



**MINUTES OF THE TREASURE COAST LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
August 10, 2017**

Chairman Frank Lasaga welcomed all in attendance, led the pledge of allegiance, and asked for roll call.

Committee Members

Lasaga, Frank, Chairman
Norris, Peter, Vice Chairman
Barrett, Richard
Brown, Kenton

*Bucell, Bridgett

*Burke, Kelley A.

Chen, Jauming

Dixel, Louis

*Gantt, Levy "Harrell"

*Garzaniti, Jon

Graff, Steven

Holman, John

Ivey, Rachel

LoPresti, Etta

Mayer, Timothy

Meding, Paul

Mcglynn, Douglas

Murphy, Michelle

Oatley, Aaron

Perkins, Richard

Rawicz, Dave

*Sisilli, Alane

Thompson, Gregory

Wolfberg, Steve

Vogt, Charles

Occupational Category

Emergency Management (City of Stuart Fire Rescue)

Facility Owner/Operator (Scripps Research Institute)

Facility Owner/Operator (Florida Gas Transmission Co.)

Local Environmental (Florida Department of
Environmental Protection)

Local Environmental (Florida Department of
Environmental Protection)

Elected Official (Palm Beach County)

Facility Owner/Operator (St. Lucie County)

Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)

Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)

Law Enforcement (Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission)

Law Enforcement (Jupiter Island Department of Public
Safety)

Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie Police
Department)

Emergency Management (Indian River County)

Emergency Management (Indian River County)

Health (Florida Department of Health –
Palm Beach County)

Facility Owner/Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)

Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)

Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)

Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)

Facility Owner/Operator (City of Port St. Lucie
Utility Systems)

Facility Owner/Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)

Facility Owner/Operator (City of Port St. Lucie
Utility Systems)

Local Option – Safety (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)

Hospital (Martin Memorial Health Systems)

Health (Florida Department of Health –

Zabel, Dennis

Indian River County
Local Environmental (Florida Atlantic University)

**denotes Alternate Member*

Absent

Blizzard, Brian
Brennan, David
Gojkovich, John
Laryea, Nicholas
McCartt, Jack

Peterson, Vince
Phillips, Tom
Sanders, Nick
Stewart, Barry
Vilchez, Gustavo
Weaver Sr., Steven M.

Excused

Daly, Thomas

Dunn, Cheryl

Garfalo, John
Geier, Mike
Jones, Derrell

Lux, Harry
Mayer, Timothy

McKinlay, Melissa, Commissioner
Ortado, Derek
Pecci, Bill
Rowley, William J.
Seldes, Paul
Valle, Carlos

Visitors

David Crowe

Willie Davis
Randy Gansert
Mike Gerwan

Staff

Kathryn Boer

Kim Koho

Occupational Category

Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
Owner/Operator (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Local Option/Education (Indian River State College)
Facility Owner/Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
Local Option - Education (Advanced Technical and Educational Consultants, Inc.)
Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)
Local Option – Safety (Palm Beach County)
Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)
Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)
Emergency Management (St. Lucie County Public Safety)
Non-Elected Local Official (Realtime Property Development Services)

Occupational Category

Health (Florida Department of Health – St. Lucie County)
Health (Florida Department of Health – Indian River County)
Facility Owner/Operator (Palm Beach County)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Law Enforcement (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)
Local Option - Safety (Hazmat & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
Health (Florida Department of Health - Palm Beach County Health)
Elected Official (Palm Beach County)
Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)
Emergency Management Agency (Martin County)
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Local Option - Education (ntb Group, LLC)
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney)

Regional Emergency Response Adviser, Region V,
Florida Department of Health
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Diamond R. Fertilizer Company, Inc.
City of Stuart Police Department

TCLEPC Coordinator, Emergency Programs Director,
TCRPC
Administrative Assistant, TCRPC

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Richard Perkins moved approval of the August 10, 2017, agenda. Mr. Peter Norris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16, 2017 AND JUNE 1, 2017

Mr. Louis Dixel moved approval of the February 16, 2017, minutes. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

Sergeant John Holman moved approval of the June 1, 2017, minutes. Mr. Dixel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Meeting

The State Emergency Response Commission met on July 21, 2017 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The next quarterly SERC meeting will be held in Destin, Florida on October 27, 2017.

Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports

Ms. Boer reviewed the following tables and graphs: Potential Section 304 Investigations from March 1, 2017; Hazardous Materials & Traffic Incidents with Evacuations, Injuries, and Deaths from March 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017; Hazardous Materials Incident Reports, January 1, 2007 through May 31, 2017; and Florida Hazardous Materials Report from January 1, 2007 through May 31, 2017. Ms. Boer noted that the reports in this agenda package only include the Treasure Coast Region and occasionally include Broward County in the regional counts. Reports for the entire State of Florida are available through the State Watch Office's website and the SERC agenda and can be provided to any member upon request.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairman and Coordinators Meeting Update

Chairman Lasaga said the Risk Management Plan (RMP) Rule Compliance funding increased by \$21,000 per LEPC. The increase was in anticipation of an increased workload related to the Environmental Protection Agency proposed RMP rule. Funding will be used for planning, exercises, and outreach.

