



**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 10 LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**
November 15, 2012

Committee Members

Anderson, Mark
Bushman, Chris, Chairman
Carberry, Edward
Engel, Norm
Gannon, Ana
Geier, Mike (Alternate)
Holman, John
Lasaga, Frank
Lux, Harry
McCartt, Jack
Nelson, Joe, Vice Chair
Perkins, Richard
Rawicz, Dave
Sisilli, Alane (Alternate)
Sookhoo, Sharlene (Alternate)
Stewart, Barry
Thompson, Greg
Vogt, Charles (Alternate)

Occupational Category

Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
Transportation (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Local Environmental (Department of Environmental Protection)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Emergency Management (City of Stuart)
Interested Citizen (Hazmat & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
Interested Citizen (ATEC, Inc.)
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Facility Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)
Facility Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)
Emergency Management (Florida Atlantic University)
Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)
Interested Citizen (Sun Sentinel)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)

Members Absent

DiFruscio, Anthony
Dunn, Cheryl
Dunne, Cheryl
Graff, Steven
Laryea, Nicholas
LoPresti, Etta
McCaughy, Debra
Meding, Paul
Norris, Peter
Passanesi, Joseph
Peterson, Vince
Phillips, Tom
Seldes, Paul
Sperber, Clint
Valle, Carlos
Waite, Sally

Occupational Category

Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Facility Operator (Syngenta Crop Protection)
Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)
Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Emergency Management (Martin County)
Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Incorporated)
Facility Owner and Operator (Scripps Research Institute)
Law Enforcement (Martin County Sheriff's Office)
Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)
Interested Citizen
Interested Citizen (ntb Group, LLC)
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney – Rocketdyne)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)

Wilson-Davis, Lisa
Wouters, Dan
Zabel, Dennis

Non-Elected Local Official (City of Boca Raton)
Firefighting (Martin County Fire Rescue)
Local Environmental (Harbor Branch Oceanographic
Institute)

Staff

Kathryn Boer
Penny Myszkowski

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

Visitors

George Colson
Nick Sanders

Florida Department of Health
Select Specialty Hospital – Palm Beach

APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 15, 2012 MEETING

Mr. Greg Thompson moved approval of the November 15, 2012 agenda. Ms. Anna Gannon **Motion** seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 2, 2012

Mr. Greg Thompson moved approval of the August 2, 2012 minutes. Ms. Anna Gannon seconded **Motion** the motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

Staff reported the last State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meeting was held in Tallahassee on October 12, 2012. The SERC Training Task Force (TTF) meeting was held on October 11th and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Chairs and Staff meeting were held October 11th. Staff briefed the District 10 LEPC on the following new business:

2012 District 10 Thomas Yatabe Awards and Certificates of Appreciation

Staff stated that Larry Nadeau, Director of Operations, ATL Diversified Industries/Disaster Recovery (formerly Emergency Management, City of Port St. Lucie), gave many years of service to the LEPC and will receive the annual Thomas Yatabe Award from the SERC. He will be invited to accept the award in Daytona Beach at the January SERC meeting.

The SERC also awards Certificates of Appreciation. These were awarded to Indian River County Emergency Services, Martin County Fire Rescue, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, and the St. Lucie County Fire District. Staff said these agencies all work closely with the LEPC forwarding opportunities for training, providing training space, and participating in planning and exercises. The Certificates of Appreciation were approved at the October SERC meeting, and will be presented at the February LEPC meeting.

Hazardous Materials and Explosive Ordinance Teams Integration Protocol

Staff said the Protocol was approved at the October 12, 2012 SERC meeting. A copy is provided in the agenda. Captain Nelson said the purpose of the protocol is to integrate the response of EOD (Explosive Ordinance) teams with hazardous materials teams, create training opportunities and guidance on plan writing. At the last LEPC meeting it was discussed that the LEPC consider a region-wide conference regarding integration of protocol guidelines to agency plans and training. Captain Nelson agreed that would be a good first step. Staff asked members to start putting a list of contacts together and start checking if there is an interest in this type of training. The RDSTF will also send this information out to law enforcement agencies. Staff suggested an 8-hour day with half a day of training and the 2nd half of the day be discussion.

Chief Engel said they did a hands-on training on a local level, and the protocol is now part of their Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). When there is a bomb call, hazmat personnel respond with the bomb squad. The next training will be rescue scenarios with monitors and meters on robots. Staff asked that they be notified of the details.

