



Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee

Meeting Summary

May 10, 2023

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting convened at 5:00 pm. A quorum of voting members was not present, and no formal action was taken during the meeting. All members in attendance introduced themselves and the community they represent.

Presentation: Montpelier Police Chief -Eric Nordenson

Chief Nordenson spoke to the group about Active Shooter incidents and response. Specifically, the false active shooter threats to Montpelier High School on 2/8/23 and their response. The coordinated response of 30 officers' and 10 agencies and the quick response time. He described that it was a nationwide hoax and due to the location as the state capitol has great resources during the daytime. That more remote communities would have a longer response time for assets to arrive. Lessons learned were communication with school staff needs improvement, also all school staff who had authority to make decisions were not on site, - have a plan to always have someone onsite that has this authority, and access to buildings, -they are trying to find a way that police would have one building access card that can access all schools. In this type of incident, they will force entry to gain access if they have no other option. They did a full debrief with students and school staff, this helped with the healing process, explaining what you did and why helps the process. He also described that they will send officers to respond to incidents anywhere when the call comes in. Entire incident lasted only 58 minutes.

Followed up with questions

Stefan- discussed state-wide access cards for entry and whether REMC could get behind.

Eric-U-32's Amy Molina is a great partner and is working on that. The more helping push for this.

He thought a card issued on completing the academy for officers for all schools' access.

Michael Billingsley-Brought up access during a power outage when doors lock. Eric-Replied they will go thru the door and it can be fixed later. They have to treat all incidents as the real thing.

Mentioned Knox Boxes for fire departments but that this often takes time for the response and only a limited few have the keys.

Bruce-Did the school have an emergency plan and did they follow it? Eric- Yes, they had an outdated plan, when performing debrief reminded staff of training, has created desire for plan and training.

Stefan-Asked about dispatchers? Eric-Typically, 2 dispatchers who sit besides one another so they are able to coordinate. They have a tough job of parents calling for information.

Discussion ensued about training and incident command. Schools needing to have updated emergency Plans. Always have a Continuity of Operations plan. Most areas primary response is the Vermont State Police, also there is a lack of cell reception in some of these areas.

Betty- What role do you see Emergency Management playing in these events? Eric- Preparation in Helping to build plans, after action reviews and helping to improve plans.
Harry-If EMDs want to get involved attending safety team meetings and offering support Help with reunification of students and parents, sheltering if necessary, these pieces Have to be preplanned. Eric-replied relationship building, be part of these conversations If they are willing to have you. Harry-VTAlert can be used for some messaging but have To be careful what to say and not to draw attention to it.
Eric-students got on social media and this is something that can't be controlled.

Fred-How much prior coordination was there with the school? Eric-currently school board doesn't allow Officers in the school but they have trained there and most of the staff in the past. Currently building a response team for the county for high risk incidents. Would like to Be in the schools for relationship building.

Betty-What area will the response team cover? Eric-Just to train a team for high risk incidents to have an Up trained team for anywhere they are asked. Currently coordinating with Burlington Since they have like minded values, would assist the state if asked for state police Covered areas.

Michael-Would State EM be notified specifically the watch officer? Harry- The state watch officer Monitors all incoming calls and monitors. Eric-FBI is bringing trainings for the hoax type Of calls.

Michael-This was a warm day, how do you handle a cold day? Eric-Had a sheltering plan so most Students went there. Though some went to their cars which made the clearing of the Site more complex.

LEPC Meeting Update

Stefan gave an update on the 5/9/23 meeting. Primarily catching up and getting back up to speed. Working on the Tier II hazards dashboard online, identifying hazards and plume footprint including streets for evacuations/containment. Testing integration with WebEOC. Adding schools, hospitals, and facilities to map. Working on getting what's travelling on the railroads within the state. Currently only have to notify when they stop, trying to get a placard reader. They are hiring a full-time position for planning for the Hazmat team. Will meet again in August.

REMC Overview, Initial Work Ideas

Stefan gave a quick discussion about the legislature work on quorum for REMC. Harry has update on this in his report. Request for speaker topics, Red Cross Northern New England Area is a good speaker, Hazard planning for drought, forest fires, extreme rain events can have VEM planning team, Hazard mitigation funding,

VEM Updates

Effective June 1st, 2023 I am transitioning to be the Regional Coordinator in the Northwest Region. The job posting for NE Regional Coordinator should be out soon, if you know a good candidate tell them to apply.

