

**CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT**  
**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #1**  
110 West Canal Street, Suite 202  
Winooski, VT 05404  
Phone: 802.846.4490 ext. \*30 Fax: 802-846-4494  
Direct line 802.861.0118



## Meeting notes – June 12, 2018

Present: Chair Al Barber, Hinesburg Fire; Vice Chair Mike Collins, Global Foundries; Marshall Distel, Dan Albrecht and Regina Mahony, CCRPC; Andy Squires, Richmond Rescue; Cathy Neelis, VT 211; Zachary Borst and Abby Furst, UVM EM; Bob Henneberger, AARP/Red Cross; Kate Hamond, Vermont Department of Health; Randall Gates, VT National Guard; Amy Norris, R.L. Vallee Inc; Sabine Chabot, Pilar Paulsen and Laura Wilson, Cathedral Square Corporation; David Attig, VT Gas.

The meeting was called to order at 0905. There were no changes to the agenda, nor public comment on items not on the agenda.

After introductions were made, Laura Wilson from Cathedral Square Corporation (CSC) gave a presentation about her organization to the LEPC. Located in Chittenden and Franklin counties, CSC is a non-profit organization that develops and manages affordable housing communities, provides technical assistance related to long-term care for community-based organizations and is the creator of the Support And Services at Home (SASH) initiative. CSC has over 30 communities that are mainly oriented towards older populations and people with disabilities. In the future, CSC will be looking to expand into the Grand Isle area.

CSC has been working on individual emergency management plans for each of their properties. They have had some success working with local community planners to collaborate on these plans. On the other hand, some communities have been less receptive to assisting CSC with planning for emergencies. After Laura finished her overview presentation, a discussion followed about long-term care and emergency management planning. CSC currently holds basic emergency management drills (fire drills, instructions on how to use fire extinguishers, etc), but does not have a robust plan in place for significant disasters; and does not know who to contact in the municipalities for information about local incident management plans and resources.

Randall Gates from the VT National Guard suggested that the Incident Command System (ICS) training would be a valuable resource for a handful of CSC staff members. Most ICS training is free in the form of block grants from the Department of Homeland Security. The ICS 402 course was recommended for CSC staff located within the resident assistance department. Zachary Borst from UVM suggested that [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com) (International Association of Emergency Managers) would be another helpful training resource, particularly within the organization's IAEM Healthcare Caucus. CSC staff outlined how the Vermont 2-1-1 has been essential during storm events to help identify which shelters are open and the resources available. Al Barber outlined how a complete contact list for each of CSC's organizations would be a vital yet simple step in the right direction to enhance emergency management preparedness. The LEPC will look to get the contact list for the CSC facilities.

The meeting then moved on to a discussion related to Tort Liability in Emergency Planning and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. Al explained how LEPC chairs around the state have discussed concerns about the liability issues related to what the SERCs and LEPCs have

been charged to do with the limited available financial resources. The LEPC-related tasks mainly come from the federal level and not the state level. There have been three LEPCs in VT that have disbanded because of funding and participation issues. Discussion ensued with regard to Tier II reporting and fees. Zachary Borst suggested that if funding from these were kept local then that might incentivize higher levels of reporting and a willingness to pay the reporting fees. The Committee expressed that there should be benefits for the payers of the Tier II fees. Moreover, from an environmental standpoint, if more businesses complied with Tier II requirements, it would encourage businesses to only obtain a limited inventory of chemicals that are necessary to conduct their businesses. There are other states around the country that fund county-level incident management teams through fees collected from Tier II reporting. Amy Norris from R.L. Vallee Inc. expressed interest in knowing exactly where Vermont's Tier II funds go once collected by the state. She explained that her organization doesn't pay any Tier II-related fees in NY and NH compared to VT. AI has been contacted by businesses that have asked about what the Tier II fees support.

David Attig from Vermont Gas described the onerous process of submitting annual Tier II paper reports. Cathy Neelis asked why this issue is bubbling up now, since it has been an issue for a decade. AI explained that this has become a more prominent issue since the state announced that they would no longer be sending each LEPC \$4,000 upfront; instead expenses must be paid and then reimbursed. This is a challenge for many LEPCs who don't have financial support from some other organization with cash on hand. The Department of Public Service (DPS) receives roughly \$1,000,000 a year from Tier II funds. Zachary suggested that a sustainable program should be funded through the general fund. The Committee would like DPS to look at the way other states are funding their LEPCs and collecting Tier II funds. Kate Hammond stated that as the LEPC continues to pursue the necessary funding, the Committee should also be reaching out to the VT State Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Response Team about courses they can bring to Chittenden County, since they've received funding to conduct these trainings. Overall, the Committee would like to see examples of how the Tier II funding can benefit local communities with disaster planning and emergency management exercises. Kate suggested that the Committee reach out to the airport to see how they have paid for their emergency management exercises.

Kate Hammond further suggested that LEPC look at the monthly spill data reports, and Tier II hazards incident report to start getting a sense of the issues that we are having. It would be good to look at this available data now while we are waiting for more funding or the Tier II locations data. AI Barber indicated that we don't get the Tier II incident data reports on a monthly basis.

LEPC partner updates:

Marshall gave an update about the Tier II mapping project. The Committee discussed how to distribute these data, and whether this information should be made available only to first responders. AI suggested that the location of Tier II facilities, chemicals held at the facility and a local point of contact would be essential information.

Dan provided EMPG updates. CCRPC staff participated in a recent State Emergency Operations Center training and conducted local liaison work by documenting damage for the May 4<sup>th</sup> storm event. Communities are still waiting on a FEMA Disaster Declaration. CCRPC continues to update the EMD list and work related to LEOPs. All Chittenden County municipalities have adopted LEOPs with the exception of Buels Gore.

Bob Henneberger provided an update on the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign that is aimed at ensuring that residential homes have smoke/CO detectors. The Red Cross is looking to partner with fire departments and other volunteers that may be interesting in assisting with this task. For more information, please reach out to [Frank.grima@redcross.org](mailto:Frank.grima@redcross.org)

The Committee then proceeded to go around the room to highlight other brief partner updates. A question was brought up with regards to the School Safety and Security Grants Program that is now being accepted by the Vermont Department of Public Safety. This grant program is available to all Vermont schools, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 3447. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis with awards of up to \$25,000 per school, with each school being required to provide a 25 percent match. More information on this grant program can be found here:

<http://schoolsafety.vermont.gov/news/school-safety-infrastructure-grants-application-and-rfp>

The next LEPC meeting will be held on July 10 at the Burlington Electric Department (BED), which is located at 585 Pine Street in Burlington. The meeting will be focused on a reported Russian hacking incident that targeted BED in 2016.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1045

*Respectfully submitted by Marshall Distel*

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/>