



STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

**Regular Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

Time: 10 AM

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

1. Call to Order - (Chair, David Patnaude) 1:02 PM
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda – (Chair, David Patnaude)  
None
3. Roll Call – (conducted by Susan Plant, VEM)

<b>Transportation Entity reporting chemicals – <u>David Patnaude</u> (Chair)</b>
<b>Commissioner of Public Safety - Jennifer Morrison / <u>Patrick McLaughlin</u> (Vice Chair)</b>
<b>Secretary of Natural Resources - Julie Moore / <u>James Donaldson</u> / Shawn Donovan</b>
<b>Secretary of Transportation - Joe Flynn / <u>Jayna Morse</u> / Craig Digiammarino / <u>Andy Shively</u> (deleted Mike Touchette 7/2/24)</b>
<b>Commissioner of Health - Mark Levine /</b>
<b>Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets - Anson Tebbetts / <u>Pam Bryer</u> / Clark Parmelee (Annie MacMillan replaced by Pam Bryer)</b>
<b>Commissioner of Labor - Michael Harrington / <u>Dan Whipple</u> / Stephen Monahan</b>
<b>Director of Fire Safety - Mike Desrochers / <u>Michael Skaza</u></b>
<b>Director of Emergency Management - Eric Forand / <u>Sue Plant</u></b>
<b>Local Government - <u>Chris Violette</u></b>
<b>Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – <u>Bob Morlino</u></b>
<b>Regional Planning Committee – <u>Andrew L’Roe</u></b>
<b>Fire Service - <u>Christopher Dube</u></b>
<b>Law Enforcement - <u>Ryan Palmer</u></b>
<b>Emergency Medical Service (EMS) – Prescott Nadeau</b>
<b>Hospital – <u>Kate Hammond</u></b>
<b>Entity reporting Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) – <u>vacant</u></b>

4. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from May 17th – (Vote Required)  
Bob Morlino made a motion to accept  
Kate Hammond seconded  
Motion Carried

## 5. Team Reports

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

- We had a pretty busy beginning of the quarter even before January 10th, we did some good training. All of the staff recertified. We have onboarded 3 out of 5 positions, two are in with HR and one that we're going to be interviewing.
- We've staffed truck three out of Putney, it's got a nice, good group. Some have less experience, but we're slowly giving them more experience.
- Some significant incidents happened in Rutland on June 24<sup>th</sup>, we were in Rutland Town at the Hampton Inn. There was a vehicle in which the woman didn't want to wait in line at Taco Bell and drove across the grass, when she did so, she drove right through a tree and damaged one of six underground propane tanks, removing the riser. How the extremely dense cloud of propane did not find an ignition source is pretty remarkable. They requested Hazmat and we responded and started the mitigation process. Removing the vehicle, we had a couple of our members trying to acquire some additional equipment that we're still trying to get on our arsenal, but one of our close partners in the field, that dealership, had one and we're grabbing that. It's just a little bit further away, so we couldn't use it because by the time it showed up on scene, we had hydraulically removed all of the propane from the tank and we were able to start the excavation process and get that tank out of there. Irving was the vendor, and they were extremely helpful. They were able to get us all the resources we needed to remove the tank and mitigate the hazard. So, another successful incident that we were able to utilize our partners in the industrial world.
- Another item that came in about 9:00 o'clock, while we were mitigating that propane tank, was a call down in Brattleboro. A sulfuric acid rail car that was actively leaking in the rail yard. But the guys all stepped up and I think that speaks volumes to the increased staffing levels. We've been able to increase our roles as well as our working relationship with the 15th CST as they can come right out the door and assist us. Truck three was able to get there. Brattleboro Fire Department did an excellent job. They are another MOU partner and were able to bring the De-con trailer down. Their training has been above par for mitigation and De-con at the operations level so that additional support has been really helpful. We were able to mitigate and figure out, with some help from our rail partners, the different connections and made some adjustments to the rail car to relieve the pressure.
- I got a call from Killington for a strong ammonia smell in the basement of a parking garage, a multi-story residential occupancy, so no known storage of ammonia in any refrigerant systems. We thought maybe a vendor had accidentally replaced a freon system with ammonia of some sort, but we're able to diagnose that and eliminate that. We had two cars we couldn't identify inside the parking garage, we were thinking maybe a nefarious act, of some sort in the production of methamphetamines. We decided this was a call we could use our drones on. We were able to go down range in to the parking garage for the drone to get a license plate and visualize what we were going into. Features were reading anywhere between 10 and 50 parts per million ammonia. (We can put an ammonia meter (or a 5 gas meter) on

