

**State Emergency Response Commission  
Subcommittee on Training  
Betty Easley Conference Center  
Southwood Campus, Room 152  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0905  
July 9, 2009**

**Present:**

LEPC 1: Richard Delp  
LEPC 2: Absent  
LEPC 3: Don Sessions  
LEPC 4: Jonathan Lamm  
LEPC 5: Jamie Arleo  
LEPC 6: Absent  
LEPC 7: Gary Weiss for Chris Kaelin  
LEPC 8: Scott Ehlers  
LEPC 9: Absent  
LEPC 10: Jack McCartt  
LEPC 11: Absent  
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)

**I. Call to Order**

Acting Chair Mr. Mike Jacobs opened the meeting and requested Mr. Tim Date to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Introductions**

All persons attending the meeting were introduced.

**III. Update on Conference Calls**

Two conference calls were held prior to the July 9, 2009, Subcommittee on Training meeting. Topics for discussion on April 30, 2009, were the Tox-Medic and Sampling Protocols.

On May 28, 2009, a conference call was held on the Chemistry Education Initiative. Additional discussion on the Chemistry Education initiative was the possible use of

supplemental project money from state fines to be used for scholarships. General Counsel indicated that this was possible. Due to technical problems with the call, the call was cut short. Ideas on the education initiative were requested by Chief Murphy to be e-mailed to him through Mr. Date.

#### **IV. Chemistry in the High School Project**

Chief Murphy mentioned that some of the ideas as a result of the conference call of May 28, 2009 were a web-based program offered through the chemical industry and an activity sheet as a follow-up from a district project that incorporated criteria from first responder courses that also used demonstrated skills.

#### **V. Hazardous Materials Medical Protocols**

Mr. Jacobs noted that Dr. Nelson, State Medical Director, attended the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Council last week and that the Hazardous Materials Medical Protocols were highly accepted by the EMS community. Chief Murphy mentioned that he sent an e-mail to Dr. Nelson to see if he had any questions on the protocols and if he wanted to attend the SOT meeting.

Mr. Sherry raised a question referencing poison control being at the top or bottom of the Advanced Life Support (ALS) tree and concerns with formulary not matching protocol. There were also concerns about cut and paste portions of the original document. It was agreed that the protocols will be looked at by the poison control toxicologists and the county medical directors to ensure continuity.

It was further noted by Chief Murphy that although this is a model treatment protocol, the document must go back to each county medical director for final approval. Any concerns about the protocol should be addressed to Dr. Nelson through Mr. Tim Date.

The protocol will be included in the SOT Report to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Chief Murphy motioned that the Hazardous Material Medical Protocols be included in the SERC agenda for October 2, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weiss. The motion was carried.

#### **VI. Hazardous Materials Sampling Procedure**

Mr. Sessions began discussion regarding the sampling protocol's elements relating to risk assessment and procedural differences between the Florida Department of Health Laboratory Response Network (DOH LRN), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and existing hazardous materials team procedures. There was disconnects between some of the methods, specifically relating to bioassay "false positives" prompting further discussion for preemptive testing and expectations or media concerns.

It was clarified that the term positive in the testing procedures means that it is positive for the presence of a protein which warrants further testing for the presence of specific biological agents.

Mr. Jacobs recommended tabling the issue for further discussion. He further suggested contact/leads for the issue should be Mr. John Kohnke with FDLE, Mr. Dan Wouters for Hazmat, and himself for DOH.

Chief Murphy noted conflicts relating to hazardous materials response between the State Working Group (SWG) and the SERC and further noted that the SWG and the Domestic Security Oversight Committee (DSOC) had delineated all hazmat/chemical issues to the SERC. Chief Murphy suggested that memorandums of understanding be created between all related emergency support functions (ESF-4, 8, 9, 10, 16) to better address response issues.

## **VII. 2009 Strategic Plan Action Items**

### **GIS and Data Sharing**

Ms. Shanti Smith reported that she would put Mr. Wolfe in touch with Mr. Richard Butgereit, the Division of Emergency Management GIS Administrator

### **SOT Web Page and Links to Project Summaries**

Ms. Shanti Smith reported that by October a working SOT webpage will be online with the SERC webpage. Included will be a project page with a dashboard similar to that of the current printed SOT project board.

Also referenced in project summaries was the progress of E-Plan. Ms. Smith indicated that more worker-level actions needed to be addressed. She reported that she met with both Palm Beach and Orange Counties on June 29, 2009. Ms. Smith indicated that Palm Beach Fire will be implementing E-Plan with their existing computer aided dispatch (CAD) system and it will be able to flag facilities with chemical identifications and other responder info at dispatch.

Mr. Date suggested that E-Plan be added as an additional box under Resources.

Chief Murphy inquired as to the possibility of pushing pertinent facility, chemical, and other responder data out via the same method to regional hazmat responders if dispatched to a mutual aid call outside of their region.

## **Mass Casualty Decontamination Team Assessment Methodologies and Field Operations Guide (FOG) Manual**

Mr. Frank DeFrancesco, of the Florida Association for Hazardous Material Responders (FLAHR) said that draft Mass Casualty Decontamination Team Assessment Methodologies may be available by the October 1, 2009 meeting. A draft of the Field Operations Guide will be ready by the January 2010 meeting.

