



**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 10 LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
February 5, 2015**

Committee Members

Nelson, Joseph, Chair
Carberry, Edward
*Geier, Mike
*Harshburger, Daniel
Herndon, Kevin
Holman, John

Jones, Derrell
Koener, David
Lasaga, Frank
Mayer, Timothy
McCartt, Jack

McCaughey, Debra
Meding, Paul
Norris, Peter
Ortado, Derek
Perkins, Richard
Rawicz, Dave
Joan Rivera
Stewart, Barry
Valle, Carlos
*Vogt, Charles
Zabel, Dennis

Excused

Engel, Norm
Daly, Tom
Lo Presti, Etta
Lux, Harry

Phillips, Tom
Seldes, Paul

Occupational Category

Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Transportation (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Fire Rescue (Martin County)
Firefighting (St. Lucie County)
Law Enforcement (City of
Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Law Enforcement (Palm Beach)
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Emergency Management (City of Stuart Fire Rescue)
Health (FL Department of Health Palm Beach County)
Interested Citizen (Advanced Technical and Educational
Consultants, Inc.)
Emergency Management (Martin County)
Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)
Facility Owner and Operator (Scripps Research Institute)
Law Enforcement (City of Stuart)
Facility Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)
Health (FL Department of Health St. Lucie County)
Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney)
Health (FL Department of Health Indian River County)
Local Environmental
(Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute)

Occupational Category

Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Emergency Management (St. Lucie County)
Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Interested Citizen (Hazardous Materials & Safety
Solutions, Inc.)
Interested Citizen
Interested Citizen (ntb Group, LLC)

Absent

Brown, Kenton

Echazabal, Tony
Joseph, Glenn
Laryea, Nicholas
Passanesi, Joseph
Peterson, Vince
Sanders, Nick
Thompson, Greg

Occupational Category

Local Environmental
(FL Department of Environmental Protection)
Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
Non-Elected Official (City of Boca Raton)
Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
Law Enforcement (Martin County Sheriff’s Office)
Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)
Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)
Safety (Sun Sentinel)

Staff

Kathryn Boer
Kim Koho

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

Visitors

Cesario, Frank
Fiorey, Brian
Iversen, Kent
Payne, Jack
Poziomek, Lisa

Torres, Evilio

United States Coast Guard, Emergency Planner
Delray Beach Fire Rescue
Allied Universal
Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol
Florida Department of Health Martin County,
Public Health Preparedness Coordinator
Allied Universal

** denotes Alternate was present in Primary member’s seat*

Ms. Boer welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 5, 2015 MEETING

Mr. Perkins moved approval of the February 5, 2015, agenda. Mr. Rawicz seconded the motion, **Motion** which carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 6, 2014

Mr. McCart moved approval of the November 6, 2014, minutes. Chief Herndon seconded the **Motion** motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

2013 Thomas Yatabe Award and Certificates of Appreciation

Ms. Boer said the 2013 Thomas Yatabe Award was presented to Mr. Greg Thompson, Sun Sentinel, at the January 21, 2015 SERC meeting. Mr. Thompson has been a long time member of the District 10 LEPC. He assists staff with evaluations, planning, and exercises and thanked him for his hard work. Ms. Boer explained that Mr. Thompson serves District 6, 10, and 11 simultaneously.

Ms. Boer said that the Thomas Yatabe Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Mr. Kenton Brown, Mr. Barry Stewart, and Mr. Harry Lux. She thanked them their help and participation in the District 10 LEPC.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs Meeting Update

Ms. Boer reported that the LEPC chairs and staff meeting were held on January 20, 2015, in conjunction with the 2015 Annual Hazmat Symposium in Daytona Beach, Florida. She reported that the symposium was well attended. Ms. Boer stated that District 10 LEPC would be offering a training two sessions; "Hazardous Materials, How-to-Comply Workshop and E-Plan Reporting" on February 11, 2015, at the City of Stuart and in St. Lucie County, state staff will be conducting the workshops. All 302/312 facilities were invited.

Ms. Boer said a Hazardous Materials 160-hour level course conducted in West Palm Beach was held with additional funding by Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM). Currently, staff is working on getting the same class conducted in Martin County, and are looking for local instructors.

