

CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #1
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Meeting notes – September 11, 2018

Present: Chair Al Barber, Hinesburg Fire; Mike Collins, Global Foundries; Marshall Distel, Pam Brangan, CCRPC; Bob Henneberger, AARP/Red Cross; Kate Hamond, Sarah Perry, Vermont Department of Health; Matt Ward, Red Cross; Andy Squires, Richmond Rescue; Josh Estey, CSWD; Cathy Hamilton, General Dynamics; Zachary Borst, UVM; David Attig, VT Gas.

Al Barber called the meeting to order at 0905. There were no changes to the agenda, nor public comment on items not on the agenda. Introductions were made.

Marshall introduced the CCRPC's Tier II project and described how CCRPC staff have been exploring options to make the Tier II data more useful and accessible for emergency responders. Pam Brangan provided LEPC 1 with an overview of the mapping portion of the project. Pam has also started the conversation with Vermont E9-1-1 to see if the Tier II data would be useful for a statewide data set.

David Attig described his support for a Tier II format where emergency responders would be able easily to look up an address and find out what chemicals may be present at a particular location. However, he also described his concern with the way that the Tier II locations and their associated evacuation buffer zones were displayed on the draft maps. The overlapping bold red zones with yellow HAZMAT icons in the center of each buffer zone may make members of the public feel uneasy. CCRPC staff will work to make the Tier II locations appear less threatening for the public. The conversation continued into a group discussion about how these data sets would be helpful for emergency responders, but on the other hand, might alarm the general public. CCRPC staff agreed to move forward without including the chemical evacuation buffer zones within the maps, but will explore options with interactive online maps that link to the Emergency Response Guide, provide the chemical guide number reference, or also include a screenshot of the Tier II report within the CAMEO software. Moreover, CCRPC staff will highlight locations with extremely hazardous chemicals for the emergency responders.

The Tier II discussion continued with a brief review of the Chittenden County Tier II Excel spreadsheets provided by the State. LEPC 1 members noticed address-related errors in the original Tier II spreadsheet from the State. CCRPC staff worked with interns over the summer to correct many of these address errors. Some LEPC 1 members expressed security concerns about making the Tier II data more open and transparent. The CCRPC will look into options to make some aspects of the online maps available only to first responders, while other parts open to the public could display more generic chemical information.

LEPC 1 then moved on to discuss the supplemental HAZCHEM funding application. Al described how different models of funding were currently being discussed by the State. He explained that LEPC 1 could possibly make the request for additional funds within the near future. There have been a few LEPC officer resignations around the State, along with some RPC-related reorganization.

Misinterpretation and confusion related to funding/LEPC responsibilities have led to some of the RPCs to give up their LEPCs. Al stressed that new funding mechanisms are currently being discussed and that Tier II reporting fees generate nearly \$1,000,000, with the State sending back about \$68,000 to LEPCs.

LEPC 1 then reviewed examples of successfully submitted grant applications and discussed options for future funding applications. LEPC 1 will continue to seek funding for CCRPC staff to conduct work related to Tier II outreach. It would be beneficial for CCRPC staff to verify Tier II reporting with Chittenden County businesses, while also visiting fire departments to conduct CAMEO software workshops using their local facilities. CCRPC staff would also be able to facilitate an initial review of emergency plans with Tier II reporters to facilitate more engagement and discussions related to their emergency plans. Another task would be to encourage non-Tier II reporters to comply with the reporting law by conducting educational outreach initiatives. Staff would follow up with businesses to make sure they have filed Tier II reports and attended an EPA seminar. A post card mailing could be an option to encourage reporting by making the businesses aware of the Tier II law and directing them to information on how to report their chemicals. Attracting more Tier II reporters is something that LEPC 1 will highlight within the future funding application.

The CCRPC will continue to use EMPG funding to complete the Tier II mapping and work to make the data more accessible. However, a future HAZCHEM funding application will build upon the project by identifying enhanced outreach opportunities and increasing the number of Tier II reporters. CCRPC staff will put together a draft funding proposal to send out to the group. Other items to include in the application include a health operations exercise with the Vermont Health Department, the completion of a regional emergency response plan and the updating of asset lists for fire, EMS and police agencies.

Project updates were then shared. As part of National Preparedness Month (<https://www.ready.gov/september>), Kate Hammond from the Vermont Department of Health shared numerous emergency management resources available to LEPC 1 and the general public. She also reminded the group to make sure that employee/customer health and safety is in tune with local Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP). Kate then identified helpful resources that could be posted on social media sites to enhance preparedness in our region, while she also shared the following resource links:

VT EMS & Healthcare Preparedness Conference (10/18-10/21, Pre-Conference Workshops are also available)

<https://www.vtemsconference.com/conference-workshops.html>

VDH Preparedness Factsheets

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/media/translation>

David Attig made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Bob Henneberger

The meeting adjourned at 1125.

The next LEPC meeting will be held on October 9 at the CCRPC in Winooski.

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/>