Ms. Boer said that there will be expanded responsibilities and duties for the Small Quantity Generator (SQG) and the Large Quantity Generator employers. The employers will have additional requirements to provide employee training exercises. They have asked LEPC members to become involved in planning, review of exercise documents, and possible participation in exercises. Part of the additional \$21,000 funding is to provide those businesses with these services from the LEPC.

Chairman Lasaga said that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Rule changed and deferred to Mr. Kenton Brown to explain the change. Mr. Brown said that previously when a facility

reported a spill; it was required to make all of the necessary notifications. Now the facility reports the spill on the DEP website, and DEP makes the necessary notifications. Chairman Lasaga said that agencies can opt into the website to receive area alerts, which will trigger the notification requirements.

TRAINING TASK FORCE UPDATE – CHAIRMAN FRANK LASAGA

Chairman Lasaga reviewed the Training Task Force (TTF) updates and noted there was discussion regarding the Florida Sunshine Law public records request. There was concern with the LEPC Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Coordinators all being voting members, since a voting item could be discussed, which would violate the Florida Sunshine Law. The TTF reorganized the membership so the Chairman becomes the primary voting member, the Vice Chairman becomes the first alternate and the Coordinator becomes the second alternate, which eliminates the risk of violating the Florida Sunshine Law.

Chairman Lasaga said organizers are planning for the upcoming 2017 & 2018 Annual Florida HazMat Symposium and Team Competition. They are looking for future sites as the event is growing. The organizers have also decided to do the team evaluations at the end of the competition. Registration opens September 1, 2017. Ms. Boer stated the organizers expect team registrations to increase from seven to sixteen teams this year, but because of the size of the venue, there will be a need to limit the number of teams to twelve. Registrations done online for teams will be done separately from class registrations. TCLEPC will sponsor attendance to the Symposium by paying for registrations and hotel accommodations. Transportation and food will not be reimbursed. She asked that attendees register online, because once she has an attendance list, the TCLEPC will pay for the registrations. The TCLEPC will make the hotel accommodations and pay for them in advance.

Chairman Lasaga suggested having agency head approval for those registering for the Symposium and Ms. Boer agreed. She added that there is currently a symposium logo contest in progress. It is an opportunity to design the logo for the Symposium that will be used for years to come. The design will be limited to two colors; one color plus black and/or white.

Chairman Lasaga said that the State Fire Marshalls office was not represented when reviewing the Hazardous Materials Team Assessments at the TTF. There was discussion as to what changes the members would like to see, such as creating an updated capabilities check list. It was suggested that it be revised to meet the current conditions applicable to National Fire Protection Agency Code 472 as it applies to the professions standards of Hazardous Materials and Florida Administrative Code. This ensures team assessments are in line with the current code requirements.

Ms. Boer said that she will be asking for copies of the team's self-assessments throughout the region as it will be beneficial in assessing the region's capabilities and updating the regional plan and future planning projects.

Chairman Lasaga said that the TTF is looking at doing practical evaluations on recognized teams so they can be compared to Urban Search and Rescue team requirements. Ms. Boer said that she would find out how many USAR teams are in the region and report back to the Committee.

Chairman Lasaga said the TTF is currently working on developing a position paper on the drug fentanyl. There was additional discussion regarding the hazards of fentanyl and the effects it has on first responders who are exposed to it. The draft should be ready for review at the October 2017 TTF meeting. US Drug Enforcement Agency has developed guidelines for the drug, but it was developed for manufacturing facilities and not for exposure at the end user level. The TTF, in a more long term role, considers it beneficial to develop best practices and position papers on emerging issues. Ms. Boer asked the Committee to send her any guidelines they would like to see developed.

Chief Michelle Murphy asked if the State Fire Marshall's office is looking at the marijuana grow house issues in relation to the effects it has on first responders exposed to it. Chairman Lasaga said that they have not discussed it, but that he would bring it up at the next conference call. Chairman Lasaga asked what the Hazardous Materials element was in relation to the grow houses. Chief Murphy said that it is a huge inhalation risk that affects first responders. The city of Denver, Colorado, has had a huge issue with grow houses and has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for first responders that require specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Ms. Boer said that she would research the Denver Fire House SOP and provide it to Chairman Lasaga for the TTF meeting. Chairman Lasaga said that there are also electrical fire concerns. Ms. Boer asked if any of the Committee members were aware of SOPs for Methamphetamine lab. Chief Aaron Oatley and Chief Murphy responded there were none. Chief Murphy said that since the State will be regulating legal grow houses, first responders should receive a list of them. Chairman Lasaga agreed that there should be mechanisms in place to identify grow house locations.

