

CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #1
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Meeting notes – April 10, 2018

Present: Chair Al Barber, Hinesburg Fire; Vice Chair Mike Collins, Global Foundries; Josh Estey, CSWD; Mary Thompson, Milton Public Safety Department; Max Kennedy and Ed von Turkovich, VEM; Marshall Distel, Dan Albrecht, and Regina Mahony, CCRPC; Victoria Littlefield, TRORC; Kate Hammond, VDH; Andy Johnson, ENPRO; Lee Krohn, CCRPC.

The meeting was called to order at 0905. There were no changes to the agenda, and no public comment re: items not on the agenda. Introductions around the table were offered, and the notes from the March 13, 2018 meeting were accepted by consensus.

Tory Littlefield of Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission gave informative presentations on two topics: an emergency response mapping project based on Tier II hazardous materials data, and a commodity flow study of hazardous materials being transported through the region.

Using a variety of software packages and time-intensive manual data entry, Littlefield was able to eventually create maps for emergency responders showing locations of entities with reportable quantities of hazardous materials (so-called Tier II reporters), with evacuation distances shown based on the most dangerous reported chemical for each site. Given the vast array of reportable chemicals, mapping was simplified to show either ½ mile or one mile buffer distances/evacuation zones. The map is also linked to underlying data from the Tier II reports, identifying the hazardous materials reported for each site. This is very useful information for first responders.

To illustrate a tangible example in our region, Littlefield prepared a map for the Hazelett Strip Casting site on Lakeshore Drive in Colchester. With a one-mile buffer/evacuation zone overlaid on an aerial photo, it certainly illustrated the potential challenges involved if a hazardous materials incident occurred there. It was noted that this site was chosen not because there is a specific or unique hazard there, but rather, as this presentation had originally been planned for last month (when Peter Rowan of Hazelett spoke about their emergency response planning), these would have coincided well.

In the Two Rivers region, roughly 250 reports are received. By comparison, roughly three times that number of reports are received here in LEPC #1 territory, and we estimate that may be 50-75% of the reports that should be received; so while we hope one day to conduct similar work, it will be a much larger challenge here. Cell tower sites and a number of other locations were not mapped, due to lack of sufficient data to map locations accurately; so at the end, 125 maps were created (one for each mappable site), and these maps and data were distributed widely in their region to first responder agencies (including links to the all-important Emergency Response Guide (ERG). This project was funded and completed in 2016, and has not been able to be updated since that time. The cost was \$20-\$25K.

As for the commodity flow study, this was also funded by the State by taking all of the HMEP funds that were previously distributed to LEPCs statewide, and aggregating them into a single three-year grant. Year 1, the topic here, sought to track hazmats transported by truck on certain state and federal highways; year 2 will seek data on rail transport; year 3, if possible, will investigate air freight.

Roughly 30 locations were used, with at least one in each LEPC region, and including one or more ports of entry at the US/Canada border. In our region, one site was in South Burlington, one in Essex, and one in Colchester. Data collected included time of day, direction of travel, type of vehicle, hazmat placards displayed, and other comments as needed. Each site was visited three times, for four hours at a time, and on different days of the week. For reasons of safety and visibility, this work could only be done during daylight hours.

102 different placards were noted, with the greatest % being flammables (gasoline, fuel oil, propane...). It's important to note that display of a hazmat placard is only required if a certain threshold of a bulk commodity is on board; there may be vehicles on the road transporting a variety of hazardous materials, but with no single commodity of sufficient quantity to require placard display. It was also noted that the fuel tanks themselves on large trucks store large quantities of gasoline or diesel, but these are not required to be placarded; so hazards may exist even though not officially displayed.

A summary report was created, and is available on line at www.torrc.org; it includes much data, including links to the ERG. This Guidebook includes essential data on the nature of each regulated commodity, their hazards, protective measures needed and emergency response guidelines. Where a hazard is unknown for any reason, then we use Guide 111 for mixed cargo/unidentified hazard. In an incident, notification should include the Vermont HazMat Team at 800-642-5005.

Year 2 work may include some additional work on roadways, but will focus on rail transport, to the extent data are available and accessible. Concerns have been raised before, and were raised here, regarding risks of rail transport through our region. If there were a major rail incident in Burlington, it could pose risk to Lake Champlain – for example, fuel oil transport and offloading to the large bulk tanks by the waterfront. Alternatively, if a different and more volatile hazardous material, it could affect large areas of the City of Burlington, and the Medical Center itself, a key asset in any large-scale incident. This project cost roughly \$50K in year 1, and will receive about \$70K in year 2.

