

**State Emergency Response Commission
Subcommittee on Training
Betty Easley Conference Center
Southwood Campus, Room 166
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0905
April 2, 2009**

Present:

LEPC 1: Absent
LEPC 2: Chris Rietow for Richard Smith
LEPC 3: Don Sessions
LEPC 4: Jason Taylor for Jonathan Lamm
LEPC 5: Jamie Arleo
LEPC 6: Bob Coschignano
LEPC 7: Chris Kaelin
LEPC 8: Scott Ehlers
LEPC 9: Absent
LEPC 10: Chris Bushman for Jack McCartt
LEPC 11: Charles Boyd
Mike Jacobs (Florida Department of Health)
Mike Murphy (Florida Fire Chiefs' Association)
Greg Lee (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)
Frank DeFrancesco (Florida Association for Hazardous Materials Responders)

I. Introductions

Acting Chair Mr. Mike Murphy opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Murphy also asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Richard Rhea, of Wakulla County and the people defending our country both in the United States and abroad. All persons attending the meeting were introduced.

II. Update on Conference Calls

Two conference calls were held prior to the April 2, 2009, Subcommittee on Training meeting. Agenda items discussed on February 10, 2009, were the LPG/NG and Tox-Medic Initiatives. On March 10, 2009, a work session was held on the Tox-Medic Initiative. The ToxMedic concept would ensure Emergency Medical Services personnel who respond with the HazMat teams have the proper level of training and personal protection equipment to ensure the safety of both responders and survivors.

Mr. Murphy reported that Medical Director, Dr. Joe Nelson and team will provide toxicology input to the update of the Tox-Medic Initiative. The goal of the team is to ensure that medical responders are competent and prepared to respond to emergency incidents. The protocols will be considered for adoption after the State Medical Director's Association meeting in April 2009.

Mr. Murphy mentioned that the Subcommittee on Training should hold a conference call after the Medical Directors' meeting in order to discuss and complete the HazMedic Protocols. Mr. Murphy indicated the completed HazMedic Protocols will be forwarded to the SERC prior to the July meeting for review and recommended approval.

III. Revisions of Membership Policies/Guidelines

Mr. Tim Date reported that the membership policies and guidelines were completed. On February 10, 2009, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Subcommittee on Training approved the membership policies/guidelines at the conference call meeting. Ms. Leslie Anderson-Adams, Department of Community Affairs attorney noted that the Florida Attorney General has rendered an opinion that a quorum has to be physically present in order to vote on issues. A motion was made to approve the Subcommittee on Training membership policies/guidelines. The motion was second and carried unanimously.

IV. Hazardous Materials Medical Protocols

Mr. Murphy reported on the Hazardous Materials Medical Treatment Protocols. Mr. Murphy noted that questions were raised concerning medical treatment protocol guidelines concerning the use of Amiodarone to treat cardiac dysrhythmias. Mr. Murphy suggested that members of the Subcommittee on Training place on hold any discussion on this topic until the Medical Directors have reviewed the guidelines and expressed an opinion on this matter. Mr. Michael Jacobs asked the question whether the Medical Directors would have edit authority to change the Hazardous Materials Medical Treatment Protocols guidelines. Mr. Murphy responded to the question stating the Medical Directors would have edit authority.

Mr. Murphy mentioned the next Hazardous Materials Medical Treatment Protocols issue discussed was to review the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472 & 473 standards. The Subcommittee on Training proposed to define certain levels of toxicology responders in Florida. Mr. Murphy noted that the training levels were not consistent with the national terminology established by NFPA 472 and 473 and therefore, would create confusion at the national level. The NFPA 473 standard calls for all responding paramedics to be trained to the Advanced Life Support standards. Mr. Donald Sessions suggested the Subcommittee keep the same definitions and names of the types of responders. Mr. Lee Newsome, of Emergency Response Educators and Consultants, Inc. noted that NFPA 473 clearly creates a line of separation for Hazardous Materials and

Weapons of Mass Destruction Responders from Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services personnel.

The final Hazardous Materials Medical Treatment Protocols issue discussed by the Subcommittee was the use of “Dumbels” acronym provides for inclusion of bronchorrhea which is not provided in the “Sludgem” acronym. The consensus of the Subcommittee on Training was to use both definitions to describe the condition resulting from the inhalation of a pesticide.

