



**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 10 LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) For Hazardous Materials
August 7, 2008**

Committee Members/Alternates Present

Chris Bushman, Chairman
 Richard Daniels
 Cheryl Dunn
 Mike Geier
 John Gojkovich
 Steven Graff
 Nicholas Laryea
 Frank Lasaga
 Etta LoPresti
 Dave Maloney
 Debra McCaughey
 Paul Meding
 John O’Malley
 Houston Park
 Joseph Passanesi
 Sharon Rayner
 Carlos Valle
 Danny Wells
 Dan Wouters
 Dennis Zabel

Occupational Category

Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
 Emergency Management (City of Port St. Lucie)
 Health (Indian River County Health Department)
 Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management
 Law Enforcement (Port St. Lucie Police Department)
 Law Enforcement (Stuart Police Department)
 Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
 Emergency Management (City of Stuart)
 Emergency Management (Indian River County)
 Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)
 Emergency Management (Martin County)
 Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Incorporated)
 Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)
 Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
 Law Enforcement (Martin County Sheriff’s Office)
 Community Group (American Red Cross)
 Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney – Rocketdyne)
 Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Incorporated)
 Firefighting (Martin County Fire District)
 Health (Florida Atlantic University)

Members Absent

Hassan Al-Buhaisi

Bill Amador
 Sharon Andre
 Todd Deehl
 Cheryl Dunne
 Steven Huntsberger
 John Johnson
 Harry Lux
 Jack McCart
 Barry Stewart
 Greg Thompson
 Lisa Wilson-Davis, Vice-Chairman
 Dan Wouters

Occupational Category

Local Environmental (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)
 Firefighting (Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue)
 Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
 Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
 Facility Operator (Syngenta Crop Protection)
 Interested Citizen (Indian River Community College)
 Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
 Interested Citizen (Hazmat & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
 Interested Citizen (Educational Consultants, Inc.)
 Local Environmental (Hazardous Waste Services)
 Interested Citizen (Tribune)
 Non-Elected Local Official (City of Boca Raton)
 Firefighting (Martin County Fire District)

Staff

Kathryn Boer
 Penny Myszkowski

TCRPC/LEPC District 10
 TCRPC/LEPC District 10

Visitors

Anthony Difuscio
Joe Holland
Clint Sperber
Dave Rawicz
Paul Seldes
Joseph Nelson
Mark Anderson

Martin County Health Systems
Syngenta Crop Protection
St. Lucie County Health Department
Cheney Brothers
NTB Group
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Chairman Bushman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Bushman requested roll call and staff announced a quorum was present. Staff welcomed visitors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 1, 2008

Mr. Joseph Passanesi moved approval of the February 7, 2008 District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Frank Lasaga seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

OLD BUSINESS

2008 Emergency Response Guidebooks

Chairman Chris Bushman said the county emergency management offices have copies of the Emergency Response Guidebooks. CD format of the Guidebooks are not available as of yet and staff will check on the availability again. Law enforcement was going to use them in the laptop computers in their patrol cars. The Guidebook may be downloaded from the Department of Transportation website.

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

Biennial Appointments

Staff noted that according to the LEPC Bylaws, members must be reappointed every two years. Current members were submitted for reappointment and approved by the State Emergency Response Commission at the April 4, 2008 meeting. Staff asked that any member who does not want to continue serving to let her know. Members were encouraged to appoint an alternate if they do not have one and request a nomination form from staff.

Access to Florida Data in E-Plan – Draft Guidelines

Access to E-Plan has not been approved yet. The University of Texas (UT) drafted guidelines for granting and terminating access and the guidelines are in the agenda packet. They have asked the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to approve these guidelines. At this point the process for access to E-Plan has the participant request access through their local emergency management office. In

turn, the request will be delivered to the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and they will verify that the names of the persons sent work for the agency. Then the passwords will be delivered. If the person is terminated, their agency must notify the state.

Update on State Emergency Response Commission Creation of a Task Force/Workgroup

Chairman Bushman noted that if the Training Task Force is created under certain methods, they would fall under the Public Records Acts and the government sunshine laws of Florida. That would keep members of the group from communicating with one another. They have been approved as a working group and will be reappointed annually by Craig Fugate. Staff said they have existed for a long time as the State Training Task Force. The task force has an open and advertised meeting, but other organizations cannot talk to one another about ongoing projects because many are voting members on different committees. To remedy the situation, the membership policy has been changed. Each LEPC will be represented on the working group for the SERC and with the new format, people will be able to communicate and get work accomplished outside committee confines.

