Meeting notes - March 13, 2018

Present: Chair Al Barber, Hinesburg Fire; Judy Dunn, Burlington Police/Fire; Bob Henneberger, CERT/RACES; Josh Estey, CSWD; Zachary Borst, UVM EM; Mary Thompson, Milton Public Safety Department; Cathy Hamilton, General Dynamics; Peter Rowan, Hazelett; Erik Haversang and Steve Cushing, SMC; Doug Brent, SBFD; Peter Brown, BFD; Lee Krohn, CCRPC.

The meeting was called to order at 0905. The only change to the agenda was that due to weather, presenter Tory Littlefield could not be here; we will reschedule. There was no public comment re: items not on the agenda. Introductions around the table were offered, and the notes from the February 13, 2018 meeting were accepted by consensus.

Peter Rowan, Hazelett Corporation: he began by thanking all who are involved in first response and emergency management for all that they do in service to their communities. Hazelett has been in operation since 1958 and employs 135 people at its Colchester site. As illustrated in a video presentation, Hazelett has facilities worldwide, is a leader in strip casting of metals and related work and is the largest manufacturer of lead plates used in automobile batteries and provides a significant quantity of zinc used to make pennies. The Colchester facility does not do strip casting, but manufactures machinery and parts used in that work elsewhere. It is a vertically integrated engineering/design/manufacturing/support company. Finding qualified staff is always a challenge. Regarding hazardous materials, they do not use chemicals or agents typically considered as hazardous; rather, it is the quantities of stainless steel, chromium, cobalt, and nickel that meet the thresholds by weight or volume; plus a small amount of formaldehyde, and as in other companies, the lead in the batteries of their electric forklifts. Although the firm has a clear emergency response plan, and trains its staff on its use, their primary emergency response strategy to any ‘spill’ is “Speedy-Dry” absorbent material (essentially, kitty litter). They are also subject to other federal permits due to their use of natural gas for heating; overspray from paint/coating booths; and storage of oily materials related to keeping their heavy machinery lubricated properly. They invite local fire departments into their site each year. Rowan offered to share a version of their emergency response plan with anyone interested and stated that there are no reactive metals (such as magnesium) on site. He was thanked for his informative presentation.

Information was offered, and matters discussed, on various topics: current issues at the SERC, changes in the grant program for FY 19 and workplan ideas, EMD trainings, and upcoming meeting schedules and topics.

LEPC partner updates:

Brent: Voters approved the formation of the regional dispatch organization in six of the seven municipalities where the vote was held.
Hennerberger: RACES will host a training on 4/21 at the Vermont Fire Academy. The Red Cross must move its offices, as the building is for sale. Red Cross and FEMA will offer an 8-hour sheltering course; perhaps it could be offered through LEPC or as part of its meetings?

Dunn: Burlington Dispatch will go live with its computer aided dispatch system on 7/31.

Estey: CSWD is monitoring bills in the legislature regarding composting requirements and other matters. Shelburne Fire hosted an electrical safety training with GMP last week.

Thompson: Milton Dept. of Public Safety is working with local schools on safety procedures. She finds these meetings very helpful and informative and gives her ideas for municipal trainings.

Borst: UVM has an ongoing program to install more AEDs on campus, toward becoming a Heart Safe Community. They are working on idling management systems for emergency response vehicles, especially useful when they are standing by at an event and not necessarily responding at an incident; this may also include “shore power” at typical locations when on standby. Borst, Krohn, and others working to form an Emergency Management Directors’ association for networking, skill sharing, and promoting best practices.

Others present had nothing new to report at this time.

Upcoming meeting dates and topics were reviewed. Then, with no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1130 hours. The next meeting will at CCRPC offices on Tuesday, April 10, 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/