



# Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee

## Meeting Summary

November 13, 2024

### Welcome and Introductions

The meeting convened at 5:04 pm.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

A quorum of voting members was present. All members in attendance introduced themselves and the community they represent.

A motion was made to accept the February minutes by Stefan Pratt and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Campbell. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

### Presenter: Sunni Eriksen VEM School Safety Program Manager

Sunni spoke about evacuation and incident planning. Many EMD's spoke of hesitancy of schools in working with EMDs and Fire Chiefs especially in the rural school districts. Joe A. spoke to Barre unified school district that is coordinating with both public and one private school.

Sunni spoke to Act 29 requirements that has 4 sections and requirements for safety planning measures.

- Access control and visitor management
- Egress drills, Options based response drills (run, hide, fight), bus drills,
- Behavioral threat assessments
- All hazards emergency operations plans (good place for EMDs to be involved) these plans are supposed to be developed with area first responders.

Sunni spoke to best practices such as coordination, floor plans, meet and greets for connections. There are no statutory requirements for these. Under each EOP development, need to be as thorough as the template. These requirements require evacuation and reunification plan, they also are required to submit to the State for the EOP. Schools often ask VEM to review to see if there are any glaring inconsistencies but isn't required. Agency of Education (AOE) does the reviews of the plans to verify for compliance. It was asked if there is a carrot or a stick by AOE. July 1<sup>st</sup> was the deadline for compliance and Sunni spoke to awareness of some schools just starting work on these. There isn't currently a process to review and make sure they are checking all the boxes for these plans. Michael asked if it is a requirement to have a school safety committee. Each school should have a student safety planning centered group, the behavioral threat assessment team is required and has standards for training.

Joe A. spoke to Barre Unified had problems getting started but worked with the superintendent to coordinate project. He spoke of planning grant funding is helpful to get first plan completed and coordinating with Sheriff Poulin and VT State Police to coordinate and offer of support.

Upcoming trainings. [Online Training | Vermont School Safety Center](#)

Sunni offered to attempt to connect people with superintendents or schools if necessary.

Joe A. also spoke to getting on the school based call notifications for the police and fire chiefs that is a great communication to for their awareness.

**LEPC meeting update:**

Had a meeting in October, EPA spoke about EPCRA but was contentious about State and Federal government not carrying through with programs. Active alerts for a building have the tier 2 reports near the building so you can see what the materials are. Not all Tier 2 are in the system but they are working on it.

**VEM Updates-**Sid Pollock spoke about the update on July '23 funding, Spring Flood, and Training.

Federal Cost Share for Public Infrastructure July 2023 Damage Increasing

Local communities rebuilding after the July 7-21, 2023 funds have had their cost-share cut significantly. President Joseph Biden recently authorized an increase of the federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance projects from 75 to 90 percent for recovery projects for the July 2023 flooding.

The state and local share is 10 percent, with the state covering 78 percent of the non-federal share. That means towns will be responsible for only 2.2 percent of all eligible response and recovery costs.

DPS Finance will be reaching out to communities in the coming weeks to arrange for additional reimbursements under this beneficial change.

Details on disaster DR-4720 can be found on the FEMA website.

Save the Date - Spring Flood Q&A Session February 13

Each year, VEM provides information on potential hazards and resources available to communities during the spring flood season. At the end of January 2025, those videos will be posted to the VEM YouTube channel.

VEM will then host a live Q&A session on February 13th in an online Teams meeting to provide the latest spring flood outlook from the National Weather Service and answer additional questions about the season and resources. That session will take place from noon to 1 p.m.

Details on the Q&A session will be provided in the February newsletter. Additional details on the videos will be provided in the January newsletter.

Questions can be directed to [DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov](mailto:DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov)

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## Training

VT- Alert Manager Training: This training is now an anytime training in the LMS. We will still host the virtual live training. You can take this training at the following link on the LMS: <https://vermont.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/video/588bdf66-6e68-490e-aa8b-18ccdd115184>

### November 2024

#### Vermont Local Emergency Management Director Course

This course will familiarize Local Emergency Management Directors (EMD) and Coordinators (EMC) with major roles, responsibilities, and “how to do it” guidance, across all four phases of Emergency Management.