the drone and have the drone camera read the meter.) This call came in late afternoon and we cleared there once we got levels to somewhere we thought was decent at 2:00 in the morning and we never really got a solid answer which made us kind of uneasy when you're dealing with a building. We worked with the fire Marshall's office and left the building on occupied. The plan was to have an industrial hygienist come in the next day. Hazmat cleanup company came in to clean everything in that in that room. Friday, the industrial hygienist from Boston showed up and did some more investigatory items. They weren't getting anywhere above 2 to 10 parts per million. We had some conversations with the property owner and discovered that winter they had applied a foam for insulation and fire protection which was covered in an intumescent and fire-retardant paint. That fire-retardant paint gave the structural members of the parking garage a fire rating to be fire code compliant. And this was applied during the cold climate, which was something we needed to make sure we articulated. Dennis reached out to the industry contact he had and came back with in some of the Intumescent paints, their base components are ammonia and when they're applied in a cold climate and then see high heat, high humidity, which on that June day it was 90+ degrees with 85% humidity, these specific paints will actually off gas anhydrous ammonia. It was a very damp environment inside that garage and it was off gassing ammonia and that's how we were getting those levels. We got people back in that building that Friday. Normally, it'll only off gas once, the vendor said, and we worked with the state's toxicologist to know what the occupational health limits were for exposure in a residential occupancy for ammonia. Then we were able to give the condo association piece of mind that if you were able to vent this for at least 24 hours and monitor again, finish and dry, the likelihood of another episode of this is very rare, but not zero, but very rare.

- Having a cooperative agreement kind of working group, with all the state UPS teams and we are part of that now, we are working towards getting a group together and having conversations about the drones and what they're doing and how we're using them across the state, and how AOT and Hazmat and state police can all work together on different platforms. So that equipment is up and running and is deployable and has been deployed.
- We were able to add a third unit to our fleet. Now we have some additional savings in our Homeland Security grant. We got additional pieces of equipment; floodlights and "get gas" monitoring, landing pads, and got all our staff brand new structure helmets. We have some additional PO's out for meters and sensors, maintenance required items and pending order for replacement of our wireless camera system used for downrange visualization.

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

Beryl – 37 total calls. Breakdown:

- 23 AST releases or pump outs
- 7 orphaned drum incidents
- 2 sheen reports (Lamoille and Passumpsic Rivers)
- 1 MODF incident at hydro plant
- 1 incident of three vehicles in Lamoille River

1 incident at Lyndon WWTP (gas and oil influent)  
1 liquor store flooded  
1 report of a salvage yard that was flooded  
Outside of the Beryl-related incidents, we received 164 calls for the last quarter (April 1 through July 29). Breakdown:  
16 involved above ground storage tanks,  
19 UST system releases;  
22 were vehicle related (non-accidents);  
27 were hydraulic equipment releases;  
12 vehicle accidents;  
29 transformer releases;  
6 fuel dispenser releases;  
3 aircraft releases;  
6 reports of sheens/product on surface waters;  
3 releases of Class B AFFF;  
2 reports of improper disposal  
~20 other releases; and 1 July 2023 Flooding incidents – tank pump out.

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. We were in the process of establishing the ICS staff positions and required training when Beryl struck. Beryl offered a good trial run/review of the plan, and we have identified several components of the plan requiring update.