Chairman Lasaga reviewed the prioritized projects identified by the TTF. He stated that LEPC's are looking at collaborative funding for such training classes like the Hazardous Materials Intelligence Quotient (HazMatIQ) class. Every region tries to schedule the course, so if the different regions work together, they might be in a position to receive better pricing.

Chief Douglas McGlynn explained the HazMatIQ class simplifies chemistry for first responders. It breaks down the different chemicals to a level of understanding that can be delivered in common terminology to anyone.

Chairman Lasaga said that the Florida Fire Chiefs Association is prioritizing the research of cancer development in Hazardous Materials teams. They are tracking the different types of cancers they are experiencing.

Chairman Lasaga stated that drones are now a State deployable asset through Emergency Support Function Number 8. Currently the Florida State University website provides guidance and training for drones. Chief McGlynn asked for clarification. Mr. David Crowe said that drones can be used for post impact assessments at facilities. Chairman Lasaga said he would find out more information.

Mr. Jon Garzaniti stated that the Palm Beach County Sheriff Office has a drone and a dedicated van that is used as the operation center for the drone. When it was used in a man hunt, the van was able to fly the drone into a marshy area, locate the person, and place an airboat at his location. Chief Murphy said that her fire rescue department will be going through training with Florida Aviation Administration.

Chief McGlynn stated that Palm Beach County Fire Rescue has an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) training program, which has not been currently used in operations. There would be a lot of

value in using drones in the Hazardous Materials realm. They will also be offering a UAS night time operation training classes. Ms. Boer suggested that use of the drones and drone training should be a white paper discussion for the State Emergency Response Commission and Chairman Lasaga agreed.

**PRESENTATION- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA),
Mr. Richard Barrett, Florida Gas Transmission Company**

Mr. Barrett explained his company, Florida Gas Transmission Company, which is an interstate pipeline company that is overseen by PHMSA, as well as all of the other gas companies in the State of Florida. He invited the members to attend one of the Paradigm public awareness meeting venues in October, 2017. Firefighters are an important part of the group of stakeholders that his company interfaces with regularly. The interface of pipeline and gas companies with first responders is essential to public safety.

Mr. Barrett emphasized it is important that everyone be ready for the “what ifs.” Florida Power and Light has built a new 700 mile pipeline from Alabama, Georgia, into Florida, which terminates at the Martin West Power Plant.

Mr. Barrett reviewed a worst case scenario citing that gas fires can burn at 3200 degrees and are highly pressurized, since typically the end user is a power plant. When a line ruptures, it is catastrophic. One of the only ways to deal with this type of a fire is to starve it of fuel by having a pipeline operator shut down the lines and release gas into the atmosphere.

Mr. Barrett explained that gas is transported at high pressure to compressor stations. The stations are located mostly on the northbound side of the Florida Turnpike about every 75 miles. There are 19 compressor stations in the State of Florida. Metering stations are the “city gate” where distribution companies receive gas from a transmission pipeline.

Mr. Barrett stated the three hazardous conditions first responders should be aware of are encroachment (including excavation activities), leaks, and ruptures. Nearly 2/3 of fatalities involving pipelines are due to damage from outside forces. Indication of leaks can be dust, water or vegetation blowing around a pipeline; discolored or dead vegetation near a pipeline; a hissing sound; a bubbling in a wet area marshland, river or creek; or a dry spot in a moist field. If you become aware of a leak, look for the nearest pipeline marker, and call the emergency phone number that is listed. The phone number listed will connect you to a 24-hour emergency gas control center. It is important to stay in close contact with the pipeline company.

Mr. Barrett summarized his presentation by saying it is important to remember the following: stopping of the flow of gas is the best way to control a gas-fed fire; do not attempt to operate pipeline valves; Florida Gas Transmission’s has a 24-hour emergency gas control center (800-238-5066); always refer to your agency’s Policies and Procedures for Emergency Response guidance; and know what pipelines are operating in your Area of Operations. He referred the members to National Pipeline Mapping System (www.npms.phmsa.) If you register with them, you can obtain pipeline locations for your county.

Mr. Kenton Brown asked if the gas at the station at Jog Road on the Turnpike was odorized, and Mr. Barrett said it was.

Mr. Barrett recapped two changes that were made to the State Statute 556.107. The first change made is when a civil penalty is issued; the issuing agency can now keep 80% of the \$500.00 penalty. The second change made to State Statute 556.105 states that it now requires excavators to call 911 to report any contact with an underground pipeline that results in a release of a hazard material substance.

Mr. Louis Dixel asked what his company's (Florida Gas Transmission Company) response time was to a gas release and Mr. Barrett said that it was 45 minutes.

