



**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 10 LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
August 1, 2013**

Committee Members

Bushman, Chris, Chairman
Nelson, Joeseeph, Vice Chair
Engel, Norm
Guertin, Stephanie (Alternate)
Herndon, Kevin
Holland, Joe (Alternate)
Holman, John
Lasaga, Frank
LoPresti, Etta
Lux, Harry
Mayer, Timothy
Murphy, Michelle (Mary) (Alternate)
Norris, Peter
Perkins, Richard
Phillips, Tom
Vogt, Charles (Alternate)
Waite, Sally
Wouters, Dan
Zabel, Dennis

Excused

Passanesi, Joseph
Rawicz, Dave
Seldes, Paul

Absent

Anderson, Mark
Brown, Kenton
Carberry, Edward
DiFruscio, Anthony
Dunn, Cheryl
Engel, Norm
Jones, Derrell
Laryea, Nicholas
McCartt, Jack
McCaughey, Debra

Occupational Category

Interested Citizen
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
Health (Syngenta Crop Protection)
Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Emergency Management (City of Stuart)
Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Interested Citizen (Hazardous Materials & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)
Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Facility Owner and Operator (Scripps Research Institute)
Facility Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)
Interested Citizen
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Firefighting (Martin County Fire Rescue)
Local Environmental (Harbor Branch Oceanographic

Occupational Category

Law Enforcement (Martin County Sheriff's Office)
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)
Interested Citizen (NTB Group, LLC)

Occupational Category

Firefighting (City of Delray Beach)
Local Environmental (FL Dept. of Environmental Protection)
Transportation (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Law Enforcement (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission)
Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
Interested Citizen (ATEC, Inc.)
Emergency Management (Martin County)

Meding, Paul
Ortado, Derek
Peterson, Vince
Sanders, Nick
Sperber, Clint
Stewart, Barry
Thompson, Greg
Valle, Carlos
Wilson-Davis, Lisa

Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)
Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)
Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)
Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)
Interested Citizen (Sun Sentinel)
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney – Rocketdyne)
Non-Elected Local Official (City of Boca Raton)

Staff

Kathryn Boer
Liz Gulick
Kim Koho

TCRPC/LEPC District 10, Coordinator
TCRPC, Staff
TCRPC/LEPC District 10, Staff

Visitors

Tom Daly
Jeremy Hausam
Andy Tatum
Sherida Ridgill

Emergency Management Coordinator (St. Lucie County)
Syngenta Crop Protection
Safety and Health Manager, Zenith National Insurance Corp.
Environmental, Risk &HR Manager, Wedgworth Farms, Inc.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF AUGUST 1, 2013 MEETING

Chief Herndon moved approval of the August 1, 2013 agenda. Mr. Norris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – MAY 2, 2013

Mr. Perkins moved approval of the May 2, 2013 minutes. Mr. Lux seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation: West, Texas and the Chemical Industry – Sherida Ridgill, Wedgworth Farms, Inc.

Ms. Boer, LEPC Coordinator, explained that the original presentation was done by Mary Hartney, President, Florida Fertilizer Agrichemical Association, at the July, State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meeting.

Ms. Boer introduced Mr. Tom Daly, St. Lucie County Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Daly's membership nomination was submitted for approval at the October SERC meeting. Ms. Boer introduced Ms. Kim Koho, the new LEPC Administrative staff. She asked that the members make note of emails from Ms. Koho as the new contact with the District 10 LEPC.

Ms. Ridgill explained that the mission of the Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association is to promote responsible use of plant protection in Florida. She stated that her goal today was to encourage discussion between the industry and local emergency planning councils.

The West, Texas plant explosion tragedy occurred with approximately 15 dead, 200 injured and \$100 million in property damage; many of which were first responders. The goal was to learn why it happened

and to prevent it from happening again. She explained that the West, Texas Fertilizer Company was a privately held fertilizer plant that had been in operation since 1962, being purchased in 2004 by Donald Adair. The site stored 100,000 pounds of Anhydrous Ammonia, 270 tons of Ammonium Nitrate (AN), bulk pesticides, seed, and grain. She stated that it was similar to Florida's bulk blend plants, not Florida's phosphate manufacturing facilities and she explained the fertilizer industry's use of different type of fertilizers and AN. Ms. Boer asked what the difference was between the phosphate facilities here in Florida and bulk plant facilities in Texas. Ms. Ridgill stated that the plant in Texas changed the chemical construction of the molecule where as the Florida phosphate plants did not.

