



STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
DRAFT Regular Meeting minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

TEAMS Meeting ID: 222 658 549 82

Passcode: ZkJy6m

Call to Order - (Chair, David Patnaude) 10:04 am

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda – (Chair, David Patnaude)

Roll call by Sue Plant not Max Kennedy

Roll Call – (conducted by Sue Plant, VEM)

Seat – Name	Present	Absent
Transportation Entity reporting chemicals – David Patnaude (Chair)	x	
Commissioner of Public Safety - Jennifer Morrison / <u>Patrick McLaughlin (Vice Chair)</u>	x	
Secretary of Natural Resources - Julie Moore / James Donaldson / Shawn Donovan	x	
Secretary of Transportation - Joe Flynn / Mike Touchette / Craig Digiammarino / <u>Andy Shively</u>		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 / <u>Dan Whipple</u> / Stephen Monahan		
Director of Fire Safety - Mike Desrochers / <u>Michael Skaza</u>		x
Director of Emergency Management - Eric Forand / Sue Plant	x	
Local Government - Chris Violette	x	
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – <u>Bob Morlino</u>	x	
Regional Planning Committee – <u>Andrew L’Roe</u>		x
Fire Service - Christopher Dube	x	
Law Enforcement - <u>Ryan Palmer</u>		x
Emergency Medical Service (EMS) – Prescott Nadeau	x	
Hospital – <u>Kate Hammond</u>	x	
Entity reporting Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) – <u>Mark Toof</u>		x

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from Jan 10, 2024 – (Vote Required)

Sue Plant noted screenshots of attendees at the end of the minutes are removed.



Motion to accept the minutes as amended made by Bob Morino, seconded by Kate Hammond
 Motion carried

SERC Website Updates needed – to be completed by Sue Plant

Team Reports

- a. Tier II Submissions/Financial Report & HAZMAT Team Report – (Chief Patrick McLaughlin, Division of Fire Safety)

Section
1

Membership

Total 34 part-time employees, 2 open positions

A Submission has also been sent to the Joint Fiscal Office for approval of 1 Fulltime position charged with Hazmat Compliance and LEPC support. This has been approved by Classification and is at Management and Finance for approval

New Members VHMRT truck 3

Jared Vonderhorst – Brattleboro Fire Dept

Gabriel Leibensperger – Brattleboro Fire Dept

Aaron Dotter – Hartford Fire – Pending HR

New Members VHMRT truck 1

Jason Paul – Burlington Fire Dept

One Member offer Pending

Section
2

Training

Team Monthly Training:

May – GMP ESS site visit in Essex with Essex Fire Dept – As well as Booming Training in Berlin at GMP's plan in Berlin

June- Rad/Nuc Refresher VFA and Joint Training with Middlebury Fire and agri-mart at the Middlebury site.

July – Off

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.



Section
3

Responses

Incident Type	Count of Incident Type	Response Type	Grand Total
Above / Under ground Tank Spill	9		
Chemical Spill	7		
Other Assistance	8		
RAD	2	Notification Only	22
Special Event Support	3		
Motor Vehicle or Boat Spill	21	Response (Team or Crew Chief)	18
LPG / CNG / NG	1		
White Powder/ suspicious PKG/Unknown	2	Phone Consult	14
Clan Lab	1		
Grand Total	54	Grand Total	54

Section
4

Equipment

New Gemini Spectrometer has been placed into service on VHMRT 3 – This was an HSU grant for \$120,000.00

HSU Grant approved for 2 UAS units with 3 UAS part 107 pilots on staff now and 3 in training - Pending Delivery mid June

Working with ADS and vendors for a replacement of our remote camera system – on Hold due to Funding – Vendor on contract with State

Some aging PPE is slated for replacement in the coming months

New PPE for New Member 4 set of gear

A Truck Committee has been formed 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.

