



Vermont Achieves National Emergency Management Accreditation

Vermont Emergency Management and the state's emergency management program has once again been accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). Vermont Emergency Management previously achieved accreditation in 2010 and 2015.

EMAP is a voluntary program in which emergency management organizations demonstrate their ability to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all threats and hazards that could impact the state. Vermont met a set of 66 national standards involving hazard identification, prevention, incident management, communications and warning, training, and others. These standards were evaluated during the COVID pandemic.

“Accreditation from EMAP is the gold standard for emergency management programs across the country,” Governor Phil Scott said. “We’re extremely gratified that even during the pandemic when all state resources were put to the ultimate test, the state of Vermont maintained an emergency management posture that stands up to such rigorous scrutiny.”

Vermont's emergency management program encompasses the integration of federal, state, local and non-government entities involved in

disasters. To demonstrate the program is compliant with EMAP standards plans these partners must come together to show how they accomplish a range of emergency management functions. Accreditation applies to all entities in the emergency management program.

“Emergency management requires a wide array of expertise in every phase and is a whole of government effort; assessors perform a detailed review of all state plans and procedures to ensure they are of the highest quality to meet the public's needs,” VEM Director Erica Bornemann said. “We’re fortunate strong relationships have underpinned the integration of state and local agencies that understand the importance of collaboration in ensuring the safety of Vermonters. This accreditation is testament to that team approach.”

The accreditation process began in 2018 and the review was delayed by the COVID pandemic (the original completion date was to be in 2020). EMAP issues a pass or fail result based on a state meeting all criteria. 34 states, the District of Columbia, and numerous local and federal programs are currently accredited through EMAP.

For more on the Emergency Management Accreditation Program visit <https://emap.org/>.

Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference September 20 & 21

Killington Grand Hotel

Information and registration:

<https://vem.vermont.gov/conference>

Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

There are currently multiple hazard mitigation funding opportunities for communities and other eligible applicants. For information on any of the programs listed below contact stephanie.a.smith@vermont.gov.

Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF):

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to reduce future public safety and water quality impacts of flood hazards in Vermont, focusing on buyouts of flood-vulnerable properties and natural resource projects. This program prioritizes projects that are not eligible for FEMA funding. An additional \$15 million was allocated by the Vermont Legislature in FY23 (pending the Governor's signature). **Next Funding Rounds: Friday, October 28, 2022 and Friday, March 31, 2023.**
- State Hazard Mitigation Program Match: \$8 million was allocated by the Vermont Legislature in FY23 (pending the Governor's signature) to provide State match for FEMA funds to purchase properties identified for high flood risk.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):

Funding is opening for the major disaster declared for the COVID-19 pandemic, just over \$11 million. Next Funding Round: **State application deadline of September 30, 2022.** I anticipate requesting an additional 90-days on top of that extension. Eligible projects include: property buyouts with flood or landslide risk (NOT required to have been flooded in the past); culvert or bridge upsizing; road relocation or elevation; floodproofing of non-residential structures; property elevations; and planning activities.

- All projects submitted under this funding round will be eligible to receive a 90% Federal cost share, requiring only a 10% local match!
- With this funding round, we have a contract with engineering firm SLR to develop Benefit-Cost Analyses (BCAs), which is a requirement for most construction projects, although typically not for buyouts. If you have a project that is ready for implementation and you just need a BCA, please reach out!
- We also have a smaller HMGP round coming up, anticipated close to \$1 million. State deadline: Friday, August 26, 2022. All projects under this funding round will have a 90% federal share instead of the standard 75% federal share.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC): grant program to states and local communities for mitigation activities. The BRIC 2022 set-aside will be at least \$1.5 million for planning and scoping work. Next Funding Round: we don't have exact dates until FEMA releases the notice of funding (typically in August), but anticipated mid-December State deadline.

Nominations now being accepted for Vermont local Emergency Management Director of the Year!