A motion was made to approved the Hazardous Materials Medical Treatment Protocols with an addendum 1) to allow for the clean up the numbers and typographical errors; 2) to add the definition of Sludgem to the code of Dumbels; 3) to forward the treatment of Amiodarone to the Medical Directors for guidance; and 4) to retain the same definitions and names of the type of responders. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

V. 2009 Strategic Plan Action Items

HAZUS Web Portal

Ms. Shanti Smith reported that the placement of Section 302 and Section 311 facilities as a marker point in the HAZUS database has been made to help facilitate disaster planning at the state and local level.

SOT Web Page and Links to Project Summaries

Ms. Shanti Smith reported that the Subcommittee on Training Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) webpage has been created; however, the strategic initiatives, projects, goals, benchmarks, draft policies, and presentations have not been posted.

Mass Casualty Decontamination Team Assessment Methodologies and Field Operations Guide (FOG) Manual

Mr. Frank DeFrancesco, of the Florida Association for Hazardous Material Responders (FLAHR) said that the Mass Casualty Decontamination Team Assessment Methodologies and Field Operations Guide will be discussed at the next FLAHR meeting.

Operational Level Training Guidelines

Ms. Shanti Smith reported that an invitation for bid will go out soon for an update on the Operational Level Training Guidelines publication.

SHSGP Grant Assessment Process

Mr. Frank DeFrancesco reported on the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the needs assessment process. Mr. DeFrancesco noted that through the state’s effort there are

thirty-one (31) HazMat teams. Financial Assistance is being provided to address equipment, training, planning, exercise and administrative needs of state and local first responders. The Florida Association for Hazardous Material Responders will provide notice to all HazMat teams concerning the October 2009 funding for the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Mr. John Gibbons recommended that the Subcommittee on Training members work to develop guidelines for the typing of HazMat teams. A motion was made for the Subcommittee on Training to create model guidelines for defining the typing of HazMat teams. The Subcommittee on Training will review HazMat teams as a clearing house for all hazmat/weapons of mass destruction response. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Cost Recovery Funding Opportunities

Ms. Leslie Anderson-Adams pointed out that there were two bills that have the ability to override the cost recovery ordinances for local government. The bills are Senate Bill 2282 and House Bill 1043. However, Ms. Anderson-Adams informed the Subcommittee that an exemption has been created for HazMat teams.

Define Tox-Medic

This project will be completed at the July 2009 Subcommittee on Training meeting.

Model Procedure for Hazardous Materials Team NIMS Compliance

This project was assigned to the State Fire College representative.

Reporting Template for Responders

This project is on-going.

Health and HazMat Team Relationship Building

Ms. Jennifer Williams, of the Department of Health reported to the members of the Subcommittee on specific training opportunities for Local Environmental Health personnel coordinating with their Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) to receive HazMat Awareness and Operations Level Training.

Mr. Michael Jacobs stated he would like to see the Subcommittee on Training build even stronger bridges to the environmental health function and stronger communications with the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Jacobs noted that the Department of Health and HazMat Team relationship building should be on-going project.

Mr. Murphy suggested that future meetings with the Department of Health and HazMat team be coordinated through the 7 Regional HazMat Coordinators and arranged to be held in one day.

Mr. Jacobs noted that Local Environmental Health personnel are not responders but staff is available to provide toxicological advice and consultation to the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), and hazmat response teams.

Mr. Murphy suggested that the Florida Association of Hazardous Materials Responders provide the Department of Health with a list of the thirty-one (31) HazMat Coordinators throughout the state.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Natural Gas Employee Credentialing Program

Mr. Mike Murphy reported that the Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Natural Gas (LPG/NG) Employee Credentialing Program has been a success. Mr. Murphy noted that Mr. David Rogers, of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Industry has met with members and associations of the industry throughout the State of Florida. A plan of action was set-up for industry standards for equipment use and operational training classes. The plan includes developing Hazardous Material (HazMat) Operational Standards for private industry personnel, opening the lines of communication by providing the LPG/NG Industry with an understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). In addition, the plan includes a liaison to bring together LPG/NG Industry, and fire/emergency response personnel for local meetings and public forums. Mr. Murphy mentioned that Mr. Rogers will be making presentations at the Executive Fire Chief Conference in July 2009 and at the Fire Rescue East meeting to discuss the LPG/NG Employee Credentialing Program.