The Multi-Year Training and Exercise Program (MYTEP) is a three year planning program for regional and local training and exercises. She explained that part of the process is to find out what exercises are being held on a regional and local level so that exercise objectives can be met and agencies can hopefully combine expenses to reduce the number held. She will be sending out the current TEPs with an explanation of the information needed.

Ms. Boer announced that the District 10 LEPC Biennial Exercise will be held before June 30, 2015. It hasn't been determined whether it will be a tabletop exercise or functional hybrid. She asked if any agency had exercise objectives or an exercise they were planning, to please contact her they would like to be a part of the biennial exercise.

Mr. Geier said that if anyone needed any information regarding the radiological nuclear component of MYTEP to please contact him. Ms. Boer stated that she would provide his contact information.

Captain Nelson, Chair, announced there was a new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) liaison present at the meeting, Ms. Kelly Platt. She is the Region 4 EPA Community Right-to-know Act inspector and the point of contact for the LEPC. He stated that EPA is very happy with the way that Florida operates its LEPCs and with the activeness of the SERCS. Ms. Boer said that many states actually do not have regional LEPCs. Mr. Iversen stated that he had previously worked in Georgia and found the LEPCs to be disorganized.

Captain Nelson, Chair, said that hazards analyses, in the future, will be loaded directly under the SharePoint portal on the GATOR website. The benefit to using SharePoint is that shared information is available for addressing a statewide response.

Training Task Force Update – Chairman Nelson

Captain Nelson, Chair, stated that it was the third year for the Hazmat Symposium which was held in Daytona Beach, Florida in conjunction with the SERC and TTF meetings and the Fire Rescue East conference. There were eight teams in the competition and the City of Orlando team took the trophy for best overall. Mr. Boer said that Chief Engel attended the Symposium and was very pleased with the training. He told her the only drawback to the symposium was that the training was being held during the hazmat competitions. The teams consist of three team members and an alternate. Captain Nelson, Chair, stated that he would like to see District 10 LEPC represented next year. He said the competition was held off site in Volusia County which went very well and the SERC has committed to participating again next year, most likely with Fire Rescue East. Captain Nelson was not sure if Fire Rescue East would be in Daytona, and Chief Harshburger stated that there is a contract in place for 2016.

Captain Nelson, Chair, continued his briefing of the SERC Training Task Force (TTF) saying the following items have gone out to bid: the update of the SERC Training Guidelines, and the Hazmat Technician Competition Book. He explained that when new hazardous materials technicians go through their training, a task Book is signed off which certifies that they are able to do their competencies. The book needs to be updated to match the National Fire Protection Association codes 472 and 473. The TTF also discussed making the update a reoccurring event every couple of years. Ms. Boer said that she has emailed the member's technician refresher check off list to the Committee members for comments. The file is a pdf but comments can be made directly into the document. Public comment period is until February 24, 2015 to submit comments to the state. Ms. Boer said the SERC 2002 Guidelines for Hazardous Materials Training will also be updated. She did not currently have the draft, but she would send it to the Committee when it becomes available.

Captain Nelson, Chair, said that the State is working on finalizing the language regarding how hazardous materials technicians will be certified. He said that if anyone is interested in seeing the draft document, it is available. The state has agreed to recognize the SERC TTF as the body that will supply the recommendations for the training guidelines curriculum. Captain Nelson said that the State will be recommending that SERC Task Books be the books that are used in training. The final reports will be available on the SERC website.

Captain Nelson, Chair, stated that the Hazardous Materials Awareness Level and Operations level course information which has been available online is being updated and should be available soon. He said that Mr. Bobby Bailey, Florida Department of Health, provided the TTF with an update about PPE caches regarding the Ebola virus and that the PPE caches have been depleted; there is no money to rebuild them. Ms. Boer asked Ms. Rivera and Mr. Vogt, Florida Department of Health, if they have been affected by the lack of PPE caches.