The **2023 Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference** will be held September 20th-21st, 2022 at Burke Mountain Hotel & Conference Center in East Burke, VT, with limited virtual options. Sessions will begin at 9:00am and the day will end by 4:15 each day. Registration and agenda will be released in about a month.

REMC Hotel Rooms

Vermont Emergency Management is once again able to offer 1 hotel room for 1 night to each Regional Emergency Management Committee. Once an REMC selects the individual that will receive that hotel room, they must submit the [Hotel Room for Conference REMC Representative form](#) no later than **noon on Monday, August 14th**. <https://vem.vermont.gov/conference>

Director Bornemann is leaving VEM, her Last day June 2nd. Invites went out to the 3 points of Contact for each town to attend her send off at Waterbury HQ on June 2nd. Looking for a head count.

The bill regarding REMC quorum H125 is in the VT Senate. Looking like once approved will be a Quorum of 5 until the end of year. Then new quorum can be set, but can't be lower than 20 % of Voting members. More details can be found here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/H.125>

School Safety- As promised here is the link and the contact info for VEM's School Safety person.
Vermont School Safety Website link: <https://vem.vermont.gov/programs/school>

Sunni Eriksen, MA, CPM, (she/her)
School Safety Programs Manager
Vermont Emergency Management
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UPCOMING TRAININGS

May 2023

ICS-402- ICS Summary for Executives - Virtual

May 11, 2023, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Registration required via the State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

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

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission- Winooski, VT

May 16-17, 2023, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: ICS-300

Registration required via State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

June 2023

PER- 344 Social Media Tools and Techniques- Virtual

June 6, 2023- June 7, 2023, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. each day

Must attend both sessions to receive credit

Registration required via University of Hawaii: <https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/3265/>
Code 03216

PER- 343 Social Media Engagement Strategies- Virtual

June 13, 2023- June 14, 2023, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. each day

Must attend both sessions to receive credit

Registration required via University of Hawaii: <https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/3266/>
Code 81439

July 2023

ICS 300- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents – In Person

Milton Fire Department- Milton, VT

July 18-20, 2023, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: ICS-100 and ICS- 200

Registration required via State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

The meeting ended at 5:54pm.

Voting Attendees:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Barre City	Keith Cushman, Fire Chief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northfield	Lawrence Rutter,EMD
<input type="checkbox"/>		Joe Aldsworth, EMC	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jeff Schulz, Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barre Town	Chris Violette, Town Manager/EMD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange	Eric Holmgren
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Joshua Martineau, Firefighter	<input type="checkbox"/>		Chris LaMonda
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Berlin	Bruce Richardson, EMC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plainfield	Michael Billingsley, EMD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		James Pontbriand, EMD	<input type="checkbox"/>		Greg Light, Fire Chief
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Jenn Miner, EMD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury	Mike Dickinson
<input type="checkbox"/>		Ruth Goodrich,	<input type="checkbox"/>		Shane Ryan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calais	Nick Emlen, EMD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waitsfield	Fred Messer, EMD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Betty Copeland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Howie McCausland, MRVAS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	Mari Pratt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren	Jeff Campbell, EMD
<input type="checkbox"/>		Courtney Guyette	<input type="checkbox"/>		Mark Haviland, MRVAS
<input type="checkbox"/>	East Montpelier	Seth Gardner, EMD/Selectboard Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Ryan Bresette, EMD
<input type="checkbox"/>		Jon Boucher, EMC/Constable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayston	Craig Snell, EMD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterbury	Gary Dillon, Fire Dept.
<input type="checkbox"/>		Tripp Johnson, Fire Chief	<input type="checkbox"/>		Mike Bard, EMC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Chris Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Jackie Higgins, Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>		Will Scharwz	<input type="checkbox"/>		William Graham
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Peter Hood	<input type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/>		Eric Metivier, Fire Chief	<input type="checkbox"/>		Deb Larose, EMT
<input type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Bill Frasier, Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	Ted Lamb

- Robert Gowans, Fire Chief
- Moretown Stefan Pratt, EMD
- Cortney Guyette

John Kaeding

Others Present: Harry Schoppmann (VEM), Keith Cubbon (CVRPC), Jonathon Scott (CVMC), Eric Nordenson (Montpelier PD) speaker.