

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

**Betty Easley Conference Center  
Southwood Campus, Room 152  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399**

**July 9, 2009**

**In Attendance:**

George Danz, Chair

Shanti Smith  
Gwen Keenan  
Chris Rietow  
Ray Ashton  
Michael Arnold  
Gary Weiss  
John Meyer  
Jack McCart

Leslie Anderson-Adams  
Richard Delp  
Dwayne Mundy  
Jason Taylor  
Jennifer Hobbs  
Chuck Carter  
Bruce Porter  
Manny Cela

Tim Date  
Jim Crumlish  
Ron Mills  
Jamie Arleo  
April Raulerson  
Scott Ehlers  
John Gibbons

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

**Subcommittee on Training (SOT) Update**

Mr. Mike Jacobs elaborated on topics discussed at the Subcommittee on Training meeting:

- Subcommittee on Training membership guidelines
- Request for each LEPC to develop a top five training needs list
- Chemistry Education
- Discussion on Hazardous Material Assessment Teams bio sampling issue
- Hazardous Materials Medical Protocols
- Ongoing Strategic Projects (Project Board)
- Identifying legislative gaps relating to indoor air monitoring
- Conference call updates

**District Reports**

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

**District 1:** Mr. Richard Delp deferred to Mr. Jim Crumlish. Mr. Crumlish stated that a Section 302 facility outreach publication is almost finalized and will be distributed to Tier II HazMat

facilities. The district sponsored a bi-annual Table Top Exercise (TTX) in Crestview, Florida. The exercise scenario was a train derailment. There were approximately 67 participants in the exercise.

**District 2:** Mr. Chris Rietow informed the LEPC that District 2 sponsored an OSHA Overview and Compliance training and a HazMat IQ training. A HAZWOPER Refresher course is upcoming. A Homeland Security Evaluation Exercise Program (HSEEP) course is scheduled for July 22 - 24, 2009. The hazards analysis (HA) has been completed for 7 counties and the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan is being revised based on recommendations made by the Division of Emergency Management (DEM).

**District 3:** Mr. Ron Mills deferred to Mr. Dwayne Mundy. Mr. Mundy reports the district sponsored 2 HazMat IQ courses. Training is being targeted towards operational and technician level courses. District 3 will also be sponsoring an Air Monitoring course. The next LEPC meeting will be rotated to the new Dixie County Emergency Operations Center.

**District 4:** Mr. Ray Ashton deferred to Mr. Jason Taylor. Mr. Taylor noted that 2 staff people attended the International HazMat Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The district has completed a 7 day Operations Refresher course. District 4 will also be sponsoring a HazMat IQ course on August 10, 2009. A HazMat Life Support ToxMedic course will be held at the Poison Control Center in Jacksonville, Florida. Additionally, the district will be sponsoring an Air Monitoring course and hosting a series of workshops for their LEPC planning project with the next one focusing on E-Plan and first responders.

**District 5:** Mr. Jamie Arleo deferred to Mr. Michael Arnold. Mr. Arnold advised the LEPC that District 5 has sponsored 2 HazMedic courses and an Incident Commander – NFPA 472 course. Additional training courses will be discussed at the district's upcoming LEPC meeting. The LEPC is currently conducting presentations as part of their shelter-in-place planning project.

**District 6:** Ms. Jennifer Hobbs reported on an incident brought to her attention by a Department of Environmental, Hazardous Waste Inspector. Ms. Hobbs spoke concerning a business that is storing a hazardous material and operates out of a residential structure. Ms. Hobbs also stated this may be a rising trend for businesses that are trying to cut expenses because of the state of the economy. Ms. Hobbs then deferred to Ms. April Raulerson for the District 6 report. Ms. Raulerson reports the district sponsored a HazMat IQ course and a Clandestine Lab Awareness course. District 6 is determining which additional courses they will sponsor.

**District 7:** Mr. Gary Weiss deferred to Mr. Chuck Carter. Mr. Carter briefed the LEPC on the district's activities. The district sponsored 1 person to attend the National Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference attendee later shared training information and resource material from the conference with other fire response personnel in the district. District 7 also partnered with American Compliance Technologies to provide cooperative training to several counties and Section 302 facilities within the district.

**District 8:** Mr. Scott Ehlers deferred to Mr. John Meyer. Mr. Meyer gave a summary of the district's activities. District 8 sponsored a Chlorine Safety training course in May 2009 and an

Air Monitoring Detection course in June 2009. A HazMat IQ and Confined Space Rescue course is scheduled for August 2009. Public outreach activities consisted of an Ammonia Siren Briefing presentation on May 27, 2009.

**District 9:** Mr. Bruce Porter stated that a motion was passed to begin their district's LEPC meetings with an invocation. Mr. Porter then deferred to Mr. John Gibbons for the district report. Mr. Gibbons stated the district sponsored a HazMat IQ course in June 2009 and a Fire Chemistry course is currently being conducted. An Air Monitoring Detection course is scheduled for July 2009. The district is conducting outreach activities by providing shelter-in-place presentations with more workshops to be scheduled.