Mr. Vogt stated that Indian River County did not have a sufficient PPE cache supply but could coordinate supply efforts with Orange County if needed. He deferred to Ms. Rivera for further discussion. Ms. Rivera said that most of the DOH offices purchased 3M caches which did not have

an expiration date. Two years ago 3M determined that caches did have an expiration date but that date could neither be confirmed nor denied. The DOH caches are very simple in comparison to those used by first responders. If there is a need for additional caches it would be coordinated with Orange County. Captain Nelson, Chair, stated, that there is no giant warehouse available to store items such as N95 masks or tie back suits, so when there is a large scale immediate or even global demand for these items, it cannot be met. Ms. Rivera said the DOH tries to stock the simple items and rotates their stock. Ms. Boer asked what was done with the old items such as masks and Ms. Rivera said they are donated where the donated item is not a requirement. Ms. Boer asked if they could be used for an exercise and Ms. Rivera said that they could. Ms. Rivera said that DOH had thousands of masks. Also, if items need to be FIT tested for an exercise, each DOH department has multiple FIT testers; it takes about 15 to 20 minutes to FIT test items.

Ms. Boer asked if anyone had any suggestions for additional training to please contact her.

REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

Ms. Boer said she will be sending out an email inviting the Committee to participate in a planning meeting for the upcoming LEPC exercise. The District 10 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan is being updated. The response plan is a tool which shows what each county is doing; it is not a regional plan. She will be sending the final updated plan to everyone.

Public Information Exchange

Ms. Boer asked if anyone had any information that they wished to share with the LEPC. Mr. Jack Payne stated that there are five or six openings for the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Intermediate Academy. He explained that it is a seven day training which includes fundamental basics, practical applications, and course work involving emergency management. The training is to be held at Camp Blanding, Starke, Florida, and will cost two hundred and seventy five dollars. Those interested can register on the FEPA website or SERT Training Resources and Activity Center (TRAC). Ms. Boer explained that SERT TRAC it is a calendar that encompasses training the State advocates or sponsors and that it is a great resource. Those interested can register on the site and upload required certificate prerequisites. She said that if anyone had any additional questions they could contact her. Currently one of the trainings that are offered on SERT TRAC is the Incident Commander course. It is being held at Martin County Public Safety Complex.

Mr. Lasaga reminded everyone that FPA1 Uniform Fire Code is now open for public input. A large part of that fire code (upon which the Florida Fire Prevention Code is based) has to do with hazardous materials and hazardous occupancies. He urged all the Committee members to review the sections that related to their area of expertise (the sixty and plus chapters), and make suggestions regarding anything they felt that needed to be addressed or streamlined. Mr. Lasaga said the information is on the FPA website and that he had sent the link to Ms. Boer and asked that she send it out to Committee members. Ms. Boer asked what the public comment deadline was, and Mr. Lasaga said he thought it was in March.

Mr. Cesario updated the Committee on the USCG activities since the last LEPC meeting. He reviewed the highlights of the USCG triannual prep exercise, the Ebola Emergency Workshop. He also recommended the upcoming Incident Commander course. He announced that next week the USCG would hold a marine firefighting workshop in Port Everglades with a scenario based with having container fires on a container ship. The USCG will also be working on updating annual plans.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

Ms. Boer said the agenda provided a list of the LEPC activities completed since the previous meeting of November 6, 2014, along with a list of emergency management and preparedness activities, and non-LEPC activities. This year there will be an update done of the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. There are many activities and projects that are done by the Regional Planning Council that are related to but not a part of the District 10 LEPC. She asked that if any Committee members have anything to include or have any other emergency planning information to please contact her.

Training

Ms. Boer said that the complete list of classes are listed in the agenda item, 6D, which include a 24 – hour Hazardous Waste Operations for Responders, 8-hour Rapid Identification & Risk Assessment classes, and several Hazardous Materials Awareness Level classes. She stated that the LEPC sponsored one person's attendance at the 160-hour Hazardous Materials Technician Level training at the Florida State Fire College. She reminded the Committee that the District 10 LEPC will pay attendees' registration to State sponsored classes, hotel, mileage, and per diem expenses. If an agency sends more than four or five people, she asks that the attendees double up due to the expense of hotel rooms.

She stated that other regions are only allowing a set amount of attendees because of the expense involved. She suggested the District 10 LEPC might want to look at doing the same, so funding for additional training can be better budgeted. Ms. Boer stated that she will provide options at the next meeting and Captain Nelson asked that it be placed on the agenda.

Planning

Ms. Boer provided a summary of the first quarter planning project which focused on Training Needs Analysis for the District 10 region.

