

**State Emergency Response Commission
Subcommittee on Training
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Room 170M
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
January 8, 2009**

Present:

LEPC 1: Richard Delp
LEPC 2: 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: Doug Wolfe
LEPC 10: Absent
LEPC 11: Manny Cela for 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)
Susan Schell (State Fire Marshal's Office)
Richard Butgereit (Florida Division of Emergency Management)

I. Introductions

Mr. Doug Wolfe opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He also asked for a moment of silence for people defending our country both in the United States and abroad. All persons attending the meeting were introduced.

II. Revision of Membership Policies/Guidelines

Mr. Tim Date reports that policies and guidelines are nearly completed. The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) requested that an industry representative be included on the Subcommittee on Training. Mr. Richard Delp will complete this task before the April 2009, quarterly meeting.

III. Update on Conference Calls

Two conference calls were held prior to the January 2009, Subcommittee on Training meeting. Agenda items discussed on October 24, 2009, were the LPG/NG and Tox-

Medic Initiatives. On December 3, 2009, a work session was held on the Tox-Medic Initiative.

IV. Report on the LPG/NG Initiative

Mr. Mike Murphy reports that a white paper was drafted by Mr. Don Sessions. The draft white paper will be distributed to the SERC Subcommittee on Training for review. The Liquid Propane Gas/Natural Gas (LPG/NG) Industry is surveying all members/associations throughout the State of Florida. The survey data will be compiled into a comprehensive list of their industry standards for equipment use and operational training. The Subcommittee on Training will utilize this data to develop Hazardous Material (HazMat) Operational Standards for private industry personnel. Another goal is to open the lines of communication by providing the LPG/NG Industry with an understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS). Also, the subcommittee will provide public fire and emergency response agencies an understanding of the need to coordinate with private industry response personnel and the need to incorporate private industry personnel into the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and ICS. On-site training at incident command posts will be provided to make known the specific protocols and operational functions. The subcommittee is also acting as a liaison to bring together LPG/NG Industry, and fire/emergency response personnel for local meetings and public forums. Mr. Doug Wolfe noted that code enforcement agencies, fire departments, and law enforcement personnel are authorized under state statute to cite a contractor if a gas line, or buried utility line is cut because of failure to utilize the 48 hour locate process. Mr. Wolfe also noted that by citing contractors in violation may decrease the number of gas or utility lines being cut in local communities.

V. Report on Tox-Medic Initiative

Mr. Doug Wolfe reported on the December 3, 2008, Tox-Medic Initiative meeting. Mr. Wolfe reported the subcommittees' goal is to review the guiding National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472 & 473 standards. The subcommittee proposed to define certain levels of toxicology responders in Florida.

The three (3) levels identified for medical responders are:

1) EMS Operational Responder

Responders will meet NFPA 472 core competencies and basic life support (BLS), and advanced life support (ALS) competencies under NFPA 473 standards. This category must also meet certain mission specific competencies as identified in NFPA 472.

2) ToxMedic

Responders will meet NFPA 472 core competencies and advanced life support (ALS) competencies under NFPA 473 standards. This category must also meet certain mission specific competencies and toxic syndromes as identified in NFPA 472.

3) HazMedic

Responders will meet NFPA 472 core competencies and advanced life support (ALS) competencies under NFPA 473 standards. This category must also meet all eight (8) mission specific competencies and toxic syndromes as identified in NFPA 472.

A development team is being spearheaded by Mr. Armando Bevelacqua. The team has compiled a draft document of protocols. The draft document will be continually refined by revising the definitions and protocols. Regional representatives and Florida EMS Medical Director, Dr. Joe Nelson, have provided toxicology input, along with the three regional Poison Control Centers in Florida. Additional meetings are being scheduled to continually update 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 before the State Medical Director's Association in April 2009.

The Subcommittee on Training is suggesting that a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) webpage be created to post their strategic initiatives, projects, goals, benchmarks, draft policies, and presentations. This project will be added to the subcommittees' Strategic Initiatives Chart.

VI. 2008 Strategic Plan Action Items

Data Sharing

E-Plan

E-Plan was made available to authorized State of Florida users in 2008. Ms. Shanti Smith reports the University of Texas at Dallas is the federal contractor for E-Plan. The University of Texas at Dallas has the expertise, and programming capability, to upgrade E-Plan as needed to meet future needs. Ms. Smith stated E-Plan is now concentrating on the program being utilized by emergency response call centers in coordination with E-911 Coordinators statewide. E-Plan will be utilized as a tool by call centers to determine types of hazardous materials housed at facility sites, and to alert first responders of hazardous situations. E-Plan will also be coming on-line in the near future in the State Watch Office in Tallahassee, Florida. Ms. Smith is continuing to market E-Plan, and educate the emergency management community at conferences and meetings to bring Florida counties on-line.

