

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA LOCAL  
EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
November 16, 2001

LEPC Chairman John Hudson welcomed everyone and asked that they introduce themselves. He reported on the last LEPC Chair/staff, State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and Training Task Force meetings. Chairman Hudson reported that the January 10, 2002, LEPC Chair/staff and January 11, 2002, SERC meetings would be held in Gainesville at the Sheraton. He encouraged everyone to attend.

**ACTION:** It was moved by Cliff Chapman and seconded by Jeff Tucker, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2001, meeting as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hudson discussed the next SERC meeting to be held in Gainesville. It was agreed that facilities would be asked for donations and that leftover Safety Street funds would also be used if needed.

The LEPC discussed that the regional hazardous materials team is needed now more than ever to cover areas requiring a timely hazardous material response capability. Local responders are attending technician classes in Starke, Lake City and Fanning Springs. Hazmat 1, 2, and 3 courses are being taught in 40-hour blocks by a Florida State Fire College certified instructor. The attendance and feedback has been very encouraging and a second round of classes is being requested. Two more sets of classes are currently scheduled in Gainesville and Live Oak during the first half of 2002.

It was discussed that the Geographic Information System (GIS) workgroup of the regional team would hold its first meeting in Starke. Regional response planning data will be compiled using ESRI's new ArcView 8 software. The goal is to identify what information responders need the most and then make it easily available in a point and click operation.

During the LEPC meeting, the Committee approved sending recommendations to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Infrastructure and Transportation. The suggestions were made as a follow up to a hearing on terrorism where LEPC staff Dwayne Mundy was interviewed as a possible witness to testify on LEPC activities in Florida. The first suggestion was that Congress should review the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and make changes that prevent anonymous requests of electronic data, but still allow local community members access to information on nearby facilities. The LEPC

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observed that a good balance of security versus right-to-know has been reached with the recent Risk Management Prevention program.

Also discussed was a second comment was that it is important that Congress continue to support programs like the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant program. The Committee reported that HMEP funds collected by the U. S. DOT, distributed by the SERC, for classes selected by LEPCs have greatly increased local response capabilities through training and planning projects. For example, District 3 had 577 responders participate in HMEP funded or supported classes during the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

It was decided that the next LEPC meeting would be held on February 15, 2002, at GoldKist Poultry in Suwannee County.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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