Chief McGlynn asked if there was a minimum level of PPE required for the pipeline operator. Mr. Barrett responded they are required to wear flash fire protection.

PRESENTATION- Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI), James A. Kelly, Community Liaison, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Southern Region, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Ms. Boer introduced Mr. Kelly, Community Liaison, PHMSA, DOT. Mr. Kelly said he was excited about the PERI initiative, which DOT will be promoting in all fifty states. The Southern Region includes Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, and Puerto Rico. PHMSA is involved with PERI, inspections, investigations, 811 campaigns, and outreach.

Mr. Kelly provided an overview of PERI explaining that it is a public-private partnership among emergency response organizations and pipeline operators. Georgia was a pilot state for the PERI initiative. One of the items they learned is that it is better to provide specific training based on immediate needs, instead of providing general training pushed out to everyone. The PERI initiative is focusing on preparedness training gaps.

PERI's objective is to enhance responders understanding of pipeline risks and hazards, strengthen relations in the interest of public safety, and improve management of pipeline emergencies nationwide. It is important for first responders to be involved in the type of training they receive.

Mr. Kelly said that there are 47,340 miles in Florida of pipeline regulated by PHMSA; Georgia has 90,475 miles of pipelines. A few of the pipelines located in Georgia run through the State of Florida and Florida receives gas from them. When bringing natural gas services to homes and businesses, the local utilities reduce the operating pressure and typically add odorant.

Mr. Norris asked what the hazardous liquids were in the pipelines, and Mr. Kelly said that they are other fuels.

Mr. Kelly said that currently PHMSA is working with Florida, Louisiana, Colorado, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Iowa, Texas, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Oklahoma. Florida has ten PERI regions that align with the 10 regional planning council regions. Florida has had four kick off meetings in April, 2017. The goal is to have four regional teams, with each regional team providing input to the State Watch Steering Committee. PHMSA will be preparing for the next Florida PERI meeting, which will discuss structure and regional boundaries.

Chief Murphy asked when the PERI meetings will be held. Mr. Kelly said that the meetings were divided up into four regions. The Southern Florida meeting will be August 28, 2017 and the Central Florida meeting will be August 30, 2017. Chairman Lasaga asked if the locations have been set and Mr. Kelly said they were listed on the invitation that has been sent out. Ms. Boer said she has the invitation and will be attending, but that she would forward the invitation to the members.

Mr. Kelly said that the role of PHMSA is to facilitate and help the PERI initiative moving forward. The structure of PERI, training, response decisions, preparedness, funding decisions, and meetings will be made by the committees. The ownership of PERI will come from Florida's steering committee.

Mr. Kelly provided the committee with the following websites where additional information on PHMSA and PERI are available:

- PHMSA, Office of Pipeline Safety, www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline
- Standards and Rulemaking, <http://www.phmas.dot.gov/pipeline/regs>
- National Pipeline Mapping System, www.npms.phmsa
- PHMSA's Stakeholder Communications Site, <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm>
- Access to PHMSA Regulations www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline
- Federal Regulations, www.regulations.gov

Chairman Lasaga asked Ms. Boer to email today's presentations to the members.

REPORTS/UPDATES

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

Ms. Boer said that Ms. Kelly Burke, on behalf of Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, asked that staff research the possibility of designing a hazardous materials incident response tabletop exercise for March or April, 2018.

Ms. Boer announced there were two classes coming up in August, 2017. The Hazardous Waste Operations for First Responders class will be held August 21-23, 2017 and the Hazardous Materials Awareness classes will be held on August 24 and 25, 2017. In July, 2017, the TCLEPC sponsored the Liquid Natural Gas training that consisted of three 8-hour Awareness and three 16-hour Operations level hands-on training at Martin County Fire Rescue; and three Hazmat IQ classes held in Indian River, St. Lucie, and Palm Beach counties.

Ms. Boer said that she has been working with the counties to bring the 160 hour Hybrid Technician training to the region.

Mr. Norris asked if there will be any 8-hour refresher classes available and Ms. Boer said that there should be a class available in November, 2017.

MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Lasaga asked that the formal welcome of the new members be moved to the next meeting since some were not in attendance.

Ms. Etta LoPresti announced that after 23 years of service as a primary TCLEPC member, she has moved to the alternate membership position. She introduced the new primary member, Rachael Ivey, Emergency Management, Indian River County. Staff and the members welcomed her.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND STAFF

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Boer said that the State has changed the SERC meeting to October 27, 2017; therefore, the next meeting of the LEPC will need to be changed from November 2, 2017 to November 17, 2017. Due to the Symposium, the February 1, 2017 meeting will be changed to February 15, 2017. The membership approved and noted the date change.

Ms. Boer said if a member would like an item placed on the agenda or make a presentation, please notify her.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dixel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Norris seconded the motion, which passed **Motion** unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.