

CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #1
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Meeting notes – October 09, 2018

Present: Chair Al Barber, Hinesburg Fire; Marshall Distel, CCRPC; Bob Henneberger, AARP/Red Cross; Matt Ward, Red Cross; Andy Squires, Richmond Rescue; Josh Estey, CSWD; David Attig, VT Gas; Scott Cooney, Hartford Fire Department; Pete Brown, Burlington Fire Department; Jeffrey Bean, Colchester Police Department; John Berino, UVM Medical Center.

Al Barber called the meeting to order at 0910. There were no changes to the agenda, nor public comment on items not on the agenda. Introductions were made.

Chief Scott Cooney from the Hartford Fire Department introduced himself to LEPC 1 and gave a presentation on Hartford's use of the Spillman Flex Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) software. Chief Cooney first described how the Hartford Fire Department wanted a product to better respond to emergency calls. The Spillman Flex technology significantly reduces emergency response times with an automated system conveying the call information directly to the fire department. It is a data-driven system that functions similar to a voiceless dispatching system. Chief Cooney provided LEPC 1 with a demonstration of how the system works by calling the local dispatch and creating a test call to show what an incident would look like in real time.

The Spillman Flex system has been used by Hartford for 6-7 years. Chief Cooney stressed that there is a lot to managing this CAD system with the geodatabase and the need to ensure that GPS locations are updated. The Hartford Fire Department works to make sure all of the data within the system is updated annually. He described how the system has given his first responders more data at their fingertips with regards to Tier II reports, locations with hazardous chemicals, features related to building entrances/exits, floor plans and emergency contacts. Files and images can also be uploaded into the system with emergency plans, evacuation routes, links to the CAMEO system, etc. It would be ideal if the system would work cohesively with the Tier II Submit system in addition to CAMEO.

Spillman technologies was purchased by Motorola. Even though most fire departments across the State don't currently use this system, Chief Cooney detailed how the State of Vermont has used this system for state police dispatching since the early 90s, which is a reason why Hartford decided to choose this product. The system is expensive, and the initial start-up cost can be cost prohibitive for most fire departments around the State. Hartford was able to secure a grant to assist with some of the cost of the equipment needed for this technology. This technology is available to mutual aid agencies, but an extra fee is needed to ensure that they are able to obtain the physical electronics for the system. Pete Brown interjected that the Burlington Fire Department uses a similar system called Tyler Technologies as their CAD system.

Some states have standardized the CAD systems that are used by emergency response agencies. There was a brief discussion about the process needed to standardize a CAD system in Vermont. John Berino asked if any RPCs had held discussions about creating a standardized system

throughout the State. At a minimum, it would be beneficial for mutual aid agencies to have access to the CAD systems used by bordering communities.

When asked about a backup plan in the event that the Spillman Flex system becomes nonfunctional, Chief Cooney explained how the Hartford Fire Department still maintains a paper system in case of unexpected issues with the electronic system. Dropbox software could also be used as a simplified and cost-effective system that first responders could use to access data within the field.

Following the discussion with Chief Cooney, Marshall reviewed the draft supplemental funding application with LEPC 1. There was discussion about submitting this application early in the funding cycle as well as passing it along to other LEPCs as a template. Al Baber made a motion to submit the supplemental funding application to VEM, which was seconded by Josh Estey.

Project updates were shared.

In response to the recent natural gas explosions that damaged dozens of homes in Massachusetts, David Attig shared some slides about Vermont Gas Systems commitment to pipeline safety. Over-pressurized gas lines on outdated gas line infrastructure is suspected to be the cause of the Columbia Gas explosions in Massachusetts. David outlined how Vermont Gas operates high-pressure gas lines (that are not pressurized to their capacity) go through regulator stations. He explained the process of gas moving through a working regular and a redundant regulator in these gas stations. The working regulator reduces the pressure, the monitoring regulator serves as a backup to working regular and the redundant regulator is used when maintenance is needed on the working regulator. Relief vents are also present to blow off excess pressure if ever needed.

David also outlined the distribution system. Vermont Gas Systems does not have any cast iron or bare steel pipelines. Excess flow valves are installed in almost all service areas for added protection. David stressed how the catastrophic incident that occurred in Massachusetts should never happen with Vermont's modern system because the old pipeline infrastructure was replaced in the late 90s. At the end of the presentation, David reminded the group to keep gas meters clear of ice and snow in winter to prevent singular incidents. Vermont Gas Systems has an ICS structure to plan for incidents.

Other updates were also shared.

Mike Collins is no longer at Global Foundries. There will be a need to elect a new deputy chair for LEPC 1.

Bob Henneberger made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Josh Estey.

The meeting adjourned at 1048

The next LEPC meeting will be held on November 13 at the Shelburne Fire Department.

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/>