Section
5

HAZCHEM

2545 Tier II reports were received for the 2023 submission period,

With 50+ email left to sort. All portal submission have been completed

2023 Tier II reporting closed March 1st 2023

b) Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Spill Team Calls (James Donaldson, ANR)

- I am the new Spill Program Manager, as of April 8 2024.
- Mike Nucci has retired from the acting SPM role and the team.
- We received 237 calls for the last quarter, 22 involved above ground storage tanks, 23 were vehicle related (non-accidents); 50 were hydraulic equipment releases; 18 vehicle accidents; 68 transformer releases; 12 fuel dispenser releases; 8 UST; and 2 July 2023 Flooding incidents.



- We have one new Spill Team member that will begin taking calls next week. Zac Neudeck from the Sites Management Section. Zac has experience as a volunteer fire fighter and competent knowledge of the management of hazardous material releases. Zac's first shift is July 10th to 17th.
- Vince Chiorgno's last standby shift is May 15-22.
- June 11-13 2024 – booming exercises GRSs - Lake Champlain with VHMRT, EPA, local OSROs.
- The WMPD has adopted a disaster operations plan to be implemented in the event of major floods, earthquakes, fires, etc. that provides for a significant number of hazardous material releases. The plan establishes an organizational structure based on the Incident Command System and annual training requirements for staff and contractors who will be involved in disaster response.
- Sommerset Reservoir incident – chemical suicide, VHMRT, VSP matters
- July 2023 flood events still coming in
- NEWS VT leachate release
- Punctured tote – Williston

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

1. Staffing and Instructors:

a. The Fire Academy has hired Joe Clark to the full-time Training Coordinator position. Joe comes to us after a 20-year career with the West Palm Beach, FL Fire Department.

b. The Site Coordinator position remains vacant, and we are in the process of conducting interviews.

c. The Fire Academy is in the process of hiring 2 new part-time instructors.

2. Hazardous Materials Program and Course Updates

a. In FY24, the following Hazardous Materials response training was conducted:

i. Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations:

- a. Bethel
- b. Ludlow
- c. Middlebury
- d. Shelburne
- e. Sheldon

ii. Foam Firefighting, Liquid Fires and Gas Fires

- a. Ludlow
- b. Shelburne

ii. Lithium Ion Battery Fire Awareness Course: The Fire Academy had completed 14 deliveries since launching this new course in October 2024, totaling 660 students. This is in addition to the courses delivered by the Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team.



- a. Lyndonville: Completed October, 51 students
- b. Bennington: Completed, October, 30 students
- c. Underhill: Completed, October, 32 students
- d. Rutland Town: Completed, November, 31 students
- e. Norwich: Completed, November, 28 students
- f. Addison County: Completed, November, 48 students
- g. Newbrook: Completed, December, 46 students
- h. Jay Peak: Completed, December, 83 students
- i. West Pawlet: Completed, December, 101 students
- j. Barre: January 10, 49 students
- k. Beecher Falls: January 17, 25 students
- l. Division of Fire Safety Staff, January 17, 44 students
- m. Alburgh: January 22, 27 students
- n. Putney: February 12, 28 students

3. The overall pass rate on the Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations Certification Exam is 90% for this fiscal year. This includes one student who chose not to retest after an initial failure and two students who are still pending a retest. This is an improvement over last year's pass rate, which was 87%.

4. The Fire Academy is working with a subject matter expert group of instructors to refresh and revise the Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations curriculum. The goal is to focus on improving areas where students showed shortcomings in testing and reduce redundancy in areas that don't need it. This revision will be rolled out in our FY25 program offerings. FY 24 was the first year of using the current edition and transitioning to NFPA 470 from NFPA 1072, so it is common to need adjustments in a transition year.

5. We have applied for \$133,609 in federal funding from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant for FY25. This is a reduction in funding that is driven by risk and calculated by the number of incidents, commodity flow, and other factors. Chief McLaughlin is working to ensure that all qualifying incidents are reported to ensure that our funding remains strong in coming years. This grant funds hazardous materials responder training and support of the LEPC and Tier II reporting system.