New Tier II Chemical Inventory Report

Staff said there are three ways for facilities to complete the annual reporting requirements for hazardous materials storage on site. Facilities with Risk Management Plans usually store the high quantities of chemicals. Web HMIS is the Florida web based electronic reporting database some facilities are using. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reporting software is Tier II Submit and it includes all the pertinent information for the facility. Facilities may also use this to complete annual reporting. The third method is the conventional paper filing. It is required that a copy be sent to the LEPC and the local jurisdictional fire department. This reporting system may be enabled in 2014 or 2015. Several areas, including latitude and longitude and separate data fields for pure chemical and mixtures, will be added.

Staff said Section 4, the toxic release inventory and the Risk Management Program will have numbers and codes. Some facilities have not been manned, such as waste water treatment plants. They are now required to show that they are manned because worst case scenario, there could be someone on site. Emergency contact numbers are required on the new form.

Mr. Geier reported that Palm Beach County has 97 facilities for Tier II reporting and there is a lot of confusion between the facility owner/operators on the web based reporting. He only received 30 Tier II reports so far this year. He feels there needs to be more training for facilities. Also he feels the sulfuric acid in batteries needs to be looked at because many of the batteries are gel style batteries and the batteries are interconnected. For example, a country club might have 75 golf carts with all the batteries being charged simultaneously.

Staff explained that new rules have come out for sulfuric acid. Typically, cell phone towers run on sulfuric acid batteries. The rule that came out two years ago was that even if you store under 500 pounds of sulfuric acid, it had to be reported. Now 100 or more pounds have to be reported. Staff said that when staff go out to facilities with sulfuric acid, they are looking at the reported quantity of the entire amount of sulfuric acid on site. One battery, which contains 15 pounds of sulfuric acid, is the maximum amount in one container.

Mr. Geier said that what he found was that there is often an issue with reporting with the interconnected batteries. Staff said that after a site visit, the information is put into CAMEO software and the amount in the largest container has to be entered. This changes the vulnerability distances. Also sulfuric acid now comes in different concentrations.

Staff added that when the Buffer Zone Protection Plan was operating after 9/11, there was grant money linked to providing the camera and security for facilities, while now there is little money linked to the ACAM for facilities to increase security.

Hazardous Materials Incident Reports

Tables 1, 2, and 3 list incidents for the period of June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012. Table 1 lists hazardous materials incidents that are potential Section 304 investigations. Table 2 lists fixed facility hazardous materials incidents with evacuations, injuries and deaths. Table 3 was not included because the Treasure Coast Region had no reported transportation incidents with evacuations, injuries and deaths. Staff reported at the last LEPC meeting that an incident at Coastal Chemical in Palm Beach County had resulted in a fatality from a chlorine gas release. Staff participated in an inspection at Coastal Chemical with the State Risk Management Program representatives.

Graphs I and II provide information on hazardous materials incident reports from January 1, 2000 through August 31, 2012. Graph II compares incidents that occurred at fixed facilities to those involving transportation related incidents during the same time period. The full report is on the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) website under SERC Agenda.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs Meeting Update

Chief Bushman and staff attended the LEPC Chairs and Staff meeting on October 11, 2012 in Tallahassee. He said the U.S. Coast Guard was there reaching out to the LEPCs to be part of plan building. Anna Gannon said she could let staff know when the next meeting with the Coast Guard will take place in South Florida. Staff asked Ms. Gannon to report on the information from the upcoming Coast Guard meeting at the next LEPC meeting.

Staff said The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Contract for the July – September 2012 period was received. The contract period for the next year reflects a splitting of the single contract into two contracts during the one year period. New funding started is for October 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 and the second period will be July 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013.

Chief Bushman reported that George Danz has retired from the SERC as the LEPC Chair of Chairs. The Chairs and staff welcomed Ms. Jennifer Hobbs as the new LEPC Chair of Chairs representing the 11 LEPC Planning Committees statewide. Ms. Hobbs is the District 6 Chair in the Orlando Region.

Chief Bushman added that Paul Wotherspoon discussed the intentions of discontinuing the Hazards Analysis grants to counties. Much discussion followed that announcement at the Chairs meeting. Staff conducts the St. Lucie County Hazards Analysis.

