



STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting minutes

Date: January 10, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: VIRTUAL and In Person: 45 State Drive, Waterbury VT 05671

1. Call to Order - (Vice Chair, Chief Patrick McLaughlin) 10:04 a.m.
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda – (Vice Chair, Chief Patrick McLaughlin)
None
3. Roll Call – (conducted by Glenn Herrin, VEM)

Seat – Name	Present	Absent
Transportation Entity reporting chemicals – David Patneau de (Chair)	X	
Commissioner of Public Safety - Jennifer Morrison / Patrick McLaughlin (Vice Chair)	X	
Secretary of Natural Resources - Julie Moore / Tim Cropley / Richard Spiese / Michael Nucci	X	
Secretary of Transportation - Joe Flynn / Mike Touchette / Craig Digiannarino / Andy Shively	X	
Commissioner of Health - Mark Levine /		X
Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets - Anson Tebbetts / Annie MacMillan / Clark Parmelee		X
Commissioner of Labor - Michael Harrington / Dan Whipple / Stephen Monahan	1023	
Director of Fire Safety - Mike Desrochers / Michael Skaza	X	
Director of Emergency Management - Eric Forand / Max Kennedy / Glenn Herrin	X	
Local Government - Chris Violette		X
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – Bob Morlino	X	
Regional Planning Committee – Andrew L’Roe	1017	
Fire Service - Christopher Dube		X
Law Enforcement - Ryan Palmer	X	
Emergency Medical Service (EMS) – Prescott Nadeau		X
Hospital – Kate Hammond	X	
Entity reporting Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) – Mark Toof	X	

4. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2023 – (Vote Required)
 Pat McLaughlin made motion to approve
 Glenn Herrin Seconded the motion
 Motion carried
5. Election for Chair - Dave Patneau (Vote Required)
 Bob Morlino made a motion for Dave Patneau for Chair
 Andy Shively Seconded the motion
 Motion carried



5. Review FirstNet Mini CRDs – (Vice Chair, Chief Patrick McLaughlin)

These are mini CRDs that were given to the state of Vermont from FirstNet. What they do is they take Starlink, which is the low orbit satellite that produces electrical internet to these devices and as long as you can see the sky, you can have internet. This unit then creates a cellular network for about a half a mile to 1/4 mile wide for any FirstNet enabled cell phone. The state police also has an identical unit for use in their search and rescue operations, and the other state police functions that they may need service at. And it said they've got internal batteries, so they'll run for about 8 or 9 hours without any power. Once they're powered up, we have found that if it gets the Starlink it's the most power hungry on startup. it uses a lot of battery power. So you have to plug one or two of these in the Starlink unit on power up to be able to get its link and maintain it. Once it's maintained, it doesn't use as much energy and then we'll be able to run these two units for close to 80 hours straight with no issues. So these have already become a very valuable tool in our toolbox, and whenever we're responding now to locations that are outside of downtown districts or in rural settings, this is a standard deployment now for the HAZMAT team to be able to bring Internet and services out.

Pat demonstrated how to set the units up.
7. Team Reports
 - a. Tier II Submissions/Financial Report & HAZMAT Team Report – (Chief Patrick McLaughlin, Division of Fire Safety)

Membership

Total 34 part-time employees, 5 open positions recently approved by HR.

A Submission has also been sent to the Joint Fiscal Office for approval of 1 Fulltime position charged with Hazmat Compliance and LEPC support.

We conducted interview for VHMRT truck 3 and VHMRT truck 1 assignments

We will be offering 1 candidate a position on VHMRT truck 1 (Colchester)

We will be offering 2 candidates positions to VHMRT truck 3 (Putney)

Will be conducting more interviews for 2 open position on VHMRT 3 Truck (Putney)

We hired Dennis Morgan in November, and he is assigned to VHMRT Truck 4 (Barnet). Dennis is a career firefighter with St. Johnsbury Fire Dept.

