



Business Plan 2007 – Division of Environmental Health - Florida Department of Health

Mission: “Promote and Protect Health”

Vision: “Healthier Floridians”

Goal: To prevent disease of environmental origin

Bureau of Community Environmental Health – HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES EMERGENCY EVENTS SURVEILLANCE (HSEES)

Trends and Conditions:

The Florida Hazardous Substances Surveillance (FL HSEES) program is the only program in Florida that collects all chemical injury and spill information from multiple sources. From 2005 to present, the FL HSEES has established investigative partnerships with many federal, state, local government, university and private chemical companies. The FL HSEES program has been very effective in responding to chemical spills and injury by contributing toxicology expertise, establishing data streams and disseminating information to and from local partners and various agency stakeholders. The FL HSEES has internet access to the State Warning Point (SWP) and monitors this information for multi-agency updates to coordinate investigations with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) which has regulatory authority to investigate chemical spills in fixed facilities. FL HSEES jointly investigates chemical spill incidents in coordination with DCA for these regulatory spills. FL HSEES also investigates chemical spills with public health consequences that do not fall under DCA’s regulatory umbrella but have public health consequence. The FL HSEES also receives data via email directly from the National Response Center (NRC) and has internet access to Florida Poison Control Information Network (FPCIN). In addition, the FL HSEES receives Federal Department of Transportation (FDOT) chemical spill information on a weekly basis. The FL HSEES collects county health department (CHD) HAZMAT, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), hospital and other first responder information on chemical injury and spills directly from the local level. FL HSEES works with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to follow up environmental spills that require clean up and coordinates with their district contacts as needed. All data sources and chemical stakeholders are critical resources to public health during chemical disasters, chemical terrorism events and hurricane related chemical spills resulting in injury and public health response. FL HSEES also works with State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) providing presentations, reports and toxicology consultation support when applicable.

Division Cost: \$ 80,201 (Grant funding)
Division Positions: 1
Position Title: Chemical Surveillance Toxicologist

County Program Cost: *
County Positions: *

* County staffing and costs are not tracked statewide

The FL HSEES provided three types of data to chemical stakeholders in 2006 including:

- The 2005 data analysis report.
- Share Point direct viewing of chemical spill and injury information by region and county.
- Real-time data sharing and investigative information documented on an alert log and via Epi Com.

The FL HSEES Prevention Activities for 2006 were:

- Guidelines on Residential CO emergency response disseminated to HAZMAT.
- Fact sheet on CO disseminated to HAZMAT, posted on web site and presented at SERC and LEPC meetings.
- County specific chemical spill information distributed through Share Point.



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- Presentation at 2006 National Environmental Health Conference on “Using Surveillance Data on Acute Chemical Releases to Build Capacity for Prevention, Planning and Response”.
- Presentation at the 2006 Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologist preparedness conference entitled “Next Steps in Combining Multi-Jurisdictional Information Following an Act of Chemical Terrorism”.
- Training at CHDs to develop guidelines on roles and responsibilities for DOH staff responding to chemical incidents.
- CO article in the Florida Environmental Health Journal (Winter 2006).
- Establishment of a real-time reporting system through Epi Com and the alert log.
- Promotion of FL HSEES activities through SERC and LEPC.

The FL HSEES Program Coordinator has been active with preparedness projects, toxicology consultation and as a contributor on several interagency toxicology committees that evaluate risk analysis and toxicity of chemicals and pesticides.

Preparedness activities of the FL HSEES program in 2006 include:

- An outline of roles and responsibilities of toxicological consultation group for chemical disasters.
- A protocol for emergency alert for program toxicologist by SWP and DOH Duty Officer.
- A Chemical Preparedness Plan (In progress).
- Established liaison with ATSDR Emergency Response Group.
- Co-authored article “Acute Pesticide-Related Illness Among Emergency Responders” published in the American Journal On Industrial Medicine, 2006.
- The development of Target Capabilities for chemical preparedness.
- Development of a training plan for CHDs and Regional Strike Teams (In progress).
- Promotion of preparedness activities through SERC and LEPC.

Toxicology activities of the FL HSEES Program in 2006:

- Pesticide Review Evaluation Committee.
- Federal State Toxicology Risk Analysis Committee.
- Acute Chemical Exposure Guidelines Committee.
- Consultation on chemical spills with chemical stakeholders.
- Toxicology consultation with other Bureaus in the Division of Environmental Health.
- Mercury spill and CO surveillance and toxicology consultation.



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- Backup DEH toxicologist.
- Promotion of toxicology capacity through SERC and LEPC.

