



**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 10 LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
May 7, 2009**

Committee Members/Alternates Present

Hassan Al-Buhaisi

Bill Amador
Mark Anderson
Richard Daniels
Cheryl Dunn
Cheryl Dunne
John Gojkovich
Keith Holman
Scott Johnston (Alternate)
Nicholas Laryea
Frank Lasaga
Etta LoPresti
Harry Lux
Dave Maloney
Jack McCartt
John O'Malley
Houston Park (Alternate)
Paul Seldes
Barry Stewart
Greg Thompson
Carlos Valle
Brian Hanley (Alternate)
Danny Wells
Lisa Wilson-Davis, Vice Chairman
Dan Wouters
Arthur Wyman (Alternate)

Members Absent

Chris Bushman, Chairman
Todd Deehl
Anthony DiFruscio
Steven Graff
Steven Huntsberger
Paul Meding
Joseph Passanesi

Occupational Category

Local Environmental (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)
Firefighting (Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue)
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Emergency Management (City of Port St. Lucie)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Facility Operator (Syngenta Crop Protection)
Law Enforcement (Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Emergency Management (Martin County)
Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
Emergency Management (City of Stuart)
Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Interested Citizen (Hazmat & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)
Interested Citizen (Educational Consultants, Inc.)
Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Interested Citizen (NTB Group, LLC)
Local Environmental (Hazardous Waste Services)
Interested Citizen (Sun Sentinel)
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney – Rocketdyne)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)
Non-Elected Local Official (City of Boca Raton)
Firefighting (Martin County Fire Rescue)
Community Group (American Red Cross)

Occupational Category

Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
Law Enforcement (Stuart Police Department)
Interested Citizen (Indian River State College)
Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Incorporated)
Law Enforcement (Martin County Sheriff's Office)

Staff

Kathryn Boer
Penny Myszkowski

TCRPC/LEPC District 10
TCRPC/LEPC District 10

Visitors

Dennis Zabel
Marjorie Silberman

Florida Atlantic University
Palm City

Vice Chair Wilson-Davis called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Vice Chair Wilson-Davis requested roll call and staff announced a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF MAY 7, 2009 MEETING

Mr. Greg Thompson moved approval of the agenda. Mr. Barry Stewart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2009

Mr. Frank Lasaga moved approval of the February 5, 2009 District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Brian Hanley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Regulations

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) met April 3, 2009 in Tallahassee. The SERC did not vote on any issues. There were status reports on E-Plan and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) regulations. On December 18, 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ruled that farms are exempt from reporting to the federal government unless they emit ammonia or hydrogen sulfide at 100 pounds or more every 24 hour period. Attached to the item 5A1 memo is the definition of large CAFO, as well as the definition for the small and medium CAFOs. They are required to report to the SERC and LEPC and submit a form showing substances emitted and the quantity. They report to the LEPC annually with any changes in these emissions.

E-Plan Status Report

In April 2008, the SERC approved a policy for hazardous materials data sharing on a national basis between the Florida SERC and the University of Texas. All 36 hazmat teams in the State of Florida, 11 local emergency planning committees, and 30 out of 67 emergency management directors now have access to E-Plan. The initiative of the state is to develop software that collaborates with E-Plan data in 911 call centers to better prepare first responders. Palm Beach County emergency staff is working on software that will provide 302 chemical information associated with addresses for dispatchers to relay to first responders.

Risk Management Plan Audit Schedule

The Division of Emergency Management (DEM) under the Clean Air Act of 1990 runs the Risk Management Planning Program for the State of Florida. Once a year there is planning audit and inspection schedule. High priority sites are facilities that have a higher potential of releases that affect public health and the environment. Staff relayed that the 2009 Capabilities Assessments for the Region 5 Domestic Security Task Force raised concerns from law enforcement regarding sharing information on chemical facilities as an important issue in terrorism. Collaboration between Federal Law Enforcement (FDLE) and DEM is needed to exchange accurate information for ACAMs.

Hazardous Materials Incident Reports

Staff provided information through reports and graphs on release of hazardous materials within the District 10 Region for the time period of March 1, 2008 through February 8, 2009. Staff noted the entire report is available on-line at <http://www.hazmat.floridadisaster.org/meet.htm>.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs Meeting Update

Occupational Categories Update

The LEPC Chairs meeting took place on April 2, 2009. The LEPC Occupational Categories were discussed. Specific changes will be made and presented at the next SERC meeting. DEM staff will generate a letter to the EPA to update the category language with EPCRA and the Florida Statutes. Support was given to the SERC Subcommittee on Training on issues of strategic initiatives that will be coming in the next year. Staff delivered the decisions made by this LEPC regarding the occupational category changes. There was agreement that the adoption of a “Local Option Category” will allow for local specific categories for each district. Safety, Educational, and Hazardous Materials categories will be taken to the next LEPC Chairs meeting for discussion. Consensus was that retired members will remain in their previous category if they so choose and also that no member shall represent more than one category. The following occupational categories will be combined into one category: Facility Operators and Owners; Elected State and Local Officials; and Print and Broadcast Media.