Hazmat Team Membership Break Down					
Agency of Natural Resources MOU Members	DPS Temp Positions	Vacant DPS Temp Positions NEW	Full-Time DPS Hazmat Chief	New Full Time DPS Hazmat Compliance Officer	Total Staffing
2 Team Members	27 Team Members	5 new DPS Temp Position Actively Hiring.	1 Team Member	1 Team Member Waiting For Approvals	35 Team Members +1 waiting approval



Training

Team Monthly Training:

January: Hazmat Technician Class – Williston Fire Station

February: Hazmat Technician Class – Vermont Fire Academy

March: Hazmat Technician Class – Putney Fire Station

April: Job Performance Evaluations – Hazmat Tech

2024 will be Hazmat Tech Class

Training provided in 2023 YTD:

Training by VHMRT – 110 hours provided to 1052 personnel (police, fire, EMS and Tier II Reporters)

Classes offered are Refresher (Hazmat Awareness, Ops, Decon, Air monitoring), CNG Gas Awareness, Clan Lab Awareness, Traffic Incident Management, Hazmat Decon for EMS Squads), First Receiver Training and/or Decon Training, Hazmat Call taking for non-E911 Dispatchers Servivermont and Tier II Reporting.

Significant Hazmat Calls from 2023								
Student Eating Uranium	Mercury Calls	hydrogen peroxide/ peroxyacetic acid mix	Burlington NH3 Leak	1,000-Gal Underground LP Tank	Flooding	15,000-Gal Fuel Spill	10,000 LP Tanker Fire	2900 Gal Fuel Tanker Rollover
<i>Bennington Elementary school Student</i>	<i>The Hazmat team handled 7 Mercury calls in the 1st 3 month of 2023</i>	<i>Forklift Punctured a 300 gal IBC while loading on a TT unit.</i>	<i>NH3 Leak at Burlington City Ice Rink</i>	<i>Danville Fire on 4th of July weekend 1000 gal under ground LP tank on Fire in a campground</i>	<i>July & August StateWide Flooding July was 87 calls with 51 in 3 day</i>	<i>2-Day Putney Mill #2 Fuel Spill,</i>	<i>Irasburge 80 hour LP tanker Fire</i>	<i>Danville had a 2900-gal Fuel Tanker Rollover crews hot tapped the tank and extracted the fuel</i>

HAZCHEM

2762 Tier II reports were received for the 2022 submission period,

On January 1st 2024 the 2023 Tier II Submission Period opened and closes on March 1st 2024.

On December 15th 2023 all reporting facilities were sent via email notification of the reporting period opening and instructions for submittal.

As of Today, 60 facilities have reported.



Equipment

A Grant has been awarded to VHMRT from HSU funds for the replacement of a chemical spectrometer on VHMRT 3 our southern Hazmat truck – at the cost of \$120,000.00

HSU Grant Conditional approved for 2 UAS units with 3 UAS part 107 pilots on staff now and 3 in training

Working with ADS and vendors for a replacement of our remote camera system

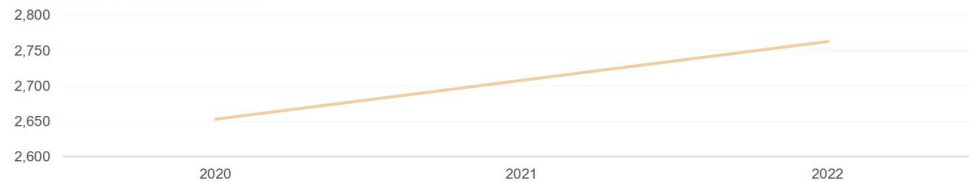
Some aging PPE is slated for replacement in the coming months

We will also be forming a Truck Committee to start the replacement process of our southern and central trucks both of which are 20-plus years old. Currently, Fire Apparatus build-outs are 2 years in the making in some cases.