Ms. Boer asked if she could discuss the West, Texas Facility diagram and said that she understood heat was a major issue in the fire. Ms. Boer asked if there were 20 to 30 tons on site as stated on her diagram, and if she knew what triggered the explosion. Ms. Ridgill said that the investigation was still ongoing and that a cause had not been determined. There was a primary investigation going on with regards to the fire and a secondary investigation with regards to the explosion itself. Ms. Ridgill reviewed the different actions the FFAA (Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association) took along with national fertilizer groups; reviewing the site with emergency responders, taking a critical look at the state of facilities and regulatory compliance, and reinforced the NFPA 400 code for the storage and handling of AN. Ms. Ridgill will provide Ms. Boer with contact information for Steven Moss, Out-reach Coordinator, Palm Beach Homeland Security Bureau who could do a presentation with regards to the Business Partners Against Terrorism (BPAT) program.

Ms. Ridgill noted that The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), the American Retailer Association (ARA), and state associations circulated Asmark Institutes on-line Compliance Assessment Tool for agriculture retail operations which was available online at <https://www.asmark.org/ComplianceAssessmentTool>. They are setting up a Fertilizer Code of Practices and Initiatives which are a set of voluntary compliance standards. After the West, Texas Plant explosion, AN was added to the draft code of practices. They also helped individual states reinforce NFPA400 codes for storage and handling of AN. The industry would like to see a more uniformed application of fire code rules and regulation of facilities. Ms. Boer suggested that if there was going to be a third party inspection, that it might be beneficial to discuss it with local county fire departments and county emergency managers. The LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committees) in the State of Florida were already poised to do this type of site visit. Ms. Ridgill then noted the following acronyms for The Fertilizer Institute, (TFI), The Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association (FFAA), and the America Retailers Association (ARA).

Ms. Ridgill stated that awareness, education, and communication were necessary to make sure the industry's guiding principles were achieved, and to foster new and continuing partnerships between the agricultural industry, the SERC, LEPCs, and local first responders. They also want to promote the concepts of product stewardship throughout a product's lifecycle; develop codes of practice for AN storage and handling; and create a comprehensive and efficient third party auditing and inspection process for facilities. The benefits to the Fertilizer Code of Practice Initiative are regulatory compliance, provision of better documentation of company policies, provides a systematic approach to employee training, lowers safety and environmental incidents, and provides better communication with the local community,

In closing, Ms. Ridgill emphasized that the fertilizer industry is committed to do their best to continue to work with government and others to manage the risks inherent to the industry. and learning from the West, Texas fertilizer company tragedy. To obtain more information about these organizations, you can visit three websites; The Fertilizer Institute, www.TFI.org, The Agriculture Retailer Association,

www.ARAdc.org, and The Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association, www.FFAA.org. She stated that if anyone would like a tour of a bulk blend facility to please contact her.

Mr. Lux pointed out that the discussion regarding plant facilities may foster one set of rules while dealing with the transportation of chemicals might garner another. He stated as Ms. Boer pointed out that while AN is not on a list of hazardous chemicals, it is on the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) list as a chemical for mass destruction. It is regulated coming through ports, and at some ports its shipment is restricted like Miami and Fort Lauderdale. There is some education needed regarding this project that should require a review from the DHS. Ms. Boer pointed out that there were many consistency issues that needed to be addressed and agreed with Mr. Lux that it should be discussed. Establishing public/ private partnership would be a huge benefit to facilities that store, manufacturer, and transport these chemicals. Ms. Boer explained that the LEPC funding for hazardous materials training is through the Department of Transportation (DOT) and that it is important to make sure that aspects of transportation are addressed. Chief Mary Murphy asked Ms. Ridgdill with regards to partnerships, if she had contacted the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Ms. Ridgdill said that they had not since they were still in the process of dealing with local organizations and were not yet in a lobbying position. She said that Ms. Hartney would be better prepared to answer her question since she her job is to coordinate organizations to lobby for reform of these standards. Ms. Murphy then stated that when she heard that they were coordinating on the local level, she wanted to point out that to be effective they need to go to the state level. That is why she suggested the IAFF, the IAFC, and the State Fire Marshall's Office be brought on board. She said that this effort does affect what they as fire fighters do, and that her County had one tragedy and Lake County had another one just recently. She said that once the firefighters are brought on board, and they start having discussions with politicians, change can be effected. Ms. Murphy stated "Reach out to us, we will help you."