Hazardous Materials Incident Reports

Staff provided information through reports and graphs on release of hazardous materials in the District 10 Region for the time period of June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008. Staff noted the entire report is available on-line at <http://www.hazmat.floridadisaster.org/meet.htm>.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs Meeting Update

The LEPC Chairs meeting took place on July 9, 2008. Staff said they recommended supporting the Training Task Force (TTF) initiative to be renamed as a working group. They will review training guidelines for the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness program.

Another issue discussed was LEPC members listed in a particular category that are now working in another area. The member may no longer be working in the same category and it was suggested that the individual LEPCs should be able to change or add categories for their membership. This will be discussed at the next quarterly meeting. Staff will e-mail members the current category list and asked for suggestions in updating the list.

Training Task Force Update – Chairman Bushman

Chairman Bushman said the membership policy guidelines were developed and discussed at a couple of different meetings. They are on hold pending resolution of the creation of the workgroup. The TTF has been meeting every month by conference call.

The Task Force is also working on the capabilities assessment tool for the the Type I and Type II Hazmat resources. The TTF is also reviewing definitions for Tox Medic training to determine needs and capabilities and if it should become part of the curriculum for the State of Florida paramedic program. If there is training, they want to set the standards for the training so it will be accepted at the Florida Fire

College. Staff noted that the LEPC will be sponsoring a Tox Medic class in Boca Raton in September. The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) will approve the new definitions.

The TTF is working on the annual technician refresher certification check off list which standardizes paramedic capabilities that respond from different regions.

Staff noted that the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) program training guidelines will be updated by the Department of Transportation. The LEPCs and TTF would like to include representation from the TTF/Working Group or LEPCs to be a part of the EMI discussions and rewrite of these HMEP training guidelines for the SERC. It was requested that whoever attends these meetings would be reimbursed for their travel.

REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

The Planning Subcommittee met prior to the LEPC meeting. Staff reported that this year the LEPC must conduct a biennial exercise. During last year's cycle, the subcommittee updated and revised the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan. This plan is a general plan that discusses how things are done in the region and refers to the fact that each county responds to their own local protocols. It does not engage every response agency to follow specific rules. The last biennial exercise was the 2006/2007 St. Lucie County Weapons of Mass Destruction exercise held at the Emergency Operations Center in St. Lucie County. The LEPC will try not to link onto another major exercise this next year. The Planning committee began discussing the next exercise and whether to do a functional or full scale exercise. June 30, 2009 is the exercise deadline. Linking with another multijurisdictional exercise in March through May is a possibility. The subcommittee welcomes ideas from committee members for this exercise.

Public Information/Marketing Subcommittee

Staff reported that this committee is still utilizing the powerpoint that was created this past year. There are regionwide outreach workshops provided on how to file Tier II information. John O'Malley is the chair of this subcommittee and he welcomes any new ideas on outreach projects.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

Staff is working to complete the Shelter-In-Place model, brochures, and a website edition to our current website in fulfillment of HMEP planning project requirements.

Local Emergency Planning Committee activities

Members received a list of LEPC activities since the previous meeting of May 1, 2008. Also included was a list of other emergency management/preparedness projects and activities that staff participated in through the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Contract Activities Update

Staff reported that the requested additional funds from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) have been approved. We will offer the Clandestine Drug Lab (operations level) - 16 hours, Tox Medic (Hazmat Medic Review) - 24 hours, and Hazmat IQ – 8 hours.

Chairman Bushman said the team in St. Petersburg has a tech class that is needed by most law enforcement personnel need to mitigate a scene. Staff will look into costs to bring this class to law enforcement agencies in the region.

Captain Houston Park asked if we have a high intensity drug trafficking area in this region as in Broward and Miami, because sometimes funding is available through the Drug Enforcement Administration to fund classes.

The NIMS series of Incident Command System (ICS) classes is being offered in St. Lucie County for public works and utilities. This is funded through the State Homeland Security Grant Funds Program. ICS 100 and 700 will be offered on August 26, 27, 28th and ICS 200 and 800 offered September 9, 10, 11th. Also the ICS 300 and 400 classes will be offered for line supervisors and management. Staff asked members to let her know if anyone from their agencies would like to attend.