Subcommittee on Training Update

Staff thanked Chief Dan Wouters for his contribution to this LEPC as the Training Task Force (TTF) Representative. The TTF is now the Subcommittee on Training (SOT). Chief Jack McCartt will be the new LEPC representative on the Subcommittee on Training. Staff reported that conference calls were conducted on February 10 and March 10, 2009. Strategic initiatives for current and upcoming projects were discussed. One of these projects is chemical education in the sciences in schools. The Hazardous Materials Medical Care Protocols are still in draft form. Initiatives presented and approved for recommendation to the SERC include: HazMat team credentialing for National Incident Management

System (NIMS) compliance, educational outreach to the Department of Education to interest children in the chemical industry and hazmat, and building stronger relationships with public health entities.

Chief McCartt said that the SOT was working on the state-wide Emergency Medical Services protocols for hazardous materials. The draft will be sent to the state medical directors and they will review it and make recommendations. Also there are some issues in the manner in which white powder calls are approached and samples are collected. There are discrepancies between fire departments and law officials in the collection of biological samples. The FBI and CDC have published a recommended set of guidelines. There was discussion on this topic. Law enforcement collects a sample for evidence and the hazmat team collects a sample for screening and identification purposes. The FBI wants to make sure that evidence is not destroyed for prosecution cases. Staff asked if the new guidelines will be in the new Field Operations Guidebook. Chief Wouters said the guideline already exists and it does not need to be changed right now. There was discussion on this topic. Chief Scott Johnston said that they have a good working relationship with the FBI out of Miami and West Palm.

Staff will look into scheduling a class on evidence collecting for fire rescue and hazardous materials personnel, and other agencies. Vice Chair Wilson-Davis asked about the chemical education in schools and Jack McCartt said that it is a concept right now with an open field for ideas.

Staff said that they would send the agenda for the Subcommittee on Training conference calls to any member who would like to participate in the calls. Staff will also email a copy of the Medical Care Protocols and Biological Field Testing Guidelines to members.

REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

The Planning Subcommittee members were sent via email the District 10 2008 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan to review for updates or changes. Staff will add new facilities. June 15, 2009 is the deadline for corrections to the plan by the Subcommittee.

Public Information/Marketing Subcommittee

Staff reported that the Public Information/Marketing Subcommittee has not met recently. The Shelter in Place powerpoint is available and the Compliance Outreach presentation can be provided by staff when requested. Tier II reporting has been on time this year. During the next project cycle, staff will complete an assessment of Tier II reporting.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

A list of the LEPC planning activities since the previous meeting of February 5, 2009 was included in the agenda packet.

Contract Activities Update

Utilizing the Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant (HMEP) funding, the LEPC is sponsoring an Advanced Hazardous Materials Life Support class in Palm Beach and a Fire Chemistry 40-hour course will be offered in June. The 2009 project for the Planning component of the HMEP is a functional exercise that will build on the LEPC tabletop exercise. Staff will be asking for volunteers to be evaluators and observers.

Membership

Vice Chair Wilson-Davis said there are two new primary members, Officer Steven Graff, City of Stuart Police Department, and Ms. Sally Waite, Palm Beach County Emergency Management. New alternate members are Captain Michael Rizzello for Chief Chris Bushman, Sergeant Bill Pecci for Officer Steven Graff, and Mr. Brian Hanley, Palm Beach County Emergency Management, for Ms. Sally Waite.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND STAFF

Staff said that Mr. Steven Huntsberger has offered the new DHS training facility at Indian River State College as the site for the August 6, 2009 LEPC meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Harry Lux and seconded by Mr. Hassan Al-Buhaisi to hold the next LEPC meeting at the Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. Motion was approved.

Motion

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Richard Daniels said that Port St. Lucie will host the next Hurricane Expo at the new civic center from 8:30 to 4:00 on Saturday, May 16th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting will be held August 6, 2009 at Indian River State College at the new DHS training facility in Fort Pierce. The LEPC Quarterly meeting dates for the remainder of 2009 and 2010 are November 5, 2009, February 4, 2010, May 6, 2010, August 5, 2010, and November 4, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brian Hanley and seconded by Mr. Barry Stewart. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Motion