Membership

On January 21, 2015, the SERC met to consider the LEPC nominations for membership. The District 10 LEPC submitted for appointment two nominations each for primary and alternate members. The SERC approved and appointed the following primary members; Deputy Fire Chief Glenn Joseph, City of Boca Raton (category: Non-elected Official), and Ms. Joan Rivera, Florida Department of Health St. Lucie County (category: Health). The SERC also approved the following alternate members; alternate member, Ms. Lisa Wilson-Davis, (Glenn Joseph, primary) City of Boca Raton, and alternate member, Mr. David Koerner, (Joan Rivera, primary), Florida Department of Health St. Lucie County.

The following categories were mentioned: first aid, elected local/state official, civil defense, broadcast media, print media, community group, and utilities. She asked that if anyone knew of any one in those categories who would be willing to serve to please contact staff for nomination forms.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND STAFF

Ms. Boer announced that there will be a two hour course, Hazardous Materials How-to-Comply workshop and annual E-Plan reporting on February 11, 2015. One class will be located at the City of Stuart Fire Rescue starting at 10:00 a.m., and the other class will be located at St. Lucie County Public Safety starting at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Boer stated that she took two Cyber Security classes in Indian River County that were outstanding. The first day was about information technology awareness. The second day was about Emergency Operation Center's role in cyber security. She highly recommended the classes.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. McCart commented on a current event regarding the Jack Rabbit One project which was a partnership with the Transportation Security Administration and Homeland Security. The project was to evaluate the effectiveness of the airborne models with regards to release of chlorine and ammonia and found them to be inaccurate. They also found that during a release of liquid chlorine into the soil it caused explosions forceful enough that could damage fire rescue suits which were a concern for first responders. He explained that Jack Rabbit Two is the second phase of the project process that will look at how the releases affect first responder suits and vehicles. It is an excellent opportunity to capture data on airborne models and instrumentation and such.

Mr. McCart stated that the project is a partnership with the USCG, the military and other agencies. Ms. Boer asked if he could provide the Committee with a summary of the findings and Mr. McCart said that much of the information is classified and what they do release will be useful to first responders. The hope is that once the data is captured it can be applied to the emergency response guide.

Mr. McCart said that he has raw format videos from Jack Rabbit One showing different explosions that he could bring back to the Committee and Ms. Boer asked if he could narrate. He continued explaining that the revealing point of the video shows that the liquid chlorine release travels upwind; it creates its own weather. He said that a plant in South Carolina that experienced a chlorine release found that trees that lined the plant created a natural barrier that protected everything on the opposite side of the plant.

Mr. McCart explained that some of the information on the video might be considered classified and would have to be controlled. Ms. Boer said she would need to know the type of classification the material would have and that she could do that. Mr. McCart said that it would be classified for public safety sensitive, official use only. Captain Nelson, Chair, suggested that the information be listed as planning. Mr. Geier stated that the information could be protected under Florida Statute 119.071 3(a) 1. Captain Nelson said that allowing for the classified information provision, the Committee looks forward to the video presentation by Mr. McCart.

Mr. Geier stated that there was a large release in Palm Beach County of sulfuric acid which is pending an investigation. The release brings into the question of the danger of sulfuric acid. When doing the Hazards Analyses, all sulfuric acid is cataloged in every battery on every site, yet nothing seemed to happen with the large spill of several thousand pounds/gallons. There were no fatalities, and no protective actions or responses were needed. He asked if this type of cataloging, identification, and elaborate planning is needed for this type of hazard. He asked what the relative risk was for example, if all of the golf carts at the Breakers were to leak at the same time. He said that at some point when the LEPC engages the SERC, he would like to see a review of the risk base application of the Hazards Analysis process. Ms. Boer pointed out that the State has allowed the LEPCs to make phone calls in lieu of site visits if the site has been visited last year and nothing has changed. He said that long held assumptions are being questioned because of the better science and technologies that are available. Ms. Boer asked Mr. Geier if he would consider drafting a one page white paper on the subject and he agreed to do so. Ms. Boer said that she would present it at the next LEPC Chairs and Staff meeting of the SERC.

Captain Nelson, Chair, stated that the information needs to reach the EPA and Washington D.C., in order to affect change. Ms. Boer said that presenting this information to the SERC might be a significant way for us to present this information in a structured strategic format. If the SERC feels that issue is a strong one, they may draft a letter of interest to the EPA and that would be the LEPC's level of engagement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District 10 LEPC is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Perkins moved for adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Holman seconded the motion, which carried **Motion** unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.