8. Committee Reports - Finance Committee Report - Rhonda Camley

Nothing to report

Rhonda asked if a finance person is still needed as we no longer have an LEPC report. Pat McLaughlin – I think keeping it is important because we do have the statewide LEPC and if the statewide LEPC got a grant or funding, I think it's important to have the position. If it ever goes back to more than one LEPC and we change it around, I think it's important to have that position instead of having to recreate it again.

9. LEPC Report (Bob Morlino, LEPC Chair)

We had an LEPC meeting on April 16th and had James Donaldson and the Spill Response team from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, who gave a great presentation. It



gave us a really good rundown of how the Spill Response Team works, what they do, how they do clean ups, and environmental enforcement. So, we thank them for that presentation.

The new Emergency Response Guidebook's are out and the Hazmat team and the Fire Academy have been distributing those throughout the state fire departments. If you would like some please find the request form here:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=O5O0IK26PEOcAnDtzHVZxhdFMoSLDLNGspR_Wf2QHnxUOUVNTjE3U1IKSlg5NkpOWIRJRzJKQjFIOC4u

Some of the LEPC responsibilities are to provide coordinated local training to ensure integration with the state Emergency Management Plan and they are also responsible for consulting and coordinating with facilities. In a training with Green Mountain Power, they have facilities which the LEPC is working with them on, coordinating the energy response.

Thanks to Green Mountain Power for doing that on a weekend with us.

Our next meeting is July 9th.

David Patneau - Do you know if they have started putting in the ESS systems into Orleans County as they talked about? I know there were 16 planned.

Bob – There are 16 plans with a company called Evelo. They haven't broken ground at all as far as I know. So the answer to that would be no. Certainly when they start putting those in, hopefully we'll know and then we can perhaps do some training up in that neck of the woods with local fire departments.

10. Public Comments

Kate Hammond - I just wanted to share again in the chat, the Healthcare Coalition, EMS and Preparedness Conference is coming up on June 14-16 at Jay Peak.

<https://www.vtemsconference.com/>

Please come see the team on the Thursday, as it is a pre-conference session. I will say that we have tried to keep our costs as low as possible to get as many responders to come to the conference. Please take a look at the agenda. There's also a lot of opportunity for networking in the evenings in terms of a bonfire and a trivia night. So, we're really hoping to get people to come out. We're really excited about that.

Two things we have going on is the Vermont Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition hired a contractor out of Massachusetts to do 4-hour assessments and some Decon training at hospitals. These are going on at 8 hospitals that were able to be funded this year. These are going on over a three-month period between now and June 30th. If anyone is interested in attending any of those trainings, I can provide the information for what days those are happening.

The other thing from the VDH standpoint is we are doing hospital visits throughout the state. It's basically a 3-hour tour, about 2 1/2 hours of information sharing, talking with them about medical surge and long-term power loss readiness and also communications. And then if they are willing to take our little team for a tour of what they're proud of or what's new with their hospital, we've been doing tours. So far we've been to NVRH, North



Country, Northwest, and we're headed to Rutland Regional next. We've had an opportunity to see in construction a new Decon room that North Country Hospital has just completed. We were able to see the new emergency department at Northwestern Medical Center. NVRH is getting ready to begin construction on a new emergency department, so it's really exciting to see some of these capital projects come to fruition. I just wanted an opportunity to share what's going on regionally and we're just going to continue with these statewide hospital tours over the course of this next year.

Patrick McLaughlin – Prescott Nadeau's appointment is up for renewal. Prescott confirmed he would like to continue to serve as the EMS representative.

11. Adjourn 10:56 a.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Wednesday, July 17, 2024** 10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
All SERC and SERC Subcommittee meetings will be publicly warned at the Vermont Department of Libraries website located at <http://libraries.vermont.gov/events>