daniels
Anthony DiFruscio
Cheryl Dunne
Nicholas Laryea
Frank Lasaga
Etta LoPresti
Harry Lux
Jack McCart
Joseph Passanesi
Tom Phillips
Greg Thompson
Carlos Valle
Lisa Wilson-Davis, Vice Chairman

Occupational Category

Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Emergency Management (City of Port St. Lucie)
Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
Facility Operator (Syngenta Crop Protection)
Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
Emergency Management (City of Stuart)
Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Interested Citizen (Hazmat & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
Interested Citizen (Educational Consultants, Inc.)
Law Enforcement (Martin County Sheriff's Office)
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Interested Citizen (Sun Sentinel)
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney – Rocketdyne)
Non-Elected Local Official (City of Boca Raton)

Staff

Kathryn Boer
Penny Myszkowski

TCRPC/LEPC District 10
TCRPC/LEPC District 10

Visitors

John Sherry
Paul Forage
Joe Nelson

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Indian River State College
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Chair Chris Bushman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Chair Bushman requested roll call and staff announced a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF AUGUST 6, 2009 MEETING

Chief Dan Wouters moved approval of the agenda. Lieutenant John Gojkovich seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2009

Chief Dan Wouters moved approval of the February 5, 2009 District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting minutes. Lieutenant John Gojkovich seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Steven Huntsberger, Dean of Public Safety, Indian River State College, welcomed LEPC members to the new IRSC Public Safety training complex. Tours of the facility will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting. Dedication of the facility will be September 11, 2009. The facility sits on 50 acres and there are classrooms, a courtroom, an auditorium, a 300 degree virtual simulator, weight rooms, indoor track and training building, simulation shoot house where different scenarios can be configured, a fire station with classrooms, a training tower, a fire arms building, and crime lab.

OLD BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission January Meeting Location

In January the SERC will meet in Palm Beach County on Singer Island. Staff welcomed LEPC members to attend that meeting and a luncheon on January 9th. Staff also invited any interested company or agency to sponsor a continental breakfast January 8 and 9 and lunch.

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) met July 10, 2009 in Tallahassee for the quarterly meeting. The next SERC quarterly meeting will be on October 2, 2009 in Tallahassee.

LEPC Category Changes

At the April 2, 2009 meeting, the LEPC Chairs/Staff approved a motion to adopt the combining and adding of additional groups and organizations to the LEPC Categories list and forwarded a request to the SERC for approval of the revised LEPC membership categories. At the July 10, 2009 meeting, the SERC approved the membership category changes. Elected State Official and Elected Local Official categories are combined; Broadcast Media and Print Media are combined; and Facility Owners and Facility Operators are combined. The rest of the categories remain the same and one category, Local Option(s) was added. Local Options will include specific categories to each LEPC.

Subcommittee on Training Membership Policies

The Subcommittee on Training (SOT) addresses the requirements for the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act Grant Program. The SOT responsibilities have been expanded to include the development of responder training guidelines, coordination with responder groups to ensure required hazardous materials training availability, and development of strategic planning projects to effectively deliver training and formal guidelines. At the July 10, 2009 meeting, the SERC approved the Governance Policies for the SOT with the additional clause that current members will be “grandfathered” to avoid having to initiate the selection and approval process again. Staff provided members with a copy of the Governance Policies for the SOT. District 10 LEPC Chairman Chief Chris Bushman will serve as the alternate for Chief Jack McCartt on the SOT.

E-Plan Status Report

The E-Plan has been expanded in membership to all thirty-six recognized Hazardous Materials Teams, all eleven Local Emergency Planning Committees, and thirty of the sixty-seven county Emergency Management Directors or their designees. Programming requirements are being considered in order to integrate E-Plan with a 911 Computer Aided Dispatch system within the communications/call center in Palm Beach County.

Mr. Keith Holman said that there are some counties that have a communications system in place and have differing opinions on implementing E-Plan. E-Plan would provide cross county hazardous materials information.

John Sherry, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, commented on the use and access of E-Plan and the 911 system. He would be glad to offer assistance to anyone interested in learning more about using E-Plan.

Hazardous Materials Incident Reports

Staff provided information through reports and graphs on the release of hazardous materials within the District 10 Region for the time period of June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009. 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 eleven LEPC District Chairs of Florida met on July 9, 2009 in Tallahassee one day prior to the SERC meeting. There were no LEPC Chairs meeting issues taken to the SERC for discussion or approval.

