



**Northeast Florida
Local Emergency Planning Committee**
Wednesday, November 14th, 2012



10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

A meeting of the District IV Local Emergency Planning Committee was held on Wednesday, November 14th, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida 32216. Chair Richard Knoff called the meeting to order with the following members:

Present

Chief Michal Bazanos – Firefighting
Mr. Terry Carr – Local Environmental
Ms. Sandi Courson – Health
Mr. Paul Crist – Transportation
Chief Lenny Ensalco – Firefighting
Mr. George Faucher – Firefighting
Ms. Gracie Kennedy – Local Environmental
Chief Richard Knoff – Firefighting
Chief Joel Sneed – Firefighting
Mr. Roger Studenski – Transportation
Mr. John Ward – Emergency Management
Mr. Ken Wilkey – Facility Operator
Mr. Adam Faircloth for Sheriff Joey Dobson – Law Enforcement
Mr. James Murphy for Mr. Andy Sikes - Hospital
Mr. Danny Yeager for Chief Harvey Silcox - Firefighting

Excused

Mr. Henry Bonar – Facility Owner
Brad Elias, M.D. - Health
Mr. Gerry Gividen - Interested Citizen
Ms. Martha Ira – Local Environmental
Mr. William Lord – Facility Operator
Chief Mike Williams – Law Enforcement

Absent

Mr. Morrison Braren – Senior Planner
Mr. Bill Decker – Local Environmental
Mr. Benjamin W. Huron – Interested Citizen
Mr. Steven W. Millican – Emergency Management
Mr. Quin Romay – Emergency Management
Lt. John W. Scott, III - Firefighting

Guests: Robert Crosby, Department of Homeland Security
Sam Mum, FBI
Doug Lang, Florida National Guard
Scott West, Baptist Health
Kelly Boaz, FBI

Staff Present: Eric Anderson

Chairman Knoff welcomed everyone to the LEPC Meeting. He took a few moments to introduce the newly appointed members. After calling roll, it was determined that quorum was met.

The new Roster was presented and Chief Knoff asked the members to review the list and if they did not have an alternate member appointed, to try to find an alternate to ensure representation at meetings.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Because there was no quorum at the August meeting and the Minutes could not be voted upon, **Chairman Knoff called for a motion to approve the May 9, 2012 minutes. A motion to approve was made by Chief Bazanos, seconded by Mr. Carr. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Knoff then called for a motion to approve the August 8, 2012 minutes. A motion to approve was made by Chief Bazanos, seconded by Chief Ensalaco. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

HMEP Planning and Training Grant: Mr. Anderson gave a brief update on HMEP Planning and Training. He said we are under a new contract this year. About \$20,000 was received for Planning, and a Commodity Flow Study was recommended as the project. FDEM will be doing a Port Commodity Flow Study, with Jacksonville being one of the ports included. This study will implement a roadway study, indicating how the chemicals are transported throughout the region – identification of placards. Mr. Anderson said he would like to arrange to meet with Mr. Crist of FDOT to discuss the possibility of spending time at multiple truck stops in an effort to identify vehicles and types of materials being transported.

The Training aspect of the funding would address the first-responder training. One class was offered this past quarter for \$9500 for the Hazardous Materials ID class. Three classes were conducted throughout the region which was attended by about 30 people per class.

Hazards Analysis Update: Mr. Anderson explained that hazards analysis inspections have been completed in Baker and Nassau Counties. He will focus on Clay County during the latter part of November. He said most inspections involved water and wastewater treatment plants, mostly chlorine related facilities. Mr. Anderson expects to schedule St. Johns and Putnam Counties during the month of December.

NEW BUSINESS

Training Task Force Update: Mr. Anderson said that Lt. Lamm is working on providing the HazMat Seminar, which will be part of the Fire/Rescue East meeting in January. There will be several different tracks offered. A fee will be involved, which will be rolled into the full amount for Fire/Rescue East. A flyer related to this item was provided to the attendees.

Mr. Anderson said that Paul Wotherspoon, of FDEM, and TRANSCAER are working together to offer a three-day training, which would focus on chlorine, ethanol and anhydrous emergencies. Tentative scheduling is for next September in Ocala. Updates will be provided as they are available. Chief Knoff said that Paul Wotherspoon is really driving this forward, since this program is quite valuable. Everyone is urged to send people to this training.

LEPC Chair/Staff Meeting – Mr. Anderson explained that there were two major issues covered at the meeting. First, a member of the US Coast Guard, Forrest Willis, spoke to the group about Area Committees, which function similarly to an LEPC. Mr. Willis asked the LEPC to get involved in the

Area Committees, with regard to marine chemical transport. Mr. Anderson announced that he would be attending the Area Committee meetings, which are held approximately twice per year. This effort seems to be as a result of the New Horizon oil spill, for which many trained responders could have been made available but were essentially not permitted to get involved. The Coast Guard is now trying to become more involved in the community. Several LEPC members already attend these meetings.

Tier II reporting has seen some changes. Mr. Anderson provided a brief background on the Tier II reporting system. From the facilities side, reporting has been quite cumbersome, so plans are underway to revise filing to more of an E-Plan system. FDEM is also considering eliminating the Hazards Analysis Site Visits. A specific reason for this has not been provided, however, the LEPC side is arguing that this is integral to providing current, correct information to the counties regarding EHS chemicals in their back yards.

Chief Knoff thanked Ken Wilkey for attending the meeting on his behalf. Mr. Wilkey said it was a learning experience. He felt the elimination of the Hazards Analysis site visits escalated everyone's blood pressure.

