

Notes from EPAC Member Esther Kaufman on Hazmat, Hazwaste and Petroleum Programs

Hazardous Materials

- Is EPD effective and efficient?
 - Regulate 1100 businesses in the county as well as siting of new business, making sure that they comply with the following:
 - Section 353.32 of the Hazardous Materials Management Code contains a list of prohibited hazardous materials storage facilities in certain environmentally sensitive areas of the unincorporated County.
 - Facilities may not include: Portland cement manufacturing, Chemical manufacturing, Pesticide manufacturing, Auto salvage or junkyard, Asphalt plant, Battery reclamation or manufacturing, Electronics manufacturing using halogenated solvent, Hazardous waste transfer facilities, RCRA hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal (TSD) facilities, Regional pesticide distribution site, Underground storage tank systems for the storage of hazardous materials, & New wholesale bulk fuel storage
 - GIS mapping of the sensitive areas are also maintained.
 - HazMat Facility Inspections
 - Regulated facilities are classified according to type of business, number of employees and vehicles associated with the business. There are currently 6 classes within the HMMC (AA, A, B, C, D, T). Facilities are inspected on a rotating schedule.
 - As required by Chapter 403.f.s. Alachua County conducts inspections of facilities that generate hazardous waste in Alachua County. These inspections are conducted in conjunction with the routine HMMC inspections. Currently our database includes approximately 1050 Conditional Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG), 60 small Quantity Generator (SQG) and 10 large Quantity (LQG). Approximately 40% of the generators are inspected annually. FDEP maintains a list of fact sheets and best management practices for generators of hazardous waste.
 - Assist local emergency response agencies with reducing the environmental impact of vehicle crashes and other hazardous material spill response.
 - Respond to complaints involving businesses, construction sites, and some residential settings
- Do any of its services duplicate services provided by other agencies?
 - There is no other agency that has authority to enforce the County requirements.
- Does EPD faithfully carry out the Commission's policy guidance?
 - Yes, according to the regulation noted above, but also the BOCC adopted the Alachua County Hazardous Materials Management Code (HMMC) on April 15, 1991 and revised on January 25, 2000.
 - The primary objectives of the HMMC are to:
 - Regulate the management of hazardous materials to prevent discharges to the environment.
 - Provide uniform standards for the proper storage, handling and monitoring hazardous materials on a county-wide basis.

- Provide Alachua County with legal authority to establish environmental monitoring, remediation, and closure requirements for contaminated sites.
- Should EPD's roles be changing given diminished budgets in other agencies?
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- What should EPD's future priorities be?

Hazardous Waste

- Is EPD effective and efficient?
 - Local technical oversight of Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site clean-up plans and investigation activities on behalf of Alachua County and the City of Gainesville, resulting in increased attention by USEPA to offsite soil and dust contamination issues and improved remedial technologies for increased protection for neighboring residents and groundwater resources
 - First-in-the-state unwanted pharmaceuticals/medicines collection and disposal program in Alachua County with multiple drop-off locations
 - Established and expanded a model electronic scrap recycling and reuse capability at the Hazardous Waste Collection Center.
 - Collected 7,500,000 pounds of hazardous waste and served over 150,000 customers at the HWCC
 - 2006-2012 Schools Chemical Clean Out Campaign.
 - 2009-2011 Koppers Stormwater and Creek Sediment Study
- Do any of its services duplicate services provided by other agencies?
 - The federal EPA and the State DEP do not offer these services to localities, however the fed/state do support certain initiatives with grants.
 - The state entered into an agreement in Nov 2007 to perform hazardous waste generator compliance assistance.
- Does EPD faithfully carry out the Commission's policy guidance?
 - Yes in the case of hazardous
- What should EPD's future priorities be?

Petroleum Cleanup / Petroleum Storage Tank

- Is EPD effective and efficient?
 - \$8 Million spent for tank compliance inspections/ investigation & clean up of petroleum contaminated sites
 - 321 of 324 tanks converted to double walled tanks, removal of 250 single-walled tanks, and 250 of 420 cleared petroleum contaminated sites, Regulatory oversight resulting in upgrade of 350 underground fuel storage tanks.
 - Thirty-two (32) petroleum contaminated sites in Alachua County have been cleaned-up including major petroleum cleanup at the Poole Roofing/ Depot Park site in downtown Gainesville,. Active remediation systems have been installed on Hogtown Creek to clean-up gasoline discharge into the creek.
- Do any of its services duplicate services provided by other agencies?
 - The federal EPA and the State DEP does not offer these services to localities, the state DEP funds them.
- Should EPD's roles be changing given diminished budgets in other agencies (e.g. water management districts)?
 - Reduced funding is available as this was a state initiative carried out by Alachua County EPD. Less resources are being allocated, but also less clean up due to shrinking number of clean up sites and single walled tanks.
 - There are current reductions in staffing.

- What should EPD's future priorities be?
 - Residential fuel tanks
 - Remaining single walled tanks
 - Remaining clean up sites – 170 sites left