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting – Hazardous Materials Incident Reports

Ms. Boer reported that she included all of the regions in the tables to give an overview of what was happening around the state. Table I reflects the potential Section 304 investigations at fixed facilities; Table II shows incidents and injury evacuation; and Table III reflects transportation incidents with evacuations, injuries, and deaths. Graph I shows the total number of hazardous materials incidents per year and Graph II compares incidents that occurred at fixed facilities to those involving transportation related incidents by region. She advised the Committee that any time they wished to visit the SERC website; they could see them in their totality.

** Chairman Bushman asked that we move ahead to the Training Task Force updates and turned the floor over to Captain Nelson.

Training Task Force Update – Captain Nelson

There were a few issues that were discussed at the State Training Task Force (TTF) in October last quarter; the first item being a set of operating protocols or guidelines that the training task force developed for the SERC so that the Hazardous Materials teams around the State could have a common set of protocols for response. The TTF recently updated the protocol adding two new protocols: the Foam Protocol and the Marine Operations Protocol. Captain Nelson explained that it was somewhat difficult to develop the Foam Response Protocol because it needs to be broad enough to include most of the different types of products, but if it too broad it would become less useful because it becomes less specific in advice. The Marine Operations Response Protocol was response to oil and tar balls on beaches from the Deep Water Horizon incident. There was a long history of dealing with clean up by responders that were

contracted by the spiller. Although the hazardous materials technicians have a lot of training, they do not have specific training for that type of product or for that environment. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was presented as a draft agreement with one of the LEPC Districts and the U.S. Coast Guard, wherein hazardous materials teams assisted them doing recon and site characterization involving training them to operate off helicopter platforms. There was discussion between Captain Nelson and Chairman Bushman regarding the “sell” of getting fire fighters up in helicopters and both agreed the harder sell would be the picking up of tar balls. Captain Nelson said that the TTF was currently in the process of reviewing the protocols and looking to coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard District 7, which covers most of Florida, excluding parts of the panhandle, to secure an MOU with regards to cleanup of oil spills, allowing the responders to work hand in hand with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Captain Nelson stated that the project tracking chart, which keeps track of everything that the TTF does is on the FDEM website. It has been redesigned so that it is more user-friendly and includes more historical information.

The 2014 Second Annual Hazardous Materials Symposium is going to be held in conjunction with Fire Rescue East in Daytona Beach in January, 2014. Improvements to training will include hands on training and adding a hazardous materials competition. The competition is open to any industry based hazardous materials teams, not just fire rescue departments. Anyone who wants to field a competition team would be welcome. Captain Nelson stated that they were accepting submissions up to August 12th for anyone that would like to teach a class. There was a discussion about LEPCs sponsoring instructors. Ms. Boer stated that she sent the invitation that was forwarded to her by Jennifer Hobbs, LEPC District 6 Chairperson. The invitation was for volunteer trainers to teach a class during the Symposium. The LEPC would sponsor their mileage, hotel and per diem for the days they teach.

Captain Nelson said the other large issue was that the State was currently looking at the funding for hazardous materials teams. There are at present 28 funded hazardous materials teams in the State. The oversight committee that handles the funding, the Federal programs, for those teams recommended going down in the number of teams to a maximum of 3 teams per region. Theoretically you might have 21 teams but because there are some regions that don't currently have three teams and are not allowed to add any additional teams. So if a region had two teams they would not be allowed to get the third one bringing the total down to 18 funded teams in the State instead of 21.

Ms. Boer stated that this was an item that the TTF brought to the SERC as an issue and recommended that the TTF State FDEM staff write a letter, under Chief Murphy's motion, which should be evaluated after data had been gathered on the number of teams in the regions. They felt strongly that the decision for funding should be made by the SERC, who are the experts, or who can gather a committee of experts. The TTF felt that when the original decision making process first began regarding the Hazardous Materials teams, it should have been done so by the SERC. The TTF feels very strongly that this should not be an arbitrary decision. Captain Nelson said that in fairness they also made the same recommendation for SWAT teams and EOD teams in order to reduce the number of overall specialty teams in the State.

Captain Nelson said that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ended the active response phase for the Deep Water Horizon incident, which means that they are no longer actively looking for oil, but they will still investigate washing ashore of tar balls.

Ms. Boer stated that the Florida Department of Emergency Management, (FDEM), staff mentioned there were several training opportunities coming up and he would forward them to the LEPCs. There will be TransCAER training offered September 10th -13th at the Florida State Fire College. Training is

focused on railcars and Chlorine and Ethel Alcohol. He deferred to Ms. Boer regarding travel expense reimbursement. Ms. Boer said that it would be offered for (4) four, 8 hour, one day trainings. The LEPC would pay for travel, but at the same time, District 10 LEPC was trying to bring the TransCAER training here in October or November. She said that if there was someone who needed to be sent immediately, the LEPC would be glad to fund their attendance.