SERC Meeting Update – Mr. Anderson said there was finally a quorum at the SERC meeting. The Membership, Yatabe Awards and Certificates of Appreciation were approved, and award winners will be recognized at the next meeting. SERC also approved the draft Protocol for Hazardous Materials and Explosive Ordinance Teams Integration. A presentation on this will be given in at today's meeting.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – Chief Knoff explained that the last training exceeded the HMEP funds, so we drew from the training CD an amount of \$1912.17 to cover the cost. He said that this sometimes happens since it is difficult to get a vendor to work within the exact figure available. Mr. Anderson provided a revised memorandum to the membership revising the current balance to approximately \$3,900.

Training Committee Report – Chief Silcox was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Anderson said that one course was offered this quarter, the Rapid ID and Assessment of Hazardous Materials course was offered in three counties. Also, since it seems the State is leaning towards E-Plan, we sent two representatives to attend the E-Plan Conference in Atlanta. The hope is that they were able to learn enough so as the state moves toward this type of system, we will be able to capitalize on their experience. Mr. Faucher provided a little background on the E-Plan system. He mentioned that Homeland Security, which currently funds the program, is looking to put it under DEP, due to budget constraints. North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia are currently E-Plan states. He said it is a clearinghouse system and appears easy to use. He felt that Nassau County could use E-Plan since it is a small county. Mr. Faucher said he has a little presentation that he can do whenever the committee would like.

Hazardous Materials Release Report – Mr. Anderson said there were no releases this quarter and no deaths or injuries were reported within our Region. There was a derailment on the west side of the Region in which a summer school session had to evacuate. Mr. Carr said the incident involved six different rail cars, including chlorine and sulfuric acid, from which there were no releases. However, there was a release of about 25,000 gallons of crude sulfate turpentine – a byproduct of the pulping process. Local companies use it to make fragrances and deodorizers. It has a very strong sulfur odor, so the evacuation was more for the nuisance than any real health threat. Some of the product seeped into the ground and

into Moncrief Creek, and affected about 3 miles of waterway. CSX is still doing recovery. A long-time environmental restoration plan will address Moncrief Creek. We were very fortunate considering the materials involved in the derailment. Chief Knoff asked if it was a valve or a rupture. Mr. Carr said that during the derailment, one of the cars hit and actually split the car.

Mr. Anderson said he had read an article that St. Johns or Flagler County had an accident where a truck spilled batteries and sulfuric acid. Chief Ensalaco said it was a Ford Window Van that rolled over onto a 75' stretch of the median. The difficulty for the department was that when they arrived, a tow truck was loading the batteries to haul them away, but it was difficult to determine which batteries were leaking acid. The tow truck owner said he had trained his personnel to handle this type of situation. However, they had no protective clothing. After speaking with the owner regarding the hazard, he abandoned the project. Ms. Kennedy said that a contractor was hired, which did neutralization in place.

Mr. Anderson mentioned that there was a death in the Gainesville region, which was a result of an employee attempting to check fuel level in a tank by using a cigarette lighter. The death was a result of his being launched from the tank by the explosion.

OTHER

Presentation - Chief Knoff introduced Agent Kelly Boaz of the FBI Orlando Office who will do a presentation on the Hazardous Materials and Explosive Teams Integration Protocol. Agent Boaz discussed his background and his current position with the FBI. He spoke about the need for coordination between tactical and HazMat organizations. He introduced Sam Munn of the Jacksonville FBI office. Mr. Munn is a WMD Coordinator, and Agent Boaz suggested that the committee should avail itself of Mr. Munn's talents whenever necessary. He also suggested partnering with Robert "Bing" Crosby, a chemical inspector from Homeland Security, who was also present at the meeting.

Agent Boaz's presentation centered on the similarity between the chemicals used in methamphetamine labs and in bomb creation. Questions on roll out are whether the hazards are chemical, biological, radiological, or explosive. He felt that it was very important to merge disciplines and skills between Bomb Squads, SWAT and HazMat teams.

After the presentation, Mr. Anderson asked if there was interest in this type of training that the LEPC could facilitate. He said he would send an email to follow up on this. Chief Knoff felt it could be done by county or by combining counties.

LEPC Elections – Chief Knoff said now that we have our new members onboard we can hold elections for the LEPC. He said he and Mr. Wilkey were willing to serve again, but he would open the floor for nominations.

Terry Carr moved to nominate Chief Knoff for Chairman, which was seconded by John Ward. Ms. Kennedy moved that nominations be closed. The motion carried unanimously.

John Ward moved to nominate Ken Wilkey for Vice Chairman, seconded by Gracie Kennedy. No other nominations were offered. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting - Chief Knoff said that the next meeting is scheduled for February 13th at the Northeast Florida Regional Council. Mr. Anderson said they were looking to hold the May meeting in Flagler County so the LEPC could see another part of the Region.

Mr. Anderson said that he would put out an email to try to see how members would like to hold next year's exercise, so he could begin the planning process on that. Since we do have a requirement for a bi-annual exercise, it would be helpful if we could establish a pool of people to identify the type of exercise, instructors, etc. to create an exercise that the whole Region would like to do. Perhaps we could have that group meet briefly after the quarterly meetings. Chief Knoff said that in the past, an Exercise Committee was established specifically for this purpose. He encouraged anyone who might be interested or had someone in their agency who might wish to participate, to contact Eric to work with him on this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.