

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

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LEPC WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) has been named the winner of the 2001 Chemical Educational Foundation (CEF) Community Award. This is a national award and the LEPC was selected out of 35 nominations. There are approximately five thousand LEPCs nationally, with 11 regional LEPCs in Florida.

The CEF Community Awards, now in its fourth year, annually recognizes community groups judged to have the most effective community chemical safety programs across the United States. LEPC Chairman John Hudson and staff Dwayne Mundy received the award at the National Association of Chemical Distributors conference. The award ceremony was held September 20 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

LEPC Chairman John Hudson said, "The LEPC is pleased to have been nominated twice this year for the Community Award. A nomination by the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management truly is an honor when there are so many strong hazardous materials programs in Florida." PCS Phosphate also nominated the LEPC for this award.

(See related article on Page 2)

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA'S I-75 INTERCHANGES

The North Central Florida and Withlacoochee Regional Planning Councils were recently awarded a \$50,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The funding was awarded for the two planning councils to prepare economic development plans for the 21 interchanges (14 and 7, respectively) which provide access to north and central Florida business and tourism attractions between the Georgia border and I-75's intersection with the Florida Turnpike.

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From left to right LEPC Chairman John Hudson and NCFRPC staff Dwayne Mundy holding award

REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAM RECEIVES GRANTS

The creation of the **North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team** was one of the accomplishments that helped the LEPC win the award described on Page 1. With the assistance of the **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council**, the **Team** has been awarded \$274,240 in Emergency Management Preparedness grants. Advanced classes held in Starke and Lake City have been well attended, and additional classes are planned in Fanning Springs and Gainesville. Response trailers and equipment to deal with hazardous materials incidents for these areas are also part of the regional team project.

This project started by the **LEPC** will greatly increase the abilities of local firefighters to initially respond to chemical spills as well as chemical and biological terrorist attacks. It also strengthens the ability of all emergency responders to work as part of a team with **Gainesville Fire Rescue** hazmat and other regional team members when responding to a large incident.



Team Chairman Cliff Chapman accepting check from Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Craig Fugate (on right)

WEB PAGES OF INTEREST

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council - <http://ncfrpc.org>

The Original Florida - <http://originalflorida.org>

North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership - <http://originalfloridabusines.org>

North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee <http://www.ncflepc.org>

North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. - <http://adco.org>

I-75 Corridor Council - <http://www.i75floridagateway.com> or <http://www.i75project.com>

Scenic U.S. 441 - <http://www.scenicus441.com>

NCFRPC SERVICES AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES

- local comprehensive plans
- land development regulations
- transportation plans
- transportation disadvantaged plans
- disaster mitigation and recovery plans
- emergency response plans
- hazardous waste verification
- CDBG grant applications
- CDBG grant administration
- FRDAP grant applications
- tourism development
- general economic development
- small business loans

(I-75 Interchanges Continued from Page 1)

One focus of the project is to inventory available infrastructure, e.g., water and sewer, and to identify opportunities including possible funding sources for providing any needed improvements. Part of the process is also focussing on the alignment (or realignment) of local access roads to maximize each interchange's potential for in-depth development.

Planning Council staff will be working closely with local government and economic development officials in the preparation of the plans. The work will be especially challenging given the wide range of current development activity at the interchanges. The less developed interchanges should generally allow for a greater number of development alternatives but also present a greater challenge to obtaining the needed resources, while the situation will likely be reversed for the more developed interchanges serving Gainesville and Ocala.

It is anticipated that the project will take approximately one year to complete with plans being available in July, 2002. Contact **Chuck Kiester at 352/955-2200** or **Marc Mondell at 352/732-1315** with any questions regarding the project.

BIKE MAPS

With grant money from the **Florida Department of Transportation**, the **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council** developed and printed four on-road bicycle maps for *The Original Florida* region.



These maps cover: **Alachua/Bradford/Union, Columbia/Hamilton/Suwannee, Dixie/Levy/Gilchrist, and Madison/Lafayette/Taylor**. To obtain your copy(ies), contact the **Council at 352/955-2200** or **Email: ncfrpc@ncfrpc.org**.



I-75 Interchange with State Road 6 in Hamilton County

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**PUBLIC AVAILABILITY NOTICE OF
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION**

The Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986, also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) requires emergency planning, and emergency notification of accidental releases. The legislation also mandates that information concerning chemical inventories of certain facilities be made available to the public. Regional Planning Council provides staff to the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee which serves as a repository of Title III chemical data.

The public has access to a variety of chemical specific data and information about facilities reporting under provisions of the Act. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 324 of the Title III Act, the following information is available to the public upon request during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- * Section 302: Chemical Notification
- * Section 304: Emergency Follow-up Notice
- * Section 311: Materials Safety Data Sheets
- * Section 312: Hazardous Chemical Inventory (Tier two) Form
- * North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Plan

Citizens and businesses seeking information on any of the above provisions should contact **Dwayne Mundy at 352/955-2200, ext. 108 or email: mundy@ncfrpc.org.**