Tier II Reports

Tier II Report	2020	2021	2022
EHS Chemical	1,324	1,323	1,329
Total Number of Chemicals inventory	11,346	11,715	11,403
Total Contacts	3,249	3,440	3,278
Total Tier II Reports Submitted	2,653	2,711	2,762

Tier II Report Submitted



b. Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Spill Team Calls – (Mike Nucci interim Spill Manager)

- ANR Rep position formerly held by Tim Cropley to be filled by March.
- We received 129 calls for the last quarter, 25 of them involved above ground storage tanks. 20 were vehicle related non accidents, 18 were hydraulic equipment releases, 17 vehicle accidents, 17 transformer releases, 9 fuel dispenser releases, 8 UST reports and four July flooding reports.
- As an update for the team, we have two new Spill Team members that will be taking shifts very soon. Caitlin Bane from the Sites Management section and Ben Gauthier from the solid waste program, both have been in training for the last couple of months and are replacements for Tim and myself. Cait’s first shift is January 31st through February 7th, and Ben's first shift is February 21st through 28.
- The Spill Team is continuing to work on developing a better plan and approach to future disasters that are federally declared. We have drafted a 10-page plan for use within our division. The plan encompasses a general timeline of response on what is needed and when and it defines our internal ICS structure, identifies training needs and clarifies what we can cover.



c. Fire Academy Updates – (Michael Skaza, VFA)

- Fire Academy has been carrying two full time positions open for quite some time, and last week we had a very favorable interview with a candidate for one of those positions, so hopefully there's some relief on the horizon there. Our site coordinator position does remain open and is posted, so if you know of any folks who might be good for that position, please encourage them to apply. Since we last reported out to you in October, we've hired 2 new part time instructors, but saw the resignation of four. But those four were minimally active, so really those resignations aren't impacting our ability to deliver training, whereas bringing 2 new people on who are energetic and eager does help as far as hazardous materials programs and courses in FY24.
- We are underway within all of our firefighter one programs in Bethel, Ludlow, Middlebury, Shelburne, and we've completed hazmat OPS in Sheldon and are awaiting certification exam results from that class.
- In the coming months, we will be delivering a couple of foam firefighting, liquid fires and gas fires, within our firefighter two programs and those will be in Shelburne on February 28th and in Ludlow on March 25th.
- We have completed 9 deliveries of the lithium-ion battery Fire Awareness course all around the state since October, so hats off to our instructors who have really stepped up to push this information out to the fire service. To date, we have delivered this to just under 500 students since October. We've been to Lyndonville, Bennington, Underhill, Rutland Town, Norwich, Middlebury, Newbrook, Jay Peak, West Pawlet, and hats off to Bob Morlino who's joining us here today for drawing 101 students! The largest venue yet in the little village of West Pawlet. That's just that speaks to the importance of the topic to pull 100 students in one venue, 83 and another we haven't seen numbers below 25 in any of these classes, so it's been a hit and we're getting some good information out there. We've got four more deliveries of this class on the schedule tonight in Barre and then we're going to Beecher Falls on January 17th, Alburg on January 22nd and down to Putney on February 12th.

8. Committee Reports - Finance Committee Report - Rhonda Camley

Nothing to report

Rhonda asked about the LEPC contract.

Pat McLaughlin – HR informed us it was awaiting Commissioners signatures. We moved it away from a contract to a limited-service position and has to be paid by the grant and any other cost to exceed would be allocated from the state and would come out of the HAZCHEM fund.

9. LEPC Report (Bob Morlino, LEPC Chair)

- There was a briefing from Chief McLaughlin on the work with the agency of Digital Services to provide data including some form of SRA, dashboard access and I think that's been moving along. And Chief McLaughlin gave an overview of the response to the heating oil spill in Putney.
- Our next meeting is next week, Tuesday, January 16th at 10:00 AM.

10. Public Comments

None



11. Adjourn 11:02 a.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Wednesday, May 15, 2024** 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NOTE: RESCHEDULED FROM APRIL 17TH

All SERC and SERC Subcommittee meetings will be publicly warned at the Vermont Department of Libraries website located at <http://libraries.vermont.gov/events>