## **Operational Level Training Guidelines**

Ms. Shanti Smith reported that a contract was executed on June 29, 2009 and that she should have a schedule of expected completion by the end of the week.

## **Chemistry in the Schools**

Chief Murphy referred to conference call notes. Chief Murphy suggested to the SOT and audience that anyone having interest should forward information to Mr. Date and to the District LEPC(s).

Mr. Joseph Higginbotham from Florida Department of Health, Environmental Health, mentioned that a program was developed at Florida State University and that a contact in Polk County (Ms. Rebecca Broughton) could be of assistance in bringing the program into selected schools.

Mr. Chuck Carter posed a question relating to whether or not the lab cleanup program and educational component should be combined. Chief Murphy stated that in his personal opinion, the two issues should remain separate.

Ms. Smith posed a question relating to Hazardous Materials Training Guidelines. Mr. DeFrancesco said that the operational program needed to be updated due to changes within NFPA guidance.

## **SHSGP Grant Assessment Process**

The State Homeland Security Grant Program issue was not addressed due to no representation present from the State Fire Marshal's Office.

## **Cost Recovery Funding Opportunities**

It was noted that benchmarks are needed. The project was given to Mr. Wolfe.

## **Define ToxMedic**

Chief Murphy thanked all who have worked on this issue and that it will be presented to the SERC at the October 2009 meeting.

## **Model Procedure for Hazardous Materials Team NIMS Compliance**

Chief Murphy said the he and Mr. Wolfe would work on this issue

### **Reporting Template for Responders**

Mr. DeFrancesco reported that a better template was needed for hazmat team response. He said that he would be meeting with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (I-Chiefs) on this issue.

Chief Murphy added that the old template was a slow process to complete even for “routine” runs.

### **Health and HazMat Team Relationship Building**

Jennifer Williams reported that on June 17, 2009 awareness-level training for 40 county health department environmental health (EH) personnel was conducted via Microsoft Live Meeting. Operational level training for EH personnel is being discussed to better offer an understanding of hazmat response that will make EH personnel better aware of terminology, personal protective equipment use, etc. Lee Newsome will also be conducting a 24- hour refresher for EH personnel. Ms. Williams said the Department of Health was also looking at doing some training in Palm Beach County area.

Mr. Jacobs addressed the issue related to who is responsible for residential air monitoring. Mr. Greg Lee mentioned that the former Department of Labor was responsible. Mr. Jacobs suggested that a legislative review take place to determine statutory authority to perform the task.

Mr. DeFrancesco added that we should encourage law enforcement use local hazmat teams to assist in air monitoring in “grow-house” raids until it was decided who had the statutory authority for monitoring.

A motion by Chief Murphy was made to carry to SERC that a legislative review be conducted to determine statutory authority. Motion was seconded by Mr. Sessions. The motion carried.

### **Non-Routine Hazards**

There was no update on this project and this project requires on-going monitoring.

### **LEPC Top Five Training Needs**

Mr. Weiss began the discussion related to the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCS) developing a top five training needs list. After discussion, it was decided that the LEPCS should assess their training needs and forward a list to Mr. Weiss for annual discussion at all future SOT meetings in January.

## **VIII. Updates from Agencies/Organizations**

### **Florida Fire Chiefs' Association** (*Chief Mike Murphy*)

Chief Murphy said that Florida Fire Chiefs' Association is holding their executive meeting next week in Fort Lauderdale. Chief Murphy praised the LP/NG industries and Mr. David Rogers for all his work for boosting the working relationship between the SOT and the industries.

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

Mr. DeFrancesco stated that Florida Association of Hazardous Materials Responders will be holding their meeting on July 18, 2009 in conjunction with FFCA and I-Chiefs. Ms. Smith advised that Lt. John Scott of Jacksonville Fire-Rescue would be attending the FLAHR meeting to address E-Plan and Jacksonville's online Tier 2 requirement using state statutes.

### **State Fire Marshall's Office**

There was a discussion on whether Mr. Lorin Mock will be the new contact. Additionally, there was a discussion about the Governor's Office delay in approving SERC nominees. Ms. Smith mentioned that several appointment recommendations were waiting approval and that Mr. David Halstead was going to relay this to the Governor's Chief of Staff.

## **IX. Other Business**

- **Greg Lee Retirement**  
Mr. Greg Lee announced that he would be retiring from State service with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and that Mr. Phil Wieczynski would serve in the interim until a replacement was nominated by DEP. Mr. Lee noted that if a SERC "Farmer" category was available that he would continue to serve.
- **SOT Membership Policies and Guidelines**  
Mr. Date asked if each current SOT member will have to be re-nominated if the SERC approves the SOT Membership Policies and Guidelines at the commission meeting tomorrow. A motion was made, seconded and approved to add a grandfather clause for current members and other minor definitive wording changes to the first paragraph of the document.

## **X. Upcoming Events**

SOT conference calls were scheduled for August 5, 2009 and August 26, 2009 to address further issues with Medical Protocols, Sampling Procedure, and education.

## **XI. Issues for State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)**

- Recommendation for approval of the SOT Membership Policies and Guidelines
- Briefing on Hazmat Assessment Teams bio sampling issue
- Briefing on the Medical Protocols
- Briefing about ongoing projects (Project Board)
- Briefing on identifying legislative gaps related to indoor residential air monitoring

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.