Membership – Officer Nomination/Elections and New Appointments

Staff reported that the District 10 LEPC officers' terms expired in July. The Chair and Vice Chair are willing to serve another two year term. Motion was made by Lt. Joseph Passanesi and seconded by Lt. John Gojkovitch to reappoint Chairman Chris Bushman and Vice Chair Lisa Wilson-Davis by phone. The motion was approved unanimously. **Motion**

There are two new primary members, Keith Holman, Director of Martin County Emergency Management Agency and his alternate Debra McCaughey, Senior Planner for Martin County Emergency Management and new primary Hassan Al-Buhaisi, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Steven Threet, his alternate, also Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The staff and Chair welcomed the new members.

FLORIDA GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE SYSTEM PRESENTATION BY JOHN LONG

Mr. John Long gave an overview of the Florida Gas Transmission Pipeline System that runs from south Texas to south Florida. Florida Gas Transmission is the largest natural gas provider in Florida since 1958. Mr. Long presented maps showing the different pipelines along the Florida Turnpike. These pipes have valves with automatic shut-offs. Lateral pipes bring the gas to the local distribution companies. The gas is pumped through fifteen compressor stations in Florida, including stations in Fort Pierce, Palm Beach County, and Dade County. The pipes are made of thick-walled steel and are three feet or more under the ground. 80% of the gas they transport goes to power plants, with the rest going to local distribution companies. The largest pipe running through Florida is 36 inches in diameter. Mr. Long is available to speak to local fire departments and give details about the lines in their regions. The gas comes to Florida stripped of butane, propane, gasoline, distillates. It has a 1300 btu content.

The national number to call before you dig is 811 and the local number is 1-800-432-4770. The call is routed to the local call center.

High pressure gas comes into the meter stations. The gas is odorized with mecapcan so it can be detected if leaked. The odorant is heavier than air, so it drops down as the gas goes up. In the meter stations there are relief valves that will open if the pressure is too high. There is a 24 hour number 1-800-238-5066 for gas control in Houston, Texas. They monitor the pipe and can see when there are differences in pressure. Local sheriff and police are notified when valves are being worked on and gas will be released. The national pipeline mapping system can be viewed at www.npms.sspa.dot.gov

Natural gas is 94% methane and 4% ethane. It is non toxic, but flammable and is 40% lighter than air, so it goes straight up when released.

Staff asked if Mr. Long would be able to give this presentation to the RDSTF in Orlando to address law enforcement needs. Mr. Long would be glad to give that presentation. Staff also asked how Mr. Long's company notifies the local Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Long said that normally when a call

comes in, the local residents have called their fire local fire department, who in turn call the Gas Transmission Company. Most of the time the transmission company is already aware of the situation because of the monitoring they conduct. The company has people located throughout the area who can respond to emergency situations and shut off valves. Staff suggested that teams from each county might be able to work with gas transmission workers in the upcoming biennial exercise.

Mr. John Long's phone is 407-620-5635 and his e-mail is cowboyjohn45@yahoo.com

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND STAFF

Staff announced that Mr. Wayne Landowski, LEPC member and Planning and Exercise Sub-committee Chair, suffered a heart attack and passed away on July 5, 2008. Staff welcomes suggestions as to what the committee can do to recognize his service. FAU dedicated a room to him at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) for emergency management. Dennis Zabel, Mr. Landowski's alternate, will submit a nomination form and apply as the LEPC primary member.

Staff pointed out that each member received a revised map of the eleven Florida LEPC districts with contact information. Staff asked that when anything in member's contact information has changed i.e. phone number, extension, e-mail, that they get those changes to us. We like to give an updated membership contact list to all our members so members can talk outside the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Richard Daniels said there will be an ICS class in Port St. Lucie on September 22-25, 2008. We will send out information on the class once received.

Mr. Clint Sperber reported that a Catastrophic Health Incident Response Planning Exercise was held in St. Lucie County on July 30-31. It was a mass casualty exercise with 180 casualties involving 20 different agencies in six different counties. They had a local and regional response with hospitals and The American Red Cross. It was a day long functional exercise.

Staff said that Mr. Sperber has been nominated as the alternate for Mr. Todd Deehl.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting will be held November 6, 2008 at Indian River State College Chastain Campus, Stuart, Florida.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.