



**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 10 LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
August 4, 2011**

Committee Members/Alternates Present

Chris Bushman, Chairman
Mark Anderson
Steven Graff
Joe Holland (Alternate)
John Holman (Alternate)
Scott Johnston
David Koerner (Alternate)
Nicholas Laryea
Frank Lasaga
Harry Lux
Debra McCaughey (Alternate)
Larry Nadeau
Joe Nelson (Alternate)
Tom Phillips
Dave Rawicz
Glenn Schuessler (Alternate)
Barry Stewart
Dianne Strock (Alternate)
Carlos Valle
Alan Williams (Alternate)
Dan Wouters
Dennis Zabel

Members Absent

Edward Carberry
Anthony DiFruscio
Cheryl Dunn
Cheryl Dunne
John Gojkovich
Keith Holman
Stephen Huntsberger
Gloria Lopez
Etta LoPresti
Jack McCartt
Paul Meding
John O'Malley
Joseph Passanesi
Sharon Rayner
Paul Seldes

Occupational Category

Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Law Enforcement (Stuart Police Department)
Facility Operator (Syngenta Crop Protection)
Law Enforcement (Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Firefighting (City of Boca Raton)
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
Emergency Management (City of Stuart)
Interested Citizen (Hazmat & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
Emergency Management (Martin County)
Emergency Management (City of Port St. Lucie)
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Incorporated)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Local Environmental (Hazardous Waste Services)
Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney – Rocketdyne)
American Red Cross (North Treasure Coast Chapter)
Firefighting (Martin County Fire Rescue)
Local Environmental (Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute)

Occupational Category

Transportation (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Facility Operator (Syngenta Crop Protection)
Law Enforcement (Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Emergency Management (Martin County)
Interested Citizen (Indian River State College)
Environmental (Department of Transportation)
Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Interested Citizen
Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Incorporated)
Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)
Law Enforcement (Martin County Sheriff's Office)
American Red Cross (North Treasure Coast Chapter)
Interested Citizen (NTB Group, LLC)

Clint Sperber
Greg Thompson
Sally Waite
Lisa Wilson-Davis

Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Interested Citizen (Sun Sentinel)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Non-Elected Local Official (City of Boca Raton)

Staff

Kathryn Boer
Penny Myszkowski

TCRPC/LEPC District 10
TCRPC/LEPC District 10

Visitors

Detective Ron Wentz
Anna Gannon

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department
Department of Environmental Protection

APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF AUGUST 4, 2011 MEETING

Captain Joe Nelson moved approval of the August 4, 2011 District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting agenda. Mr. Steven Graff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2011

Captain Joseph Nelson moved approval of the May 5, 2011 District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Steven Graff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

Staff reported the last meeting was held on July 8, 2011 in Pensacola and was attended by Captain Joseph Nelson.

Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Audit/Inspection Work Plan – Risk Management Program

Staff reported that selected facilities that have had releases or have a large inventory of extremely hazardous substances are audited/inspected by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) if identified as a high priority facility based on criteria set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). FDEM staff develops a site audit/inspection work plan annually and delivers to the State Emergency Response Commission's (SERC) for review and approval. High priority facility criteria include: facility location, proximity to population centers, chemical characteristics and inventories, accident history, and compliance or inspection by allied agency programs and the results of self-conducted audits. Facilities that will be visited this year are listed on an attachment in the agenda. Three facilities in Palm Beach County are scheduled to be visited this year.

SARA Title III Program Officials Annual Conference

The location for the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) annual conference has not yet been determined. Included are members and staff of the SERC, Tribal Emergency Response Commissions, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), and various federal agencies and private industry. Florida is being considered for the conference, and FDEM staff have delivered proposals for conference host sites to the NASTTPO.

Single Reporting Point for Tier II Annual Reports Memorandum

If facilities file electronically, they do not have to send a copy to the LEPC or the district fire department. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is included in the agenda packet. The Memorandum states that all facilities can file in one spot and the information is accessible to LEPCs. If fire departments want paper copies, they have to opt out of this filing. Staff said that the LEPC has this information and it can be requested by the fire departments. Staff stated that Chapter 119 still protects facility site plans and they are not to be put online. Captain Joe Nelson said all the fire departments in the state will receive this memorandum.