Short Term Objectives

By January 1, 2008:

- Provide outreach prevention and data driven interventions to prevent or reduce chemical injury from occupational exposures and among the general public.
- Continue to improve data sharing agreements for critical data sets with agencies related to chemical spills, exposure and injury.
- Provide one awareness outreach projects required by ATSDR HSEES for 2007 and two outreach projects based on data.
- Initiate and develop materials and continue to update, promote, and test web site.
- Provide summary report of preliminary data gathered in 2006, including preliminary findings, conclusions and foundations for outreach and prevention activities.
- Post preliminary data on website.
- Complete chemical preparedness plan and training for CHDs.
- Complete publication of the survey on roles and responsibilities during chemical disasters and training at CHDs.
- Obtain and maintain data support staff.

Long Term Objectives

By January 1, 2009:

- Establish a chemical incident advisory group with members from universities, state agencies and private industry involved in hazardous substance response activities. The objectives of this group will be to identify and discuss toxicological concerns associated with chemical incidents and to disseminate guidance on potential health consequences, safe handling and disposal of the chemicals. This organization would meet once per year, conference as needed and be available as an intellectual capital resource for emergency response issues and surge capacity during state crises.
- Structure and maintain a comprehensive reporting system throughout the preparedness community in Florida that reaches local emergency coordinators.
- Continue to recruit MPH students from USF and FAMU to work on FL HSEES projects.
- Develop publications based on data in coordination with USF and FAMU.
- Continue GIS development to better demonstrate FL HSEES data.
- Develop collaborative relationship with USF, Global Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Action and participate in disaster management training.



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- Develop a long term strategic plan for the FL HSEES program (Chemical Surveillance Toxicologist served on an ATSDR committee to develop a draft strategic plan for HSEES).

Measure #1: By December 31, 2007, complete three outreach projects. Design one outreach activity to promote HSEES program awareness. Design two outreach activities based on data. Provide updates on FL HSEES data and provide presentations on support provided from key federal stakeholders to LEPC and SERC.

Division Strategic Plan		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Bureau of Community Environmental Health	Objective 4: Promote Community Outreach	Develop outreach to emergency responders, county health departments and the general public.	Completed projects presented to stakeholders.	Chemical Coordinator	December 31, 2007 to develop per grant requirements.	FL HSEES has submitted 4 outreach activities for ATSDR consideration.
		1. Household chlorine spill prevention outreach to include a joint FPCIN and Healthy Homes press release. This outreach will also include a fact sheet with data included.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete data analysis. • Fact sheet • Press release 	Healthy Homes Coordinator, Chemical Coordinator, Rosanna Barrett and Julie Kurlfink	June 30 th 2007	In the process of data analysis and fact sheet development. Healthy Homes Coordinator has not been hired.



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		2. Increase Epi Com membership in CHDs and emergency responders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Chemical Incident forum member from each CHD 	Chemical Coordinator	October 30 th , 2007	There are over 100 Chemical Surveillance Epi Com members and 47 CHD members. The goal is for all CHDs to have one chemical response representative and to add emergency response members.
		3. Expand alert log to include contact with chemical safety officer to obtain more complete information on cause.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include chemical industry information from safety officer concerning cause on the alert log of 10 incidents. 	Chemical Coordinator	December 30 th , 2007	The FL HSEES has access to Chemical Safety Officers.
		4. 2006 annual report and post on Share Point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After data is finalized by ATSDR, complete within 90 days. 	Chemical Coordinator	September 31 st , 2007	Data is expected to be finalized June 30, 2007.



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Bureau of Community and Environmental Health	Objective 2: Use our data	Develop a presentation geared toward emergency responders based on the CO surveillance and 2005 data analysis and preliminary data for 2006.	1 presentation delivered to LEPC and SERC	Chemical Coordinator	December 31st, 2007	FL HSEES will schedule a presentation through the LEPC and SERC to present updates at the scheduled quarterly meetings.
	Objective 4: Support community outreach	Develop a presentation about ATSDR and Chemical Safety Board (CSB) to inform the first responder community of resources available.	1 presentation given to LEPC and SERC	Chemical Coordinator	December 31 st , 2007	FL HSEES will schedule through the LEPC, SERC a mutually agreeable time to present the ATSDR and CSB programs.



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Measure #2: By December, 2007, improve data sharing between FL HSEES and two key stake holders.

Division Strategic Plan		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Bureau of Community Environmental Health	Objective 1 and 2: Use data to communicate findings and to educate stakeholders.	Integrate chemical surveillance data in DCA's quarterly reports provided to SERC and LEPC members. Develop an MOU with the Fire Marshall's Office to obtain routine updates during their field investigations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up first meeting with DCA by April 30, 2007. 	HSEES surveillance data in the DCA reports. Real time surveillance data from the Fire Marshall's Office	Chemical Coordinator	December 30, 2007	Currently DCA distributes stand along report of raw data. Currently the HSEES program has to wait for the Fire Marshall's investigative reports to be released to the public.
			Meeting with DCA	Chemical Coordinator	March 20 2007	FL HSEES will establish a contact and schedule a meeting to discuss data integration issues.
			MOU, if necessary.	Chemical Coordinator	June 30, 2007	FL HSEES will develop a MOU or interagency agreement.
			Data sharing and joint reporting in place.	Chemical Coordinator	December 30, 2007	FL HSEES will be involved in data analysis with DCA.
Division of Environmental Health	Goal B. Realign Environmental Health through seamless coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a MOU for obtaining updates during investigation 	Meeting with the Fire Marshall's Office.	Chemical Coordinator	February 28, 2007	FL HSEES will establish a contact and schedule a meeting to discuss data access issues.
			MOU or contract change.	Chemical Coordinator	June 30, 2007	FL HSEES will develop a MOU or interagency agreement.
			Data sharing in place.	Chemical Coordinator	December 30, 2007	FL HSEES will review and evaluate investigative findings.