- Class B AFFF – May – car fire in Mendon. Rutland FD used AFFF to put out car fire. Incident location adjacent to brook feeding Mendon Brook, the water supply for Rutland City. Soil excavation and sampling, drinking water sampling.
- Class B AFFF - May – structure fire in Colchester. Car in garage caught fire. Colchester FD used AFFF. Petro/PFAS in soils complicating disposal. Colchester voluntary contribution being determined.
- June – Army Nat Guard in S. Burl. 800 gallons of AFFF concentrate released from decommissioned fire suppression system. Impacted S. Burl WWTP and Winooski River.

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

## 6. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee Report (Absent – Rhonda Camley/ or Finance Representative)  
None at this time
- b. LEPC Report (Bob Morlino, LEPC Chair)

This is the LPC report we had intended for our July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. We intended to have Lynn Wallace go through the roles and responsibilities of LEPCs. He is the US EPA region, one person who's in the waste and Chemical compliance section. He sent me a message that he had a family emergency and could not make it, so we'll have to get his report for our next meeting, which would be in October.

We did have another call this week. In Winhall, a gasoline truck with 8000 gallons of gasoline, the tractor caught fire. The Winhall fire department did a fine job of confining the fire to that tractor and cooling down the tank. So, we didn't have any releases and the driver was ok, so a good outcome there.

We did the ammonia spill training with Agmark in Middlebury. Some geographical response training, and this is primarily a spill training. This is with the US EPA, Shelburne, Fire Department, Winooski Fire Department, Colchester Fire Department and you saw, and this was primarily boom deployment in the event of a hydrocarbon spill. We also practiced with the drone at that at that training as well.

We had some public comments about the OSHA ruling that is coming down the Pike. OSHA is revising the rulings for emergency response personnel, primarily firefighters. There's a very large concern in the firefighting community about some of the requirements that OSHA

wants to impose for fire departments, especially Volunteer Fire departments, it could be pretty difficult. I think the proposals are all about safety, all about worker safety, of course, since it's OSHA all about firefighters safety and no one disputes the need for some of these rules and regulations. The issue is primarily the cost to handle some of the regulations could be very cost prohibitive, especially for Volunteer Fire Department.

Dan Whipple - Federal OSHA is going to have a hearing on this rule on November 12<sup>th</sup> and the hearing is open to all. And for those who would want to testify at it, they can send a request to testify to federal OSHA on this. I've been speaking with Mike Derosier and fire service in general, alerting them that they can submit comments. This is something that in my 27 years of VOSHA experience I have not seen anything like this particular order, which is a significant move by OSHA to try to include all parties.

- Brad Roy from the Vermont rural water supply came to talk to us about Act 143. Which makes people who run water, wastewater and storm water facilities, name them as first responders or designated them as first responders. Prior to ACT 143, they were not considered first responders and consequently often could not get to their facilities in order to maintain them and mitigate problems that may have come from a flood. Now they can mitigate and run their facilities and get them back up and running.

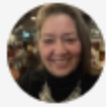
Lynn Wallace will be at the next LEPC meeting, and his presentation hopefully will steer us in the direction that we should be going. In terms of roles and responsibilities, we can read, of course, what the federal government says in the wording, but he can give us a lot more practical view of what other LEPC's are doing and what we should be doing.

7. Public Comments –(Chair, David Patnaude)  
None

8. Adjourn 10:34 AM

Next Regular Meeting: TBA

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



Plant, Susan  
Organizer



Andrew L'Roe (AC... (Unverified)



Bryer, Pam



Chris Dube-PFFV (Unverified)



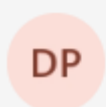
Chris Violette (Unverified)



Christine Forde (Unverified)



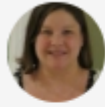
Colley, Charles (Unverified)



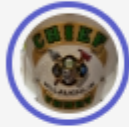
David Patneaude (Unverified)



Donaldson, James



Hammond, Kate



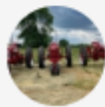
McLaughlin, Patrick



Morlino, Robert



Way, Karen (Unverified)



Whipple, Dan