

CHAIRMAN: GARY WEISS
VICE-CHAIR: TIM BENNETT

**SUPERFUND AMMENDMENTS AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT TITLE III
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE DISTRICT SEVEN**

**HARDEE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CIVIC
404 WEST ORANGE STREET
WACHULA, FL 33873**

**MAY 19, 2009
9:30 am**

APPROVED MINUTES

Chairman Gary Weiss called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Announcements:

Chuck Carter of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council conducted roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT

(Vice Chairman) Tim Bennett (P)
Michael Faulkner (P)
Debbie Deriso (A)
Dep Chief Dan Harshberger (P)
Chief Michael Choate (A)
Dominic Letobarone (P)
CPT Mike Linkins (P)
Richard Mancini (P)
Jacalyn McCarthy (P)
Betsy Negley (P)
Bill Nichols (P)
Chris Kaelin (A)
Rob Peter (P)

Kent Atkinson (A)
LT Joe Walker (A)
Richard Shepard (P)
Jill Peve (A)
Ken Straub (P)
Brent Roberts (A)
Chairman Gary Weiss (P)

Chuck Carter (LEPC Staff)
Kathy Hall (LEPC Staff)

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Randall Barfield (P)
Ann Wortman (A)
Mitch Smeykal (A)
Catherine Furr (P)
Battalion Chief Dan Bartle (A)
Allen Johnson (A)
Paul Womble (P)
Pete McNally (A)
Tom Moran (P)
James Olds (P)
Chief Glenn Prescott (P)
Dan Simpson (P)
Foster Thorpe (P)
James Villarreal (P)
Shawn Deutscher (A)
Jeff Wharton (A)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chief Nick Hopkins (P)
Deputy Chief David McCain (A)
Buddy Kindrick (P)
Doug Jackson (A)
James Nall (A)
Jo Haynes Suhr (P)
Mary Siegel (A)
Karen Albritton Taylor (P)

ALSO ATTENDING

Ben Ballen – Okeechobee County Intern
Jessica Hand – Hardee County Intern
Amalia Arista – Hardee County EM

AGENDA ITEM #1

Meeting Minutes

The February 25, 2009 Minutes were circulated via e-mail for review, comment and approval on March 6, 2009. Enough comments and recommendations for approval to constitute a quorum were received and Chairman Weiss signed the minutes on March 17, 2009.

AGENDA ITEM #2

Staff Report

- Statewide Evacuation Study Update

Chuck Carter stated that the study was moving forward. The LIDAR mapping was completed and verified, and the SLOSH data will be calculated later.

Dan Harshberger asked how this study was being tied into the Statewide Catastrophic Disaster Plan.

Mike Faulkner said that they are not tied together. He explained that at the last Statewide Catastrophic Plan meeting he attended, they were using old data, and it did not coincide with the behavioral study that was recently completed.

Dan Harshberger stated that the efforts are being senselessly duplicated. The two groups are not talking. They should be using the same data to produce a good document.

- E-Plan Presentation

Chuck Carter showed a PowerPoint Presentation on E-Plan. He stated that he just attended the Governor's Hurricane Conference where they held a class on E-Plan and this is the information they presented.

Emergency officials can gain access to the E-Plan website by obtaining a password from their Emergency Management Directors, among others.

Chairman Weiss stated that the benefit of the E-Plan is for first responders, planners, and businesses. If there is a hazardous materials event at any facility, the haz-mat team can quickly get on the E-Plan website and see exactly what is on that site, and how it should be evacuated. He stated that it is a free service.

- Statewide Training and Exercise Plan Update

Chuck Carter, stated that the Statewide Training and Exercise Plan meeting was conducted on April 30, 2009. He explained that the Department of Homeland Security, through the HSEEP Program, has directed them to develop a Statewide Training and Exercise Plan. This is a new plan from scratch and it should contain three years worth of projected training and exercise needs. The purpose of having the plan is to reduce training and exercise duplication between agencies and between local governments.

AGENDA ITEM #3

Reports from Cities/Counties/Agencies

Capt. Mike Linkins reported that Polk County was in the process of lifting the burn ban they have had in place for the last couple of months. Polk County will take delivery next month on a Bruch Truck with a compressed air pump system. It will be available regionally. Regarding EMS consolidation, Capt. Linkins reported that Polk County continues to utilize one unit from their Golf View Station from their pilot program. It is budgeted through October. They are preparing to present several budget options to the Commission.

Bill Nichols reported on the Highlands County white powder incident. He stated that they used their plans and followed the step by step procedures, and it went very smoothly. Highlands County had good cooperation between all the agencies involved. He expressed appreciation for everyone's support.

Chairman Weiss stated he was attending the SERC meeting in Tallahassee when that incident took place. He said that the State Warning Point Operations Officer and other officials at the EOC were very complimentary of Highlands County and the way the incident was handled.