Littlefield was thanked for her work and informative presentations, which stimulated further discussion of needs in the LEPC #1 region.

LEPC/SERC/HAZCHEM funding applications for FY'19. Discussion of actual needs to accomplish legal requirements as compared with typical LEPC funding. Several RPCs and LEPCs are parting ways; several LEPCs may fold. We are not at that point, and hope to continue our good work and collaborative relationships. Toward that end, proposed are two separate applications (as required if we seek additional funding): one for the 'base level' \$4000, which itself barely covers the administrative work of managing the LEPC, even at the discounted/subsidized rate charged by CCRPC to the LEPC; and a second application for \$30,250, to support significant work toward a proper and thorough update to the Emergency Response Plan. Even this may not be sufficient to complete that work, but it would be a good start, and it was deemed important to help SERC understand that the work required is complex, comprehensive, and time consuming.

Further discussion ensued. Can LEPCs impose their own administrative fee, on top of the federally-required Tier II fees that all go to the State, to help fund Tier II-related work? Could this all result in finding more entities that should be reporting (and paying), but are not at this time? Should we create

a 'business plan' with costs and revenues to demonstrate need and benefits? Chair Al Barber suggested this would be a good opportunity for a subcommittee. John Berino and Mike Collins offered to help, especially if subcommittee meetings were aligned with LEPC meetings.

After further discussion, motion by Hammond to approve the 'base level' application for \$4000 to provide administrative support for LEPC #1; seconded by Estey and approved unanimously.

Motion by Estey to approve the supplemental application for \$30,250 in further support of LEPC work required by SERC and other agencies; seconded by Hammond and approved unanimously. It was acknowledged that in the long term, we hope we can do a similar hazmat mapping project as was demonstrated this morning, but that this will require additional time and funding that is not likely available at this time.

LEPC partner updates:

Krohn reported that if current matters proceed, he will be taking a leave of absence from CCRPC in order to serve on an interim basis as Shelburne Town Manager. He hopes to continue participating in LEPC meetings and activities, and another CCRPC staffer will provide direct assistance in the interim. Upcoming meetings were reviewed (May at National Weather Service; June TBD; July at Burlington Electric Department; November DigSafe seminar at CCRPC; other dates/topics TBA. Suggestions for speakers/topics always welcomed).

Littlefield: supporting LEPC, launching year 2 of the commodity flow study, working with five towns on town plan updates.

Albrecht: will be working with all of our municipalities on annual updates to the All Hazard Mitigation Plans, documenting progress made toward goals in those plans, and hopefully simplifying the next five-year update.

Thompson: Town of Milton is gearing up for summer recreational activities.

Estey: CSWD has scheduled its annual "Rover" hazardous waste collection days in various municipalities throughout the region. Krohn noted these are well run, and are an excellent community service, making it easy for people to dispose of these materials safely and properly.

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.

Mahony: introduced herself as the CCRPC Planning Program Manager. She works on housing issues, among other matters, and will be working with staff here to distribute Krohn's work tasks while he is on leave.

Kennedy: It's LEOP time of year, and this is the last year that the current template may be used. The new template, now called LEMP (Local Emergency Management Plan) will likely have both short and long form versions, to accommodate different needs and capabilities between smaller and larger municipalities. VEM is working toward the "CAT 4" exercise, which will be a priority over the next two years. Local involvement will be key; let him know of local interest in exercise support. Hazard Mitigation grants are available; deadline is April 30. The 2018 RACES conference will be on April 21 at the Vermont Fire Academy.

Johnson: ENPRO is busy, as always, and its parent corporation recently purchased similar companies in the USA and Europe. They are holding a household hazardous waste collection day in Rutland this coming Saturday.

Hammond showed and described her poster presentation that she will give at the upcoming NACCHO conference on the challenges faced with Points of Distribution (sites where medical countermeasures are given) when dealing with individuals with limited English proficiency. During the Vigilant Guard exercise, where 1250 individuals were served, the average time to process an English speaker was 14 minutes, where the average time for non-English speaking individuals was 29 minutes. She also spoke about VDH efforts in the recent mumps outbreak, and how the communication with and response from SMC and UVM were very different.

Collins: all peaceful at Global Foundries.

Von Turkovich introduced himself as the new Engagement Specialist with VEM, and that he looks forward to working with us all.

Upcoming meeting dates and topics were reviewed. Then, with no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1114 hours. The next meeting will at the National Weather Service office at Burlington International Airport on Tuesday, May 8, 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/>