

**Chittenden County Regional Emergency Management Committee**  
**Thursday, September 28, 2023**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:**

REMC Members

Buel's Gore – Jake Perkinson, Supervisor  
Burlington – Derek Libby, Burlington Fire Dept.  
Bolton – Amy Grover, Emergency Services Rep  
Colchester – Assistant Chief Seth Lasker, Emergency Services Rep  
Essex/Essex Junction – Bob Kissinger, Essex Police Department  
Jericho – John Abbott, Town Administrator (at 9:30am)  
Milton – Director of Public Safety Michaela Foody, EMD  
Shelburne – Bob Lake, EMD  
Winooski – Elaine Wang, EMD

Others

Vermont Emergency Management – Emily Harris  
University of Vermont - Dorian Evans, Environmental Compliance Manager  
Vermont Department of Health - Derek Cronin, Emergency Preparedness Public Health Specialist  
Red Cross, RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service)/ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) – Bob Henneberger  
Vermont Air National Guard – SMSgt Jim Fitzgerald  
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission – Christine Forde, Pam Brangan, Dan Albrecht, Darren Schibler

**1. Introductions**

CCRPC staff introduced REMC members, other attendees and CCRPC staff.

**2. Review May Meeting Notes**

There were no comments on the May meeting notes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the February meeting notes. The motion passed 9-0.

**3. Shelburne Regional Rail Response Tabletop Exercise, Overview and Lessons Learned – Bob Lake, Shelburne Police Department and Emily Harris, Vermont Emergency Management**

Emily Harris described the tabletop (discussion-based) exercise which involved a rail derailment in Shelburne with hazardous materials release that evolved into a mass casualty incident. She noted that there was an actual hazardous materials incident in Ferrisburgh approximately 28 hours after the exercise, so it was helpful preparation.

Harris summarized the exercise and described the resulting improvement plan. This included the following actions:

- Outreach to the Vermont Arts & Culture Disaster and Resilience Network (VACDaRN) to determine how to include them in the Burlington and Shelburne Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs).
- Developing a region-wide plan for derailments.
- Offering training to key individuals involved in a LEMP after a LEMP is adopted.
- Harry Shoppmann will work with Shelburne to prepare for an active shooter exercise next year.
- Schedule a workshop for an integrated preparedness plan (IPP) for the REMC, which is essentially a strategic plan for hosting trainings.
- Organize a workshop on a county-wide communications plan to improve interoperability of communications throughout the region in response to incidents.
- Communities with rail running through their communities should reach out to Vermont Rail to identify what may be running on that rail;
- Explore creation of a region-wide Incident Management Team.
- Provide local responders with additional information about services from the state hazmat team and the District 3 Mass Casualty Incident Plan.
- The American Red Cross will work with emergency managers to obtain MOUs for shelters (note that they are currently overwhelmed with requests due to the summer flooding, but VEM is coordinating).
- VEM will bring Public Information Officer trainings throughout the state to encourage municipalities to establish a dedicated role for this, rather than having it be a role filled by someone filling other roles.

Harris also noted that VEM will continue working with the Chittenden County REMC on the improvement actions, but they cannot re-exercise something that hasn't seen improvement since the last exercise.

Bob Lake: enlightening exercise, especially considering the truck-based hazmat incident that occurred soon afterward in Ferrisburgh. It encouraged EM managers to think about the entire Route 7 corridor for both rail and road. It was also good to have all the stakeholders at the table, including the Shelburne Museum and the schools.

B. Henneberger noted that he represents RACES in addition to the Red Cross, and hoped that people could be made more aware of the ability of RACES to help with communication in incidents.

E. Wang asked how topics for exercises are selected. E. Harris said that B. Lake approached VEM and they developed the exercise together. E. Wang suggested having an exercise about a jet coming down in a community. E. Harris said that an ideal time to bring that up would be at the Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop in quarter 1 of this REMC's meeting so they can be put on the calendar and worked on by VEM and the RPC.

#### **4. Essex Champlain Valley Expo Tabletop Exercise, Overview and Lessons Learned – Lt. Rob Kissinger, Essex Police Department**

R. Kissinger from the Essex Police Department described the exercise, which was a cybersecurity incident. This was the first exercise that included representatives from both the City, the Town, and their IT staff. CISA helped organize this exercise from a plug-and-play they had already designed, but it was customized for this event in coordination with CISA. They chose an evolving / cascading scenario, starting out with a simple malware introduction that gets worse, including cutting of the fiber optic line which interfered with ability to use CAD-RMS. This eventually escalated to a "hactivist" group falsely posting about active shooter threats at the fair, creating panic and requiring coordination with fair organizers; interference with traffic lights that required traffic control and caused accidents; and a ransom demand.

In terms of the after-incident plan, R. Kissinger noted that it was eye-opening to see how cybersecurity can affect incidents in the physical world, and that it was a good opportunity to network with partners. P. Brangan noted that doing a tabletop exercise is much more engaging than trainings or presentations. R. Kissinger noted that Essex was a victim of a breach in 2010 due to a phishing e-mail, and that the IT department conducts weekly tests to keep employees vigilant.

#### **5. Transportation Resiliency Planning Tool (TRPT) -- Pam Brangan, CCRPC (TRPT website: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/transportation-resilience>)**

P. Brangan presented on the TRPT, starting with [an introduction video](#). The tool provides information on the risk flooding and stream erosion pose to Vermont's road segments, bridges, and culverts while also factoring in the criticality of each. The tool allows users to explore variables such as the intensity of storms or the sizing of culverts and bridges on resilience.

P. Brangan provided a live demonstration of the tool's usefulness in planning for a storm / flood event. The tool can be filtered by town (and other geographies) as well as the intensity of storm. The tool maps road segments by vulnerability (how likely are they to be impacted) and criticality (how essential is this road to normal transportation and emergency response) while also showing a table of asset risks. A. Grover verified that the tool accurately represents vulnerability on Duxbury Road in Bolton. Finally, the tool provides suggestions for improving resilience and associated (very coarse) cost estimates for each road segment.

E. Wang noted that there may be some compatibility issues for Chrome users. She also asked if the tool will be updated in consideration of the increasing frequency of intense flooding (i.e., Winooski has had two 100-year storms in the last few years). Pam agreed that this is a consideration, as well as whether the tool is being updated as culverts and infrastructure are being replaced. She expects that these issues of ongoing usefulness will be addressed by VTrans now that the tool has been launched.

Pam noted that there are trainings being offered this fall, information for which can be found on the TRPT website.

## **6. Vermont Emergency Management Updates**

- ▶ October 12 is the new deadline for applications for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, Small Business Association, and Emergency Watershed Protection grants. Please direct questions to: [ADM.2023floods@Vermont.gov](mailto:ADM.2023floods@Vermont.gov)
- ▶ VEM is offering a virtual training to become a VT Alert administrator.
- ▶ There is also a virtual course on Nature-Based Solutions to Mitigating Hazards. Register through federal website, not LMS.
- ▶ Please complete debris survey from Eric Foran if you haven't already.

## **7. Member Updates**

There were no member updates.

## **8. Future Topics**

Please share ideas for future topics with Christine. If anyone is working on anything others would be interested in we encourage you to make a presentation. We want folks to learn from each other.

The next REMC meeting will be on December 20, 2023 at 9 am.

E. Harris asked, and Christine confirmed, that this REMC has established a quorum of 20% of the full membership (the minimum required by statute).

Seth Lasker made a motion, seconded by Elaine Wang, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:11am.