AGENDA ITEM #4

Subcommittee Reports

- Membership – Foster Thorpe

Chairman Weiss stated that the SERC has made it clear that if a member does not attend at least one meeting per year, they are removed from the LEPC. The LEPC requires the attendance of either the primary member or the alternate member.

Chuck Carter stated that if something comes up that is going to prevent a member from attending, if that member will call him to let him know, he will be considered excused.

- Training – Gary Weiss

Chairman Weiss stated that the training committee was finally named. It will be referred to as the SERC Subcommittee on Training. He stated that the SERC finalized the draft of the Toxicology Medic which basically determines levels of certification and actual advance life support for a variety of hazardous materials incidents. It was taken to the State Medical Director and was accepted.

There was additional discussion regarding the Statewide Hazardous Materials Week for 2010. The point of emphasis next year will be to establish an outreach program to encourage schools to expand their training in science and chemistry and to show how this education can lead to a career relating to hazardous materials.

- Exercise – Paul Womble

Chuck Carter stated that the LEPC is not required to run an exercise this fiscal year. They are required to run an exercise next fiscal year, which starts July 1st. He asked members to be thinking about what kind of exercise they would like to have. He suggested holding a response exercise with one of the LEPC corporate members.

AGENDA ITEM #5 Old Business

- HMEP Training Funds

Chuck Carter stated that the CFRPC has funds to spend on training. He asked members to let him know if they need any type of hazardous materials training.

Mike Faulkner asked if funds could be used for positions specific All Hazardous Incident Management Training, such as Safety Officer or Liaison Officer.

Chuck Carter stated he would investigate.

- Report on the CO-OP Training

Chairman Weiss reported on the recent CO-OP Training provided by ACT for first responders, their business partners, and others. ACT held two days of training at their corporate headquarters in Bartow, and one day in Sebring. The training was hands-on and free. It was divided into two parts. They held a Confined Space Rescue and Entry, and a Level A Entry and Decontamination. They utilized local Haz-Mat Teams and their corporate sponsors' emergency response teams.

The second part was a Table Top Unified Command training scenario, on how to expand from a single person command to a unified command structure. Chairman Weiss stated that one of the things identified in the I-4 incident was the lack of unified command. Therefore, the Table Top exercise provided training in that area.

Bill Nichols stated that the Table Top Unified Command training held in Sebring was well attended and very successful.

Chuck Carter stated that HMEP funds paid for the Hardee County Fire Department Training Lieutenant to attend the Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis. Mr. Carter stated that he would ask Chief Choate to arrange for the Lieutenant to make a presentation at the next LEPC meeting and to distribute information.

AGENDA ITEM #6 New Business

- Thomas Yatabe Award and SERC Certificates of Achievement

Chuck Carter asked members to think about their nominations to receive the SERC Thomas Yatabe Award. This award is for exceptional achievement in the area of hazardous materials. He also needed nominations for SERC Certificates of Achievement. He will need to have all nominations submitted to the State by June, July or August.

- LEPC Hazardous Materials Plan 2009

Chuck Carter stated that the LEPC puts together a LEPC Hazardous Materials Plan for each of the five counties in the region, and is responsible for updating those plans annually. He previously distributed the plans to the five county's Emergency Management Directors and asked them to update their plans. Mr. Carter stated that he has received four of the five counties' updated documents back. He asked Polk County to update theirs and send it to him as soon as possible. He then will use their documents to update the master document and submit it to the State for approval.

- H1N1 (Swine) Flu Update

Betsy Negley from Hardee County Health Department stated that they had submitted nine samples to the state lab for testing, and they all have come back negative for H1N1 Flu. Hardee County is seeing a high number of seasonal flu. They are expecting at least one more wave of seasonal flu, and after treating it with anti-viral medication, it could possibly come back even stronger. The Health Department is advising citizens to practice good hygiene and stay home when they are sick.

Richard Shepard stated that the most alarming thing is that this virus developed not only in this hemisphere, but in this continent. This happened, literally on our doorstep. Humans don't have any natural immunity to this particular virus. He added that it is important that emergency management continue to watch this flu and felt that they have acted and responded appropriately to this flu situation.

Mike Linkins stated that several years ago the LEPC received a grant to purchase and operate a Decontamination Trailer, which has been in Polk County's possession. He stated that Polk County is trying to downsize and is offering the Decontamination Trailer to another emergency team in the region who wants to operate it and make it available as a regional asset.

Chuck Carter stated that at the recent Governor's Hurricane Conference he saw a school bus that had been converted into an ambulance to handle 18 litters for a mass casualty event. Converter Kits were being offered for \$35,000 not including the bus. He asked if there was any interest in writing a grant for funds to purchase a bus and a converter kit to be used for mass evacuation, not for ambulance service.

Mike Faulkner stated he thought it would be a good resource.