Chairman Danz suggested that the LEPC Chairs support the items to be taken to the SERC by the Subcommittee on Training.

Subcommittee on Training Update

Chief Jack McCartt was not present. John Sherry attended the SOT meeting and commented on hazardous materials reporting and the top five needs throughout the state, including support from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Health, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Staff mentioned the Hazardous Materials Medical Care Protocols that define three levels of training required of EMS responders and also the Chemistry Education Initiative is being developed to encourage students to pursue careers in the sciences. Also discussed at the SOT was the draft Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Sampling Protocols which are being circulated to various agencies for comments and recommendations.

Dan Wouters commented that Hazmat Teams will meet in Orlando to work directly with Tallahassee regarding a single incident that occurred in which a suspicious substance was not reported according to best practices. They will point out that there should be a joint effort between the Department of Domestic Security, the Department of Health, and the hazmat teams to standardize best practices for response. They are stressing that testing has to be done in a specific fashion. John Sherry said that two different procedures have been set forth.

The LEPC meeting agenda included a chart on the Florida SERC SOT Project Board. The majority of the projects have been completed. Red is high priority; green is low priority ongoing projects; yellow are projects developing benchmarks. Chief Dan Wouters can answer questions on these projects.

REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

The District 10 LEPC Biennial Exercise was conducted on June 29, 2009 at the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Bryce Complex in West Palm Beach. The tabletop exercise was very well attended with players representing public and private response and management agencies from Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties, and the Florida Gas Transmission Company. The scenario entailed two natural gas leaks from prominent pipeline locations, poor visibility from brush and forest fire, massive automobile crashes, road closures, evacuations, etc. The exercise tested alert and notification and communications among county response agencies, emergency operations centers, field command posts and the private sector.

John Nelson, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, gave highlights of the exercise. They would like to have had more law enforcement involvement. Staff said that there will be a functional HMEP exercise in the Fall that will build on this exercise. The after-action report will be made available to members.

Public Information/Marketing Subcommittee

The marketing outreach presentation is available to facility operators or for workshops and seminars. The power point presentation defines the roles of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-

Know Act, the LEPC roles and responsibilities, and has a training segment on TIER II annual reporting for Section 302 Chemical Facilities.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

A list of the LEPC planning activities since the previous meeting of May 7, 2009 was included in the agenda packet.

Contract Activities Update

Hazardous Materials Analyses was conducted for St. Lucie and Martin Counties for the 2008-2009 year. The analyses were submitted to and approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. During the third quarter, the District 10 LEPC sponsored one HazMat IQ Smart Charts class; nine 8-hour Hazardous Materials Operations Level Refresher classes in the Town of Palm Beach; an Advanced Hazardous Materials Life Support course; a 40-hour Fire Chemistry course; and two Hazardous Materials Incident Command classes. Also two more HazMat IQ Smart Charts courses will be held, one in Palm Beach and one in Indian River or St. Lucie County.

Membership

Mr. Dennis Zabel, Florida Atlantic University, is now a primary LEPC member and Ms. Sharlene Sookhoo, Florida Atlantic University, is his alternate. Staff introduced Ms. Sally Waite, Palm Beach

County Emergency Management, who is a new LEPC member as of the May LEPC meeting. Mr. Brian Hanley, Palm Beach County Emergency Management, is her alternate.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND STAFF

Staff mentioned that if any company is interested in sponsoring meals for the January SERC meeting being held in the District 10 LEPC region, that she would be happy to hear from them. No lobbying can be done at the SERC by sponsoring companies.

Staff thanked Mr. Steven Huntsberger for offering the new DHS training facility at Indian River State College for the LEPC meeting this month and for the breakfast that was provided.

Staff said that on October 13-16 the LEPC will assist DEP in conducting a Forensics Response Team full scale exercise at Indian River State College training facility. More information will follow.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chief Dan Wouters said that SOPs must be in place for the funding request for hazmat teams operational readiness. The format has been changed and it will be submitted to the State for approval. Also the Hazardous Materials Team Assessments should be completed by August 30, 2009. As of July 1, 2009, hazardous materials teams cannot bill for motor vehicle accidents except for measurable transportation of victims to hospitals and hazardous materials releases in quantities reported to the State EOC.

Dean Steven Huntsberger said that this Fall there will be a variety of Public Safety training courses offered at the Banner Center for Public Safety, Indian River State College. Information will follow.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.