

## 2008 Harbor Safety Committee of the Year Nominee

**Harbor Safety Committee Name:** Tampa Bay Harbor Safety & Security Committee (TBHSSC)

**2008 Accomplishments/Reasons for nomination:**

- The TBHSSC Subcommittee *Port Heavy Weather Advisory Group (PHWAG)* planned and conducted the first full scale regional Post Storm Recovery Exercise "Bounce Back 2008" that included Federal, State and Local agencies, law enforcement, 3 Port Authorities, EOC's and critical industry personnel. The exercise objectives were validation of communications between stakeholders; coordination of public safety, security and service restoration; timely understanding and execution of MOA's; and timely restoration of all forms of transportation. Post exercise successes included positive identification of redundant forms of communications including portable cell towers, Ham radios, satellite telephones and shared numbers and frequencies thereof.
- Through coordination with the Tampa Fire Dept and the county EOC, the PHWAG also established "Push Teams" comprised of critical facility personnel who would be quickly escorted into the Port areas post storm to complete initial damage assessments and commence restoration activities. Perhaps the greatest success of the exercise was bringing multi-county EOC personnel, Law Enforcement and Electric Companies together with the maritime community to share information on critical needs and available resources.
- The TBHSSC *Vessel Movement Committee (VMC)* participated in an AIS Test Bed Project with USCG Headquarters to install AIS binary message capabilities into our existing CVTS operations. The AIS upgrade will enable messages to be sent in a digital text format which can be displayed on a variety of equipment. Critical safety, security, weather, PORTS and operations information will be able to be broadcast to mariners in a timely manner through the existing AIS system. This project was only successful due to the direct participation and cooperation of local Pilots, NOAA, Port Authority, USCG and CVTS personnel.
- The VMC also provided review and guidance on a LPG waterfront facility that was initiating barge loading operations on an existing channel that already presents vessel traffic challenges on a regular basis. The VMC conducted site visits and operations briefings with facility staff and then proposed vessel transit guidelines for review by the Pilots and USCG.
- A small fire at an unmanned facility presented the TBHSSC with a new challenge given circumstances that included vessels moored at the facility, fire department response and no immediate lines of communications between the three entities. The PHWAG volunteered to work the communications issue and quickly resolved it through coordinating emergency contact information through our existing CVTS.
- The TBHSSC participated in a Roundtable Forum on Emergency Response to Anhydrous Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) Transportation Incidents in conjunction with representatives from U.S. DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, FEMA, U.S. Federal Rail Administration, U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, U.S. DHS Infrastructure Protection, U.S. Coast Guard, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Tampa Fire Rescue, Tampa Ammonia Industry, Port Authorities, Regional Emergency Management agencies and Tampa Medical Director. The forum focused around expanding the educational outreach to the public

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concerning anhydrous ammonia characteristics, incident experiences, transportation methods, safety protocols, protective responses, planning protocols and emergency medical treatment. This forum was coordinated as a result of a recent pipeline incident and successfully re-established government and industry partnerships with the mutual goal of safe hazardous materials transportation and the protection of the citizens and the environment of the Tampa Bay region.