Non-Routine Hazards

There was no update on this project and this project requires on-going monitoring.

LEPC Top Five Needs

There was no update on this project.

Chemistry in the School

Mr. Mike Murphy reported to the Subcommittee on Training members efforts to reach students, e.g., through educational programs, to develop their interests in pursuing careers in the sciences, and the chemical industry. Mr. Murphy pointed out that two members of the SERC were interested in outreach efforts to develop the next generation students interested in sciences and chemistry in the school. Mr. Murphy mentioned partnering with the Florida Department of Education representatives to develop a small brochure on educational programs available, creating a speakers bank and seeking out paid speakers to make presentations on science and chemistry programs. Ms. Jennifer Hobbs, who

works at the Kennedy Space Center requested to be a point of contact for the Subcommittee outreach efforts.

Mr. Dwayne Mundy suggested that the Chemical in the School project be in conjunction with HazMat Awareness Week.

VI. Incident Support Teams

The report on this project was tabled to next meeting.

VII. Updates from Agencies/Organizations

Florida Fire Chiefs' Association

- No updates

Florida Association of Hazardous Materials Responders (*Frank DeFrancesco*)

- Florida Association of Hazardous Materials Responders (FLAHR) has reorganized and the Section Chair for the organization is Mr. Robert Seccuro, of Brevard County. Mr. Frank DeFrancesco stated that he would remain the Subcommittee on Training representative.

- FLAHR will be instituting a reorganization plan and recruitment of regional representatives during the first meeting scheduled in June or July of this year.

- Mr. DeFrancesco mentioned that the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) has conducted a study on the handling of Chlorine. The agency has identified Chlorine as the weapon of choice by terrorists. Mr. DeFrancesco stated the TSA is setting up a major study evaluating the plume modeling of Chlorine and how the chemical reacts to the environment contrary to the typical defined reaction. Another issue that was addressed was the new federal law pertaining to railcar security. Mr. DeFrancesco pointed out the new federal law allows for the sign and transfer (change of custody) of chemicals. Mr. Murphy suggested that the Subcommittee on Training request the SERC submit a letter to the TSA requesting that the Subcommittee be considered as a partner in their plume modeling program. A motion was made to request a letter from SERC to form a partnership with TSA in the plume modeling program. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

State Fire Marshall's Office (*Mike Murphy*)

- Mr. Barry Baker is the point of contact person for the State Fire College.

- Mr. Julius Halas is the new Fire Marshall.

- The State Fire Marshall's office will be conducting a readiness assessment of hazmat teams throughout the state.

VIII. Upcoming Events on the Calendar

- The Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) conference will be held February 9 – 13, 2009 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida.
- The Governor's Hurricane Conference will be held May 10 – 15, 2009 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.
- The 2009 Statewide Hurricane Exercise will be held May 28 – June 3, 2009.

IX. Other Business

- Mr. Michael Jacobs stated that he received notification from the Department of Health that the Medical Directors would not be meeting in April. The Subcommittee members agreed to schedule the Tox-Medic Initiative Conference Call Meeting for April 30, 2009.
- Mr. Michael Jacobs discussed the white powder incident at the Highlands County Hospital. Mr. Jacobs indicated that the incident was determined to be HazMat event.
- Ms. Jennifer Hobbs agreed to chair the LEPC meeting.
- Mr. Tim Date notified members of the Subcommittee that a copy of the 2009 State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials Annual Report has been completed and the report is ready for distribution.

X. Issues for State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

- Adoption of the Subcommittee on Training memberships guidelines.
- Request a letter from the SERC to be forwarded to the TSA asking the Subcommittee on Training to become a partner in the Plume Modeling Program.
- Discussion on HazMat Assessment Teams.
- Briefing on the Medical Protocols.
- Briefing on the Railcar Security.
- Briefing on Chemistry in School Initiative and conference call.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.