Chairman Bushman said that they had discussion along the same lines regarding the WD teams funding. He said that he thought that they might lose funding but were hoping to retain the teams. He said that there were concerns regarding the funded equipment. If they lose funding then the 14 regions would have to decide how to split the dollars.

Regarding tar balls and oil on beaches, Mr. Daly asked if anything had changed with the local area contingency plans which consisted of "if the locals touched the oil, they owned the oil." Captain Nelson stated that he did not know, but he said that they would be assisting the Federal response instead of the other way around and would be a resource available to them. Mr. Daly said that we should be aware of clauses in any agreement being signed by elected officials that provides that expectation. Captain Nelson agreed that there was a misconception that once you start to create waste, then you own all of the waste. He said that they Committee discussed that there were Federal Material Response Assets but the response time was not timely. The idea was to get an initial recon done, and by getting resources distributed quicker, it would allow the U.S. Coast Guard to use a local hazardous materials team, which was its focus.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs Meeting Update

The eleven Florida LEPC Chairs and Staff met on July 11, 2013 in Tallahassee. The following were points of discussion; the Hazards Analysis Program Workshop report, LEPC membership category expansion and the E-Plan Tier II system. Chairman Bushman stated that with regards to the Hazardous Analysis Program Workshop presentation, he did not believe it had made much progress. He asked Captain Nelson if he recalled any other information from the meeting. Captain Nelson stated that the larger issue that the Florida of Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) staff was trying to reduce redundancy. He cited an example of doing site visits for cell phone towers. Chairman Bushman said that there might be more direction with regard to that at the next few meetings. Also, FDEM sent letters out to the facilities encouraging them to use the electronic E-Plan software program to file Tier II reports. This is the third system that has been used over the course of several years. He does think that this one is better as it has a 78 % usage rate. He added that conventional paper submittals were still accepted.

Ms. Boer announced that the next SERC meeting will be October 4, 2013 in Tallahassee, The LEPC Chairs, staff, and the TTF, and meetings would be held on the October 3, 2012, adding that is when Mr. Daly's nomination for LEPC appointment would be approved.

REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

Chairman Bushman thanked Ms. Boer for pulling together the LEPC Biennial Regional Hazardous Materials Response Exercise that was conducted on June 28, 2013. He stated that she did a very good job putting it together. He attended the majority of it, and said that it was a very competent exercise, well put together and well run. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, provided the space for the exercise. Chairman Bushman deferred to Ms. Boer regarding the details about the exercise. Ms. Boer thanked the Chairman and proceeded with the Planning Subcommittee report. She said they had eight evaluators show up which was a record and had

seventy five attendees at the exercise. There were all levels of staff from the different agencies as well as observers. Captain Nelson, Mr. Lasaga, Mr. Greg Thompson, Mr. Mike Geier, and Chairman Chris Bushman were evaluators. Ms. Sally Waite represented Emergency. Mr. Daly came and represented St. Lucie County Emergency Management also serving as an evaluator. Chief Engel from Boca Raton also played in the exercise. Agency attendance was outstanding. The Florida Department of Environmental (FDEP), the FBI, multi-county Fire Rescue and law enforcement, Palm Tran, Palm Beach International Airports, and the Port of Palm Beach all attended.

Ms. Boer stated that she structured the exercise to respond to a terrorist group that targeted major transportation venues in Palm Beach County thereby affecting adjacent county transportation as well as national and international flights. The Port of Palm Beach was pretty much destroyed; all buses and PalmTran were affected. There were bombs planted on five buses of the fifty that were running that day. PalmTran had buses stop on the road and evacuate immediately. Florida Eastcoast Railway (FEC) was affected with trains headed into Deerfield Beach with a bomb attached to the bottom of a chlorine tanker. Ms. Boer commented that everyone had showed up having players from the federal level down to the local level and that she was very impressed with the attendance. Ms. Boer thanked the eight evaluators commented that usually she has always had a shortage of evaluators but the LEPC made a great effort to show support. Captain Nelson mentioned that there was a large Health Department response and part of that was built in for them. The exercise scenario included a cloud drift over a passenger loaded cruise ship that was docked at the berth a 100 yards away. The Parathion exploded and floated over the cruise ship. People on the dock were waiting to board the cruise ship when two semi-tractor trailers rammed the dock facility and the ship. The ship had boarded 1200 to 1600 people. One terrorist group member was rolling a cart around the buffet bar dropping botulism in breakfast buffet items. Four hours later people on the ship started to get very sick. At that point DOH Epidemiology got heavily involved, and mass prophylaxis was set up along with mass decontamination. Chairman Bushman stated that everyone played important roles.

