

CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #1
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Meeting notes – March 12, 2019

Present: Marshall Distel, Christine Forde, Regina Mahony, Dan Albrecht, CCRPC; Bob Henneberger, Red Cross; Al Barber, Hinesburg Fire Department; MaryEllen Mendl, VT2-1-1; Bailey Emilo, Samantha Slayton, John Callan, VOSHA; David Attig, VT Gas; Mathew LaRock, Global Foundries; Kate Hamond, Vermont Department of Health.

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. There were no comments on last month's minutes.

The main topic on the agenda for this meeting was a discussion of the future direction of LEPC #1. An overview video on emergency preparedness from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board was shown to the committee (<https://youtu.be/R2Ez7lkjg1Y>) to highlight the importance of emergency management and help facilitate the discussion.

Following the video, Christine Forde provided a brief follow up presentation about LEPCs, their overall purpose and responsibilities. LEPCs are required to exist under federal law and are tasked with compiling information about chemical hazards. Al Barber provided a historical perspective of LEPCs in Vermont. They are required to exist under statute but many are currently minimally active. The LEPCs have asked for more funding from the state without success. He described how we currently don't have the resources available to conduct the tasks that are required of LEPCs and continues to emphasize the need for more funding from the state to be able to accomplish initiatives at a local level.

Kate Hammond advocated for more action related to table top exercises rather than continued discussion about a lack of funding. She stressed how these could be meaningful and low-cost exercises to evaluate emergency management scenarios in our community. There are things that we could do that don't require a lot of money. Al Baber responded by saying the problem with these exercises is that we don't get much participation from first responders who are critical audience members for these events.

Kate Hammond then asked if the LEPC would be able develop a needs assessment survey that we could conduct with volunteer firefighters to better determine their needs. Al Baber described how the firefighter training and local needs are already well-documented. The Chittenden County fire departments are very active, well-trained and

regularly surveyed by the Fire Academy. Al Barber sees our main role as an LEPC to relay information about Tier II data to local fire departments.

Kate Hammond inquired about the possibility to co-locate our LEPC meetings with other regional meetings such as fire mutual aid to encourage more community members to attend.

David Attig described how the main role of the LEPC should be to get Tier II reports, identify the buffer zones and reach out to fire departments to determine if they are prepared for potential events. Communication gaps tend to be where the problems occur.

Al Baber suggested that the CCRPC ask local EMDs about highest community risks for hazmat during LEMP outreach, and to ask if communities have plans to address issues with their vulnerable sites. This may provide us with a good starting point to make progress on local emergency preparedness.

Marshall Distel provided a brief overview of the Tier II data processing project. He is still manually transferring locations and chemicals from CAMEO into Excel. It has been a slow and tedious process, and overall not a good use of his time. And now there is new data after the March 1st reporting deadline. Christine Forde suggested that, at least for the Emergency Response Plan, a simple list of the Tier II locations without the specific chemical data may be sufficient.

Bob Henneberger suggested doing more Tier II facility outreach to get more reporters. He also recommended holding LEPC meetings in larger towns with EMDs, economic development staff and local planners to identify businesses that may not be filing Tier II reports. Marshall Distel explained how the latest supplemental funding application solicited more resources to conduct Tier II outreach. The supplemental funding application was submitted last fall with no response from Vermont Emergency Management.

Mathew LaRock described an incident in Essex where a non-compliant Tier II facility had an emergency situation. The state was trying to determine if they should fine them. It is still unclear whether the business is now reporting their chemicals as part of the Tier II process.

Marshall will send out the Rutland Region Response Plan to the committee for review.

Regina Mahony outlined the next steps for the LEPC which include:

- Complete Tier II inventory work
- Start drafting the Emergency Response Plan
- Complete LEMPs. With Al's two questions about largest community hazard and whether the community is prepared to respond to an incident there.

- Follow-up the LEMPs with municipal meetings to provide them with the Tier II lists, and have meetings to ask if there are any other businesses that should be reporting
- Reach out to the Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) businesses that do report to ask/suggest if table top exercise would be helpful
- Reach out to businesses that haven't been reporting

She also suggested that since the CCRPC has a lot of work to do, it might be prudent for the next LEPC meeting to occur in May rather than April. Samantha Slayton suggested that the group meet in April to review the Rutland Region Plan. David Attig suggested that the Addison Plan also be reviewed. He will send along a list of best practices for LEPCs.

Al Barber adjourned the meeting at 1050.

The next LEPC meeting will be held on April 9 at the CCPRC offices in Winooski.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Forde

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/>