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Measure # 3: By December 31, 2007 build capacity in biostatistics.

Division Strategic Plan		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date (up to 18 months)	Status
Bureau of Community Environmental Health	Objective 3: Promote and support training and innovation.	Time dedicated to completing SAS computer training.	Complete web based SAS training courses.	Chemical Coordinator	June 30, 2007	Have purchased the programs and need time set aside each day to complete the training.

Measure # 4: By December 31, 2007, meet CDC/ATSDR Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES) grant commitments and reporting.

Division Strategic Plan		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Bureau of Community Environmental Health	Objective 1 and 2: Use data to communicate findings and to educate stake holders	Design, collect, analyze report and promote program related materials as specified by the grant to Florida organizations involved in chemical emergency preparedness and response.	Meet the CDC/ATSDR goals.	Chemical Coordinator, Heather Lake Carina Blackmore	December 31, 2007	Ongoing. In 2006 all goals were accomplished.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect, monitor and report to CDC/ATSDR 	Bi-Annual ATSDR reports.	Chemical Coordinator, Heather Lake	December 31, 2007	Report will be completed and submitted by ATSDR's requirements.



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		hazardous substances exposure data as stipulated in the grant.		Carina Blackmore		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete investigations of transportation cases within 4 months and fixed facility cases within 2 months. 	90% of investigations complete	Chemical Coordinator	Quarterly	Quarterly reports are provided by ATSDR. In the October 2006 report 93.3% of the reports for 2006 were complete.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report chemical incidents to ATSDR within 48 hours when possible. 	80% reported within 48h	Chemical Coordinator	Quarterly	Quarterly reports are provided by ATSDR. In the October 2006 report 86% (excluding transportation cases) were reported within 48 hours.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform all Quality Assurance checks on data based on 10% review and ATSDR's data quality review. 	QA checks completed	Chemical Coordinator	Quarterly	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In the October 2006 quarterly update FL HSEES reviewed 21% of entered cases for quality assurance and data updates.</p> <p>FL HSEES has conducted quality assurance on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>FL HSEES will also perform quality assurance of the work of the new part-time data entry person.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure carry forward funding, hire and train data 	Hire data entry person as soon as notified of carry forward status.	Chemical Coordinator	January 31, 2007	Have requested carry forward funds and waiting for ATSDR's response.



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		entry position.				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality assurance of data entry person's work 	< 10% errors	Chemical Coordinator	Monthly	Data entry is up to date and accurate.

Measure # 5: By December, 2007, develop two publications and/or reports based on FL HSEES data.

Division Strategic Plan		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Bureau of Community Environmental Health	Objective 1 and 2: Use data to communicate findings and to educate stakeholders	Identify publication opportunities with emerging issues and complete planned publications and reports.	Reports completed	Chemical Coordinator, Laurel Harduar and ATSDR	November, 2007	Finalized 2006 data is completed by ATSDR by June 30 th , 2007.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish chlorine exposure paper 	Publication in progress	Alan Becker	June 30 th 2007	Currently evaluating data
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2006 data will be evaluated in 2007 and summarized in a report. 	The 2006 report	Chemical Coordinator	October 30 th , 2007	Currently evaluating data
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop publication on the roles and responsibilities of partners (including the CHDs) during chemical disasters. 	Publication in progress	Alan Becker	March 19 th , 2007	Currently working on draft for FEHA journal



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Measure # 6: By December 30, 2007, develop and deliver training to CHD EH and to the Regional Strike Teams on chemical preparedness roles and responsibilities associated with a chemical event.

Division Strategic Plan		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Bureau of Community Environmental Health	Subgoal C. Integrate preparedness, training and competencies into every EH position.	Develop chemical training for CHD professionals and regional strike teams.	Training delivered to the Regional Strike Teams.	FL-HSEES Coordinator Melanie Black Mitch Stripling	December 30, 2007	FL HSEES and the Division Preparedness Section have started to develop the curriculum.
		"	Environmental Health chemical exposures operations guidelines for CHDs.	FL-HSEES Coordinator Melanie Black Mitch Stripling	June 30, 2007	FL HSEES will assist preparedness in completing regional trainings to CHD EH personnel and regional strike teams on chemical preparedness.