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**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
CHAIRPERSONS/STAFF CONTACTS MEETING SYNOPSIS**

**Department of Environmental Protection
Carr Building, Room 170M
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399**

January 8, 2009

In Attendance:

George Danz, Chair	Jennifer Hobbs	Mark Leon
Manny Cela	Mike Arnold	Cindy Gennell
Kate Bower	Patty Jefferson	Greg Lee
John Gibbons	Jason Taylor	Teresa Newsome
Bruce Porter	Dwayne Mundy	Mike Jacobs
John Meyer	Ron Mills	Doug Wolfe
Scott Ehlers	Chris Rietow	Leslie Anderson-Adams
Chuck Carter	Richard Smith	Shanti Smith
Gary Weiss	Jim Crumlish	Gwen Keenan
April Raulerson	Richard Delp	Tim Date

Chairman George Danz called the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Chair/Staff Contacts meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed everyone, and had all in attendance introduce themselves.

Subcommittee on Training (SOT) Update

Mr. Doug Wolfe reported on a strategic initiative items that were reviewed and discussed at the Subcommittee on Training (SOT) meeting. A white paper with recommended actions has been drafted on the LPG/NG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas/Natural Gas) initiative, and it will be distributed for review. In the ToxMedic initiative, three levels are being proposed to classify medical responders according to their competencies regarding both life support and hazardous materials.

District Reports

In addition to what was included in HazMatters, the districts reported the following.

District 11: Mr. Manny Cela reported on the CSX railroad exercise held in late 2008. Their first HMET class will be in January, and they plan to schedule more classes in the coming months. Mr. Cela discussed plans for Hazardous Materials Awareness Week and attempts to garner corporate participation. One of the local news stations provided a DVD of their news report on CFLs, with permission for their recording to be used during Hazardous Materials Awareness Week.

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District 10: Ms. Kate Boer reported that District 10 had conducted HAZMAT IQ training, as well as a methamphetamine class. They are planning more training and a full scale exercise later this year. Hazardous Materials Awareness Week outreach activities will include radio spots.

District 9: Mr. Bruce Porter and Mr. John Gibbons reported. A How-To-Comply workshop has been scheduled. Planned activities for Hazardous Materials Awareness Week include local proclamations and trying to tie the CFL recycling initiative in with the Home Depot CFL collection initiative. Mr. Gibbons mentioned that a private recycling company makes boxes with collection bags to facilitate household recycling CFLs. These boxes from Veolia Environmental Services are available to the LEPCs at no charge. Citizens can pick up bags to put their used CFLs in, then take them to Home Depot or other appropriate collection site for recycling. Each LEPC will receive a box.

District 8: Mr. Scott Ehlers mentioned preparations for the upcoming Super Bowl and how hazardous materials work during the year facilitates planning for national events. Mr. John Meyer reported on several training activities, including a rail safety course, CSX exercise, and an advanced air monitoring course. They are undertaking a planning initiative to bolster the hazardous materials section of the Florida Disaster Business Survival Kit (online). Future training activities include a chlorine training course and a HAZMAT IQ course. In 2006, an agency in their region had an anhydrous ammonia spill; in lieu of paying a fine, the anticipated outcome is for the agency to agree to a supplemental environmental project (anhydrous ammonia training, coordinated through FDEM).

District 7: Mr. Gary Weiss mentioned that they conducted an exercise based off a real world traffic crash that happened in their region. Mr. Chuck Carter provided more details about the exercise and discussed some of the lessons learned. Examples included using thermal imagery cameras to help response vehicles navigate through the fog to the scene of the accident, and using different colored chemical lights for triage coding, because tags were not visible in the fog. Mr. Carter reported that five HMEP training classes have been scheduled, and one already completed. Members of the regional LEPC decided to meet four times a year, instead of six.

District 6: Ms. Jennifer Hobbs deferred to Ms. April Raulerson to report. Ms. Raulerson reported on the CSX exercise they conducted in Osceola County in December, followed the next day with a COOP/COG exercise in Kissimmee. The district has partnered with the Central Florida Fire Academy to provide more outreach and training. Upcoming training includes hazmat operations refresher courses, a tank truck training course, and How-To-Comply workshops. Hazardous Materials Awareness Week activities include promoting the CFL recycling program and doing outreach in elementary schools. Counties are showing the outreach videos on their stations, and this year Lockheed Martin will play the outreach videos on their closed circuit TVs, as well.

