

**CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT  
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #1**

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Meeting Notes, January 9, 2018

Present: Vice Chair Mike Collins, Global Foundries; Max Kennedy, VEM; Bob Henneberger, CERT/RACES; Kate Hammond, VDH; Andy Squires, Richmond Rescue; Josh Estey, CSWD; Zachary Borst, UVM EM; John Berino, UVMCMC; Jeff Rogers, UVM; Cheryl Brinkman and Joyce Oetjen, VDH Lab; Lee Krohn, CCRPC.

The meeting was called to order at 0900. There were no changes to the agenda, nor public comment on items not on the agenda.

Cheryl Brinkman, Chemist, and Joyce Oetjen, Safety Compliance Officer, gave an informative presentation on the wide array of duties, responsibilities, and testing capabilities of the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory. These range widely from basic water testing of private or public water supplies to radionuclides, chemical threats, biological toxins, food contamination, and infectious diseases. Recent, publicized cases in which the lab was involved include PFOA issues in Bennington, and the ricin incident in Shelburne; another ongoing project involves testing school water supplies throughout the state for copper and lead. Requests for testing come in from a wide array of state agencies and partners. Periodic proficiency tests are performed to ensure quality control and professional accreditations. Other seasonal issues include influenza surveillance in coordination with the federal CDC, and monitoring/testing for blue-green algae toxins in Lake Champlain. A tour of the lab facilities then followed.

LEPC partner updates:

John Berino reported that he is now a member of SERC, which oversees activities and funding of LEPCs. SERC is revising its approach to funding and other matters related to LEPCs, and new guidance is forthcoming. Questions were raised about Tier II funds received by the state, and whether the state hazmat team can/should provide more training for local fire departments.

Max Kennedy described the current applicant briefings related to the disaster declaration for the October wind/rainstorm, as well as upcoming trainings offered (ICS 100 on 01/17 at CCRPC; Local EMD course on 01/20 and 01/21 at Saint Michael's College; training exercise workshop at the SEOC on 01/23; and others as described in the VEM newsletter at <http://vem.vermont.gov/sites/demhs/files/January%20%2718%20Newsletter.pdf>. Trainings on the new VT-ALERT system will also be offered soon.

Zach Borst reported that UVM is updating its emergency management plan; longtime staffer Bill Ballard has retired, and Alan Turgeon is the new Public Safety Director; several pipes burst during the frigid spell, but with students on winter break, these were more manageable than it could have been.

Josh Estey reported that with Hinesburg moving its highway garage, the waste drop off site there had to close for the time being. He attended the recent Tier II training in Middlebury, and found it helpful.

Jeff Rogers described upcoming trainings that will be conducted with Burlington Fire Department, something they do every few years to acquaint them with new or changed facilities, and to bring newer firefighters up to date on the campus.

Kate Hammond described current work with flu surveillance; the health care preparedness conference that will be held on October 18-21 at Jay Peak; that the MRC was busy in December assisting VT 211 with a sudden need for staffing; and that warming shelters had been activated in Rutland and Burlington under the 'adverse weather exception'. Kate reported further that long term care facilities must conduct both a tabletop and full scale, community based exercises in order to satisfy Medicare requirements. LEPC members, local fire or rescue squads, etc. may be contacted in order to assist. Kate also has or works on several websites that may be of interest; links will be distributed later this week.

Andy Squires stated that the Rescue Squad had almost completed the requirements for a Closed POD. Former Director Dan Manz, who used to participate in LEPC, had been nominated for Vermonter of the Year for his longstanding work and leadership in emergency medicine.

Bob Henneberger said that RACES had been working with various matters, including assistance at recent incidents involving fires and shelters.

Lee Krohn followed up on John Berino's discussion regarding funding challenges (although our LEPC was awarded this year an additional \$4000 to help with required work); ongoing challenges with Tier II reporting, and working to help ensure that all entities that are supposed to be reporting actually do so; and our need to update the LEPC's Emergency Response Plan (an ironic requirement of federal law, since the LEPC is not a response agency). We will seek to comply while creating a more concise, streamlined, and practical plan than exists currently; more on this in upcoming meetings.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1130 hours. The next meeting will be back at CCRPC offices on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 0900.

*Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn, AICP*

Please note: LEPC meeting agendas, minutes, and other information may also be found at <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>