HAZUS Web Portal

Mr. Richard Butgereit gave a presentation on HAZUS: a Geospatial Information System (GIS) web based application primarily designed for GIS managers and technicians. The HAZUS program is contained within a desktop GIS system, and used primarily for damage assessment, catastrophic planning, local mitigation strategies, hazard analysis, State of Florida mitigation plan updates, and locating hazardous material facilities. The

web portal allows users to upload multiple GIS data layers, e.g., hazardous material facilities, fire departments, police stations, property value data, infrastructure data, transportation data, and demographics. Mr. Butgereit has proposed to the Division of Emergency Management (DEM), Technological Hazards Unit managers, to make HAZUS available to authorized users. A suggestion was made by Mr. Butgereit, and Ms. Shanti Smith, that county planners and DEM GIS staffs verify the accuracy of latitude and longitude data, and take corrective actions to update any discrepancies in the data. A motion was made to support the placement of Section 302, and Section 311 facilities as a marker point in the HAZUS database to help facilitate disaster planning at the state and local level. The motion was second and carried unanimously.

Mass Casualty Decontamination Team Assessment Methodologies

Mr. Frank DeFrancesco reports no updated information at this time.

Field Operations Guide (FOG) Manual

Mr. Doug Wolfe reports the Subcommittee on Training will have more clarification on the direction of this project after the Florida Association for Hazardous Material Responders (FLAHR) discusses this project at their meeting to be held at the end of January 2009.

Operational Level Training Guidelines

Ms. Shanti Smith reports that an invitation for bid will go out soon for an update on the Operational Level Training Guidelines publication. If there is sufficient funding available after funds are appropriated for the publication, a training video will be made in the current fiscal year. If funding is not available the training video will be made in fiscal year 2009–2010.

Reporting Template for Responders

Mr. Dan Wouters was not able to attend the SERC Subcommittee on Training meeting, therefore, no information was reported on the project.

Health and HazMat Team Relationship Building

Mr. Mike Jacobs reports that members of the Subcommittee on Training had a conference call with the Division of Environmental Health, to discuss getting toxicologists at the county level involved with Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), and hazmat response teams, to provide toxicological advice and consultation. The subcommittee was assisted by the state toxicologist in identifying two toxicologists in each local district to become liaisons to the local emergency planning committees. It was also noted that local environmental health staff will be required to have operations level training.

Mr. Doug Wolfe stated he would like to see the Subcommittee on Training build even stronger bridges to the environmental health function, the Type I HazMat Asset as defined by the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, and stronger communications with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Non-Routine Hazards

Mr. Doug Wolfe stated there is a big statewide push on mercury hazards. Several regions have been working with mercury issues. Mr. Wolfe stated the Subcommittee on Training may want to consider implementing a technician level training focusing on the impacts of mercury exposure as a project initiative for 2009.

VII. Discussion of Initiatives Necessary for 2009

There was a brief discussion on credentialing and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). A motion was made for the Subcommittee on Training to create model guidelines defining NIMS compliance. The guidelines will be a credentialing process for all thirty-seven (37) hazmat teams in Florida. Mr. Michael Jacobs recommended that Subcommittee on Training members work directly with Mr. Larry White at DEM to develop these guidelines. The motion was second and carried unanimously. This project will be added to the 2009 project chart.

Mr. Mike Murphy made a suggestion for Subcommittee on Training members to explore ways of reaching students, e.g., through educational programs, to develop their interests in pursuing careers in the sciences, and the chemical industry. It was suggested that the Subcommittee on Training partner with the Department of Education, and outreach to private industries as well. A motion was made to add this project to the committees' 2009 project chart. The motion was second and carried unanimously.

Mr. Doug Wolfe and Mr. Mike Murphy asked the Subcommittee on Training for input on whether a project should be initiated to identify all opportunities for cost recovery available to the local communities with regard to hazardous material. After a brief discussion a motion was made to add this project to the 2009 project chart. The motion was second and carried unanimously.

Mr. Doug Wolfe re-iterated from earlier comments "I would like to see the Subcommittee on Training build better relationships with public health, and integrate public health into the HazMat Response Initiative." *This is a strategic initiative currently being worked.*

It was suggested by Mr. Mike Jacobs to have a State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) representative give an educational presentation at the next Subcommittee on Training meeting. The presentation would address any gap analysis /communication issues first responders may be having in their respective districts.

Mr. Mike Murphy asked the committee to consider adding another 2009 project, to continually monitor the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) for assessment

updates on hazmat teams. A motion was made to proceed with the project. The motion was second and carried unanimously.

VIII. Updates from Agencies/Organizations

Florida Fire Chiefs' Association

-No updates

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

-Annual meeting to be held on January 28, 2009

-Instituting reorganization plan and recruitment of regional representatives

State Fire Marshall's Office (*Susan Schell*)

-Mr. John DeIorio is no longer employed with the Fire Marshall's Office

-Conduct readiness assessment of hazmat teams

IX. 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

X. Other Business

n/a

XI. Issues for State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

-Clarification on the Subcommittee on Training memberships

-Briefing on the Tox-Medic Initiative

-Briefing on the LPG/NG Initiative and circulation of a draft white paper to SERC

-Approval of new projects added to the 2009 Project Board

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.