District 5: Ms. Patty Jefferson introduced herself as the new Vice Chair of the District 5 LEPC. She attended this meeting at the request of Chief David Cooper, who could not attend. Mr. Michael Arnold reported that they are still addressing challenges in getting firm commitments from enough participants to attend training courses, to make it cost effective to hold it. For

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Hazardous Materials Awareness Week, they are still working on getting participation from Home Depot.

District 4: Mr. Jason Taylor reported on prioritization of local training needs. Training being considered includes an operational refresher course, rail car and tanker spills, clandestine drug lab, air monitoring, ToxMedic, and HAZMAT IQ courses. A hazmat team exercise for the regional hazmat teams is also being considered. How-To-Comply workshops are being planned for February.

District 3: Mr. Ron Mills reported that the last regional LEPC meeting was held at the new Gilchrist County EOC. Mr. Dwayne Mundy reported that Hazardous Materials Awareness Week activities will include be media events, a seminar at the Alachua County hazardous waste collection center, mailings, flyers, brochures and press releases. Training objectives include holding an IFF, 160-hour technician class.

District 2: Mr. Richard Smith mentioned the white powder incident in Tallahassee last quarter, and the local response went smoothly. Mr. Chris Rietow reported that an air monitoring course was held the Bureau of Prisons in Tallahassee, and they are working on setting up a similar course for hospitals in the area. They are waiting to hear back from Home Depot's corporate office to find out whether the local stores can participate in planned activities during Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. Otherwise, they will hold a shelter-in-place demonstration at the Red Cross and promote CFL recycling in conjunction with that.

District 1: Mr. Richard Delp deferred to Mr. Jim Crumlish to report. Training held included CAMEOofm, HAZWOPER, and five other hazmat courses across the region in November and December 2008. For Hazardous Materials Awareness Week, they are conducting activities at colleges in the area, arranging forums for students and hazmat teams to discuss mercury spills and other issues. They are planning upcoming exercises, including one with CSX. There was also mention of the CSX train derailment that happened in Santa Rosa County recently.

OTHER BUSINESS

Distribution of HMIS Data

Mr. Tim Date provided a CD containing Hazardous Materials Information System (HMIS) data to the representatives from the LEPCs (one CD per LEPC).

LEPC Membership Categories

Mr. Michael Arnold handed out a summary document and reported on the two conference calls held since the previous LEPC meeting. After a lengthy discussion by those present at the LEPC Chairs/Staff meeting, it was decided that more work was needed to address a number of concerns, prior to presenting any suggested changes to the SERC. A conference call was scheduled for January 27, 2009 to continue addressing concerns surrounding LEPC membership categories.

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FBI WMD Training

Mr. Mark Leon with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) gave a presentation on the FBI's objectives, activities and resources for responding to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) issues. Mr. Leon provided contact information for the FBI's WMD coordinators in Florida and encouraged local hazmat and law enforcement to contact the FBI early on, any time a hazmat team needs to be called out. The FBI can sometimes provide more information that local/state responders would not know, especially in cases such as the white powder incident in Tallahassee, where it turned out to be related to other white powder incidents across the nation. Mr. Leon explained that the FBI can also bring training to the local level.

New Preparedness Bureau Chief

Ms. Shanti Smith introduced Ms. Gwen Keenan, the new Preparedness Bureau Chief in the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The new Preparedness Chief has 20 years of experience with the United States Coast Guard, with much of that time (14 years) based in Florida.

Federal Audits of LEPCs

Ms. Smith mentioned a recent article regarding audits of LEPCs, coming from the federal level. The perception at the state level is that Florida is not the target of these audits, but it is something to keep in mind.

Planning for Next Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Mr. Chuck Carter asked whether future gubernatorial proclamations for Hazardous Materials Awareness Week could be provided to the LEPCs before Thanksgiving of each year, so that there would be enough time for local governments to endorse or make their own proclamations supporting Hazardous Materials Awareness Week.

To meet that time frame for the next Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (in 2010), Ms. Smith suggested they solicit ideas for statewide effort at the April 2009 meeting, then finalize them at the July 2009 meeting. That way, the Governor's proclamation can be ready at the October 2009 meeting.

DOH Outreach to LEPCs

Mr. Mike Jacobs, with the Florida Department of Health (DOH), briefly presented that he had been asked to get in touch with all the LEPCs, to build a closer relationship between DOH and the LEPCs, and to get a toxicologist involved with each LEPC.

Next Meeting

An announcement was made that the next meeting will be on April 2, 2009 in Tallahassee. With that the meeting was adjourned.