

# NEFRIC

## Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

September 2015

### LEPC Exercise

The Northeast Florida Regional Council and the District 4 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) conducted a full-scale hazardous materials exercise at the Clay Port/Reynolds Park in Green Cove Springs on September 10th. This HazMat exercise brought together 4 regional HazMat teams (Clay County Fire/Rescue, Gainesville Fire/Rescue, Jacksonville Fire/Rescue, & St. Johns County Fire/Rescue), along with Nassau County Fire/Rescue and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to exercise their capabilities and coordination in response to a major HazMat Incident.

The scenario for the exercise was a major transportation accident on US 17. In the scenario, several of the vehicles involved in the accident were carrying various types of hazardous materials, which all posed different risks to the public and the environment. This type of accident resulted in a call for all regional HazMat resources to assist in the response.

The exercise planning team set up 6 HazMat stations located along a road within Clay Port/Reynolds Park. The responders were then required to integrate teams, assess and prioritize the response based on identified chemical hazards, and mitigate any leaks or spills in a timely and efficient manner.

A "BIG" thank you goes out to Gate Petroleum who provided a free tanker truck, AA Propane for providing free LP gas and props, the Red Cross for providing free food and refreshments, and Ron Hildum for free drone filming services. For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, eanderson@nefric.org.



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Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

## Council Convenes State, Regional And Local Leaders To Discuss Intergovernmental Coordination – State Coordinated Review

The NEFRC hosted over 40 leaders from the state and region to discuss 'Implementing the State Coordinated Review' the replacement for the Development of Regional Impact process as a sponsor for the Florida Planning and Zoning Association, First Coast Chapter educational seminar. In 2014, the Legislature eliminated the mandatory review of projects that meet the DRI threshold for development after years of dilution of the statutory provisions. The panelists – Ana Richmond, DEO, Bob Rhodes, private attorney and Tony Robbins, senior planner, Prosser- provided insights from the state, legal and planning perspectives. The NEFRC was honored to host this panel to provide timely technical assistance to our member governments. The panelists covered history of the DRI process as a tool of growth management in Florida, highlights of the changes since 1972 and recommendations for working within the new framework. The group coalesced around using the Intergovernmental Coordination (IGC) Elements of the local comprehensive plans as a starting point to achieve coordination amongst municipalities



and counties and address adverse and multijurisdictional impacts. Included in the idea to revamp the IGC Elements is supporting and looking to the Regional Council to lead this effort – much like our role during DRI review

except to be compressed, swift and nimble. Look for more information to come out soon. Please direct questions to Lindsay Haga, lhaga@nefrc.org or Brian Teeple, bteeple@nefrc.org.

## The Baker Council On Aging Opens New Transportation Center

Years of planning, funding and grant assistance from state agencies culminated in the opening of the new Baker County Transportation Center. The Transportation Center is the home of the Council on Aging (the non-profit agency that coordinates transit in Baker County). NEFRC assists the Baker County Council on Aging in meeting the Transportation Disadvantaged goals as well as achieving public transportation and transit service within Baker County and connecting to the Region. This building represents the local, regional and state dedication to providing transportation to the citizens of Baker County on a more robust scale. It includes maintenance facilities to service the fleet and will allow for expansion of routes in the County. The local, regional and state support cannot be underestimated – the turn out (see pictures) – included riders of the service, legislative delegates, city and county commissioners, community leaders and transportation agency professionals. For more information, please contact Lindsay Haga, lhaga@nefrc.org.



### Did you know...

Household income is approaching prerecession level in Florida. New figures released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau show the median household income last year was almost \$47,500. That's not only an increase over 2013's median income of \$46,000, but it's the highest since the start of the recession.

*Source: Mike Schneider/Associated Press; Sept. 17, 2015*