Information and nomination:

<https://vem.vermont.gov/conference>

VEM Training Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, registration for courses is required via State Learning Management System:

<https://vermont.csod.com/>

On-Going

K0419- Shelter Field Guide Training for State and Local Communities – Virtual

August 23-24, 2022 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

September 27-28, 2022 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Registration required via NETC online admissions system. A link can be found at: <https://vem.vermont.gov/contact-us/newsletter/links>

September 2022

Vermont Local Emergency Management Director Course- Virtual

September 8-9, 2022, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. each day

SEOC Orientation- In Person

DPS – Headquarters- Waterbury

September 13, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100

NOTE: Individuals must be on the SEOC Roster to participate in this training

ICS 300- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents – In Person

Hartford Fire Station - White River Jct, VT

September 27-29, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: ICS-200

October 2022

MGT 417: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers- In Person

Londonderry Rescue Squad, Londonderry, VT

October 4 & 5, 2022 8:00am- 4:00pm

G0191 – ICS/EOC Interface – In Person

Castleton Fire Station, Castleton, VT

October 11, 2022 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800

ICS 400- Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff – In Person

Springfield Fire Station- Springfield, VT

October 25-26, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: ICS-300

November 2022

L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) - In Person

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

November 1-2, 2022 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: IS-120

G0191 – ICS/EOC Interface – In Person

St. Michael's College- Colchester, VT

November 5, 2022 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800

April 2023

AWR- 136 Essentials of Community Cybersecurity- In Person

DPS – Headquarters- Waterbury

April 25, 2023 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MGT 384 Community Preparedness for Cyber Incidents- In Person

DPS – Headquarters- Waterbury

April 25, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. & April 26, 2023 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Regional Communications Grants

The State of Vermont, Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce the application period for grant funding is now open for 2022 Regional Communications/Dispatch funding.

The State of Vermont is seeking specific projects that address the development and implementation of Regional Dispatch/Communications Centers. Funding will be available to support the creation of new regional dispatch centers or broaden the capacity and capability of existing dispatch centers. This will enable an approach that balances workloads in regions throughout the State.

For all funding announcements, application materials, instructions and resources, please visit the Regional Communications Grant Program webpage on the Homeland Security website at: <https://hsu.vermont.gov/regional-communications>. Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of the funding announcements,

what must be submitted, and what may be applied for.

All applications and supporting documentation must be RECEIVED by the Vermont Homeland Security Unit office by Friday, September 2nd, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. EST. To facilitate processing, completed grant applications and supporting documentation must be sent via email to DPS.HSU@vermont.gov.

For questions regarding grant submissions including questions about the grant application, supplemental materials, or any issues downloading materials please contact DPS.HSU@vermont.gov.

For questions regarding regional communications projects contact Mandy Wooster at Mandy.Wooster@vermont.gov.

New VEM Southern Regional Coordinator—Taiga Christie

Taiga Christie has joined VEM team as Southern Vermont Regional Coordinator. Taiga entered emergency management through providing psychological trauma support on emergency scenes in Oregon, then moved to Vermont and joined Whitingham Ambulance in 2011 in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene. Since then she's worked in New England and the Pacific Northwest in substance use recovery, HIV prevention, EMS transfers, harm reduction and health education. Her work has often focused on mental health, supporting underserved populations, and promoting equity in emergency preparedness.

Taiga recently finished a masters and two-year fellowship at the Yale School of Public Health studying creative community health education. She also holds a bachelors in theater, emphasizing directing community-based performances. Over the last decade, her theater work has become focused on community health and resilience topics, from earthquake preparedness in Oregon to climate change in Connecticut. She looks forward to using this experience in supporting the southern region in exercise planning and facilitation.

Feel free to reach out to Taiga for planning, training and exercise needs in the southern region, as well as topics related to harm reduction and supporting underserved populations. At Taiga.Christie@vermont.gov