In addition, there is an MOU currently awaiting approval by the EPA that addresses the exchange of TRI data between the EPA and the FDEM. Captain Nelson said the TRI Memorandum was approved by the SERC.

Captain Nelson said there is a third MOU that addresses facilities' performance of supplemental projects in the community in lieu of fines in the event of noncompliance. This memorandum is being updated at this time by FDEM.

Hazardous Materials Incident Reports

Hazardous Materials Incident Reports for incidents for the period of March 1, 2011 through May 31, 2011 are included in the agenda packet. Table I lists incidents that are potential Section 304 investigations. Table 2 lists fixed facility hazardous materials incidents with evacuations, injuries or death. Staff added Table 3 listing transportation incidents with evacuations, injuries and deaths for the District 10 region. The full listing of all regions is available on the SERC website.

Staff added that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) was engaged by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to update their Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). There are several updates in the Emergency Preparedness section of the SRPP. One of the analyses is depicted in Graph I in the agenda packet. It shows that since 1988, there have been less hazardous materials incidents for the region.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs Meeting Update

Chairman Bushman reported the LEPC District Chairs meeting was held on July 7, 2011 in Pensacola. The next meeting will be held on October 7, 2011 in Tallahassee.

Training Task Force Update – Captain Nelson

The Training Task Force (TTF) met on July 7, 2011 in Pensacola and was attended by Captain Joe Nelson. A Tox-Medic training curriculum is still being explored for development by the TTF. Public safety guidelines are being updated. Captain Nelson explained that a Tox-Medic is someone who is specifically trained to use certain antidotes to treat responders/victims who have been exposed to hazardous materials/chemicals. He explained the difference between a Tox-Medic and a Hazmat-Medic. A Tox-Medic can treat someone who has been decontaminated. A Haz-Medic can treat contaminated or decontaminated people. At present, it is up to the authority in each jurisdiction to decide on the acceptable curriculum for training their personnel. The TTF is looking at what equipment is needed by Hazmat teams and they are looking to update the requirements so that each team carries the same equipment and medications.

Captain Nelson said the Hazardous Materials Field Operations Guide (FOG) previously approved by the SERC was sent to the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) Working Group and it was approved. It will have an accompanying errata sheet. Staff will try to locate more copies of the FOG. The hazardous materials update response to the FOG has been sent out electronically with instructions. LEPC members can e-mail staff if they need a copy of the FOG.

Captain Nelson said the Department of Health (DOH) discussed the current White Powder protocol. Language is being reinforced directing proper procedures for submission of biological samples to state labs. The DOH discourages presumptive testing, but provides guidance for incident commanders that use the testing to make decisions that do not include medical management.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs Meeting Update

The LEPC Chairs and Staff meeting was held on July 7, 2011 in Pensacola.

Chairman Bushman reminded LEPC members that staff has the Florida Hazardous Materials Information System (HMIS) containing Section 302 facility data in electronic format.

The FDEM will retain its title and remain a division and not an office. It will be brought under the Governor's office and report directly to the Chief or the Deputy Chief of Staff. The Secretary of the DCA is presently the chair of the SERC. Since the DCA has been dismantled and its divisions transferred to other departments, legal counsel is reviewing and will make recommendations as to who will chair the SERC. FDEM changes will take place October 1, 2011.

FDEM staff reported that compatibility issues with E-Plan have been solved. Staff is still working to eliminate duplications and omissions and issues with the online submission processes.

The dates for the Hazardous Materials Awareness Week have not yet been determined. Mercury was the chemical topic discussed for the focus of activities. Staff said Mercury was the topic chosen two years ago and the LEPC did an outreach awareness campaign on the proper care of broken fluorescent light bulbs.

Presentation – Methamphetamine Laboratories – Detective Ron Wentz

Detective Ron Wentz, a bomb and hazmat technician for St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, gave a presentation on methamphetamine laboratories. He explained the two types of methamphetamine production, anhydrous ammonia and red phosphorus, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) used during a meth lab investigation or response. He explained that a methamphetamine lab is highly explosive, showed many slides of equipment, chemicals, and notes from an actual lab in St. Lucie County, and explained how the chemicals needed for methamphetamine production are readily available in local stores.