**District 10:** Mr. Jack McCartt outlined the district's activities. The district conducted a bi-annual table-top exercise on June 29, 2009 and is developing plans to conduct a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) desk-top exercise later in the year. District 10 is also sponsoring HazMat IQ, Chemistry and HazMat Awareness / Operations level courses.

**District 11:** Mr. Manny Cela gave a recap of the district's activities. The district sponsored HAZWOPER Refresher and Weapons of Mass Destruction / HazMat Awareness courses in May 2009. Also, 2 HazMat IQ courses were sponsored in June 2009. The district will be sponsoring 3 HAZWOPER Refresher courses in Miami-Dade County. The district will begin assessing training needs for the upcoming year at the next LEPC meeting in August 2009.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Budget Matters**

Ms. Shanti Smith informed the LEPC of a significant budget short-fall based on fees collected from Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) 2008 Tier II filings. DEM will be conducting a very aggressive facility outreach program to generate additional funding. She suggested several options for compensating for the shortfall. There was a lengthy discussion on how this proposals could possibly impact each region on a local level. Ms. Gwen Kennan encouraged each district to discuss the proposals with their regional directors and give DEM feedback on other creative solutions that may mitigate against the budget impact. Ms. Kennan also noted that the contract modification proposal is not a finalized solution.

### **Training Needs Assessment**

Mr. George Danz asked each LEPC District to identify and develop a list of their top 5 training needs and email the information to Mr. Manny Cela. The data will be summarized and reported to the Subcommittee on Training at the October 2009 quarterly meeting.

### **Distribution of HMIS Data**

Mr. Tim Date stated that due to a technical software problem, HMIS CD's were not ready for pick-up. Mr. Date will mail the CD's to each district as soon as the problem is fixed.

## **HMEP Funds**

Mr. Tim Date asked all LEPC Districts to notify him as soon as possible if they would not be able to spend all of their HMEP training funds within the contract year. Ms. Shanti Smith requested that LEPC staff email her if additional HMEP training funds were needed.

## **Thomas Yatabe Awards**

Mr. Tim Date reminded LEPC staff that Thomas Yatabe Awards will be given at the October 2009 State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meeting. Mr. Date asked LEPC staff to submit Thomas Yatabe Award and certificate of appreciation nominations no later than September 4, 2009.

## **HMIS and E-Plan Update**

Ms. Shanti Smith announced that DEM has a systems contractor building an on-line Tier II submittal program. The program will be live in October 2009 and will be utilized for on-line payment of fees and consolidated annual registration reporting. Ms. Smith asked all LEPC's to assist DEM with notifying HazMat reporting facilities within their districts of enforcement of Florida Statutes, Chapter 633.

Ms. Shanti Smith is continuing to work on integration of E-Plan into 911 Dispatch. A pilot program is being tested through Palm Beach County Emergency Management. The software program will identify and flag HazMat facilities and types of chemicals on-site based on incoming 911 call data. Ms. Smith is still indentifying gate-keepers in approximately nineteen (19) remaining counties with in their Emergency Management agencies.

## **Department of Health - HSEES**

Mr. Joseph Higginbotham with Department of Health (DOH), Hazardous Substance Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES) stated the HSEES program will sunset in 2009. Mr. Higginbotham says he is currently writing a grant for a new program called - National Acute Hazardous Substance Incidents Surveillance and Prevention Program. If the grant is awarded, the new program will mirror the HSEES program. The HSEES program serves as a liaison and information link between state and federal agencies. Data is collected from the State Watch Office and media outlets in Florida and uploaded into a federal database that is used by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The new program if funded, will work closely with DOH, Hazards and Vulnerability Assessment Team. The program could benefit the LEPC's by providing mapped vulnerability population data and overlays of actual hazardous incident data. This data would be made available to LEPC's through bi-annual presentations. Mr. Higginbotham also provided resource information for the SOT's Chemical Education Initiative.

### **Subcommittee on Training Membership Guidelines**

Mr. George Danz requested that each LEPC send a memo to Mr. Tim Date stating who officially serves as their LEPC's representative and alternate on the Subcommittee on Training.

### **SERC Meeting Location in January 2010**

Mr. George Danz asked the LEPC if there were any proposals for hosting the SERC meetings on January 7 - 8, 2010. After a brief discussion it was suggested that interested districts submit proposals for consideration at the October 2009 SERC meeting.

### **U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Listings**

Mr. Dwayne Mundy stated that Florida Regional Planning Council address information is listed in-correct on the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) web-page.

### **Issues for State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)**

Ms. Jennifer Hobbs requested that the LEPC inquire on the status of a letter being drafted by the SERC to EPA. The document will request an update of terminology in certain occupational categories. Mr. Mike Jacobs stated that a motion was made to write a letter to EPA representative, Mr. Chris Russell. Mr. Russell, who was in attendance at the April 3, 2009, SERC meeting, stated he would follow-up on the occupational category terminology matter and report back to the SERC.

Mr. Greg Lee stated he would be retiring in August 2009 from the Department of Environmental Protection after 35 years of service. Mr. Greg Lee personally thanked all of the LEPC members for their contributions and efforts made over the years.

There was a consensus to support the SOT's request for SERC approval to have a legislative review conducted to determine who has statutory authority to conduct indoor air monitoring for residential structures.

With no further discussion a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.