The next SERC meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2013 in District 6 in Daytona Beach.

State Training Task Force Update – Captain Nelson

The State Training Task Force (TTF) met on October 11, 2012 in Tallahassee. Mr. McCartt attended the meeting and Chief Nelson attends the mid quarter conference calls. Mr. McCartt said the upcoming training symposium will include training in hazardous materials and will be on January 23-25, 2013. Mr. McCartt said one of the problems with the Hazards Analysis funding is when the State gives money for an exercise, the exercise has to happen within a certain period of time. Staff reported that the funding for a specific project, if unused, can be requested to be moved to another training or exercise project.

Captain Nelson recently attended the E-Plan conference in Atlanta. He reported that information entered into E-Plan by responders is sent to the University of Texas. Some of the information sent to E-Plan has been incomplete. E-Plan is funded indirectly by money from DHS to the university and that money has been discontinued. The University has committed to maintain the database. Mr. Geier asked what user fees (annual reporting fees) were paid to the state for storage of hazardous chemicals are used for. Staff said they fund the hazards analysis program.

Captain Nelson reported that E-Plan is not expected and was never intended to replace CAMEO reporting. E-Plan is accessible to all first responders. The state updates Web HMIS and then that data is sent to E-Plan. The purpose is to get the most up to date information from each local area. Staff said the problem is that there is a lot of data missing and not entered on a timely basis.

Captain Nelson added that he accepted the position of Co-Chair for the E-Plan Users Group and will oversee four conference calls. The E-Plan Users Group Conference will be in New Orleans, Louisiana next year.

REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

The Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan has been updated and was submitted to the FDEM for review. The plan was approved by the SERC at the October 12, 2012 quarterly meeting.

Staff said the LEPC Resource Manual that each LEPC member received is being updated. It will have the new SERC policies for LEPCs and an appendice that will include EOD bomb protocols and an updated Florida LEPCs map. Staff will send members the manual electronically in small sections and asked that members send back any updates on these sections. Staff will incorporate the changes into the manual. Staff also said a planning exercise will take place in June and she will need volunteers for the exercise planning committee.

Public Information Exchange

Chief Bushman requested that staff be informed about any informational materials relating to hazardous materials from agencies that can be posted on the District 10 LEPC website.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

A list of the planning activities since the previous meeting of August 2, 2012 was included in the agenda packet. Also attached was a list of emergency management and preparedness activities attended by staff.

Contract Activities Update

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness

The 2012/2013 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant began October 1, 2012. This grant provides annual funding for hazardous materials related training to the Region's first responders, and for specific planning projects.

Training

During the fourth quarter of the 2011/2012 contract cycle, The District 10 LEPC sponsored one 24-hour Hazardous Materials Waste Operations for the Responder (Hazwoper) on September 18-20, 2012 in Wellington.

Classes conducted during the first quarter of the new grant cycle include one (1) 16-hour CAMEOfm/MARPLOT and Aloha software training class held October 22-23, 2012 hosted by the Indian River County Emergency Operations Center in Vero Beach. In addition, Captain Joseph Nelson was sponsored to attend the E-Plan Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, October 23-25, 2012.

Planning

Staff is completing the Commodity Flow Study project for the 2011/2012 Planning grant cycle. Once approved, staff will distribute the study to the Committee members.

Hazardous Analyses

Staff reported the St. Lucie County 2012/2013 Hazardous Materials Analysis has been received from the FDEM on behalf of St. Lucie County. Site visits to Section 302 Facilities will begin in December.

Membership

Membership Appointment

On October 12, 2012, the SERC approved the appointment of Mr. Ricky Givens as alternate to Mr. Dave Rawicz, Cheney Brothers, Inc. However, Mr. Givens is now unable to serve in this position.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND STAFF

Staff noted they would like to bring back the instructor of the 4-hour Chemical Suicide Training class. Southwest Florida LEPC wants to hold this class as well, so staff will coordinate training days. Typically we have two classes in Palm Beach, one in St. Lucie, one in Indian, and one in Martin County.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Gannon thanked Chief Anderson for the exercise she was invited to attend and Delray Beach Fire Rescue for their help in an incident in Delray Beach involving nitric acid.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2013, in Stuart. The meeting dates for 2013 are noted below:

February 7, 2013
May 2, 2013
August 1, 2013
November 7, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.