Detective Wentz said in first response investigation, lists of people buying supplies for methamphetamine production are readily available from local stores such as Walgreens, pool chemical stores, and the Dollar Store. He described the methods used in methamphetamine production. Blenders and coffee bean grinders are used to grind pills which are then soaked in alcohol, acetone, or STP gas treatment. Staff reminded the Committee members they should be aware of the presence of large quantities of these materials if noticed and get this information to law enforcement.

Detective Wentz said the State has had a special methamphetamine lab response team, but it has not been funded this year so the local agencies are now responsible for methamphetamine laboratory cleanup.

REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

The 2011 Biennial Exercise for the LEPC was conducted on June 23, 2011 in two separate locations, Indian River County and St. Lucie County Emergency Operations Centers. The exercise was a hybrid discussion based, tabletop functional exercise. The scenario involved several incidents in both counties and included a methamphetamine laboratory explosion, a chemical hostage situation at the turnpike plaza, public drinking water contamination, and a chemical/incendiary terrorist attack on an elementary school. This forced a shelter-in-place response at the school and plaza. There was agency-to-agency coordination as well as county-to-county agency coordination. Department of Health and water utilities were involved. Several people served as evaluators and staff thanked all who were involved. The After Action Report is in the hands of the subcommittee members for review. A copy will be made available to LEPC members once completed.

The Planning Subcommittee has reviewed the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan. This has been submitted to the DEM for approval.

Public Information/Marketing Subcommittee

There are no current projects in development at this time. Please forward to staff any ideas for outreach projects and information for public dissemination. Plans will soon be formulated for Hazardous Materials Awareness Week.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

A list of the planning activities since the previous meeting of May 5, 2011 was included in the agenda packet. Also included was a list of other emergency management and preparedness activities staff has participated in through the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Contract Activities Update

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness

The 2010/2011 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant provides annual funding for hazardous materials-related training to the Region's first responders and for specific planning projects. Previously conducted classes during the last quarter and upcoming classes are noted below.

Training

During the third quarter of the 2010/2011 contract cycle, the District 10 LEPC sponsored one person to attend an Intermediate Incident Command System training (ICS-300) in Orlando. In the fourth quarter, staff coordinated with the Town of Palm Beach to schedule one Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (Hazwopper) training and scheduled a Field Chemical Analysis class for the City of Boca Raton.

Planning

The District 10 LEPC selected Planning Project Option #3, HMEP Plan Exercise, from the list of approved activities under the 2010/2011 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Planning Grant. This exercise was combined with the LEPC Biennial exercise to evaluate the training needs for the next Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness 2011/2012 contract cycle. It also emphasized the transportation impacts of chemical releases on major intersections and highways.

Hazardous Analyses

The LEPC staff conducted the St. Lucie County 2010/2011 Hazardous Analysis which was submitted to the FDEM for review and comments. The analysis was approved and 302 facilities have been notified of the availability of individual hazards analyses.

Membership

On July 8, 2011, the SERC approved the District 10 LEPC nominations for appointment. The District 10 LEPC welcomed Mr. Edward Carberry and his alternate, David Brennan, both from Sysco Systems Southeast Florida.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND STAFF

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carlos Valle thanked Kathryn Boer for her work and effort in scheduling training, especially in Palm Beach County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Anna Gannon, Department of Environmental Protection, attended the Field Analyses Training in Palm Beach County and said she found it very informative. Ms. Gannon has submitted a nomination request for appointment to the District 10 LEPC.

NEXT MEETING

The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2011. The Martin County Fire Rescue training rooms in Stuart have been offered as a permanent location for the LEPC meetings. John Long, Florida Gas Transmission Lines, will make a presentation at the November meeting.

If your company or agency would like to host the next meeting, please notify staff.

The quarterly meeting dates for 2011 and 2012 are:

November 3, 2011

February 2, 2012

May 3, 2012

August 2, 2012

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.