Captain Nelson said that he had several comments made to him that people had done similar tabletop exercises more recently which were not as useful as this one. They thought that this one was very worthwhile. Ms. Boer accepted the compliment and commented that she enjoyed planning the event.

Public Information Exchange

Staff requested that any informational materials related to hazardous materials from agencies they would like to have posted on the District 10 LEPC website be forwarded.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

Staff attended the following:

- May 2nd, 2013: District 10 LEPC quarterly meeting in St. Lucie County Department of Health in Fort Pierce, Florida.
- June 13, 2013: Hazardous Analysis Program meeting scheduled by FDEM staff to discuss the scope of work and potential CAMEO software improvements in Tallahassee, Florida.
- July 11th, 2013: State Training Task Force meeting and the LEPC Chairs and staff meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida.
- July 12th 2013: SERC meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida on July 12th, 2013.
- July 15th 2013: staff also attended the FDEM facilitated regional training on Hazards Analysis 2013 – 2014 contract requirements.

Two non-LEPC Emergency Management Preparedness activities were attended as follows:

- June 13th, staff was invited to and attended the National Preparedness Institute Advisory Board housed at Indian River State College, Fort Pierce, Florida.
- June 17th, 2013 was the completion to the update to the Martin County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan – Basic Plan.

Contract Activities Update

Training

Ms. Boer stated that the LEPC finished the 160 hour Hazardous Materials Technician Level training in Indian River County. She thanked Ms. LoPresti and Director King for hosting the training.

She announced that there would be a four Clandestine Methamphetamine Lab training classes offered August 4th and 5th in Palm Beach County; August 15th in Martin County ; and August 16th in St. Lucie County. She thanked the hosts for those classes. She said that the increase in attendance was due to the escalation of lab incidents/responses in the region. Law enforcement, Fire Rescue, DOH, DEP, and other agencies attended. Over the four trainings there were over 210 persons in attendance.

Ms. Boer also noted upcoming 3 eight (8) hour Field Chemical Analysis classes to be conducted in St. Lucie County August 19 -21, 2013.

Planning

Ms. Boer said that the planning project for the year is the 302 Facility Hazards Summary which entails a complete listing of chemical facilities for storing EHS in the region. Next year's project has not been decided upon. She stated she would like to send out a list of options to the LEPC membership asking them for a preference.

Ms Boer stated that the St. Lucie County was kind enough to issue the contract for Hazards Analyses to the LEPC again to do site visits for EHS facilities.

Membership

Ms. Boer welcomed aboard Mr. Derek Ortado, and his alternate Ms. Heather Rothe, representing law enforcement from the City of Stuart Police Department.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND STAFF

Ms. Boer asked that the alternates review contact information on the sign-in sheet to make sure it was correct.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Daly, St. Lucie County Emergency Management, asked the members for assistance with a full- scale exercise that they were conducting in December. He explained that it would be in three locations which would then all be tied together. They would welcome evaluators and observers on a large scale, as one of the locations was going to be The Met's Stadium. They would section off a part of the bleachers that would be strictly for people who want to observe. Ms. Boer asked if victims would be needed and Mr. Daly responded that they would need about 300 actors. They had been recruiting and hoped to have

enough. The end result will be WMD Terrorism, mass fatality and casualty incident response. Mr. Daly said that he would be sending out letter invitations. He said that observers would be needed at the staging area, the scene, hospitals and the EOC. Ms. Boer asked for the date of the exercise and Mr. Daly said that it would be Wednesday, December 4, 2013. She asked what time it would start and he said that they were still working on it but that one portion of the kick off might start at 7:00 am, but it would be about 8:00 or 9:00 am for the stadium part itself. Chairman Bushman said that if Mr. Daly sent the information to Ms. Boer, they would make sure that it was sent out. Mr. Daly said that two years ago they did a full scale exercise with an active shooter and their goal every two years was to do a more complex full scale exercise.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next LEPC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2013. The remaining meeting dates for 2013 are noted below, and as well for 2014. Ms. Boer invited LEPC members to volunteer to host the next LEPC meeting.

November 7, 2013
February 6, 2014
May 1, 2014
August 7, 2014
November 6, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.