LOCATION: Virtual

DATE/TIME:

Day 1: November 19, 2024, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Day 2: November 20, 2024, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Must attend both days to receive credit.

REGISTRATION: State Learning Management System

#### VT- Alert Manager Training

This training is intended for Town Officials who use VT-Alert for public notifications. This class is required for all people who will be using the program at the manager level. This training can also act as a refresher as needed. The class will be approximately 1.5 hours long and consist of sending live test alerts. A computer and internet connection are required. A second computer monitor is highly suggested as there is a follow along portion to the class. Prior to the training please confirm that your town has the required VT-Alert adoption paperwork. If you are unsure please contact [dps.vtalert@vermont.gov](mailto:dps.vtalert@vermont.gov)

LOCATION: Virtual

DATE/TIME: November 20, 2024, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION: State Learning Management System

### December 2024

#### ICS 400- Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff

This course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS). This course expands upon information covered in ICS 100 through ICS 300 courses, which are prerequisites for the ICS 400 course

LOCATION: DPS Headquarters- Waterbury, VT

DATE/TIME: December 4-5, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

PREREQUISITES: ICS-100, ICS- 200 and ICS- 300

REGISTRATION: State Learning Management System

#### PER 213- Wide Search Area

When disaster strikes it can be a challenge to effectively mobilize, organize, and deploy resources needed to perform search and rescue operations. The purpose of this course is to prepare participants to support a large search and rescue incident in a variety of roles ranging from searchers in the field, planning and support staff, and incident command. While built around the model of a large search and rescue event following a disaster, the

course content applies to a vast number of critical situations including missing persons searches, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, and other scenarios.

LOCATION: Vermont Fire Academy, Pittsford, VT

DATE/TIME: December 10-12, 2024, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

PREREQUISITES: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800

REGISTRATION: TEEX

### January 2025

ICS 300- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

This course focuses on management of expanding incidents and is intended for those who will be serving in the following positions: command staff, section chiefs, strike team leaders, unit leaders, division and group supervisors, branch directors, multi-agency coordination system staff, and Emergency Operations Center staff. This course is for middle management, strike team leaders, task force leaders, unit leaders, division and group supervisors, branch directors, Emergency Operations Center staff.

LOCATION: Camp Johnson- Colchester, VT

DATE/TIME: January 10-12, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

PREREQUISITES: ICS-100 and ICS- 200

REGISTRATION: State Learning Management System

### **LEMP updates**

Sid gave an update on the changes to LEMP for 2025.

NIMS typed resources changed from 58 to 8.

Public contact numbers and emails for EMDs

Added REMC representatives on form.

Forms submitted to VEM regional coordinator not RPC.

Submission deadline now June 1

Will share contact information during life safety events.

Emergency planners must include EMD.

EOC checklist of available resources

Every EOC must have an address and phone.

Removed regional shelters.

Added requirement for town shelter they have the authority to open.

(Vermont Community Foundation gave Plainfield \$40,000 for work to upgrade)

Red Cross can designate a shelter and do work to certify a shelter. Once designated and can certify and get cots and equipment for shelter.

New Forms will be available in December.

Michael B. asked if it is required to inventory hazard materials sites. Sid spoke that it isn't a requirement, but you could include tier 2 reports. Mike also spoke of businesses with generators for power outages and Annexes in general. Plainfield has a rehab center, senior living center, besides schools. Sid spoke that he would work with the facility. Michael wanted to know if all vulnerable populations plans should be included in

annexes. Joe A. spoke to not including anything that could compromise safety or sensitive plans, like medical or health care centers plans for drug transfers.

Stefan asked about food for the February meeting to get more people in person. Sid said we could look into it.

Keith mentioned EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act funding for generators.

Stefan. made a motion to adjourn the meeting Jeff Campbell 2nd the motion. Voting commenced; motion passed.

After the close the Joe A. mentioned that the Capital Fire Communications Committee is attempting to get Ham Radios for if the regional system went down. The plan is for a Ham radio in each fire station in the region. Jake A. mentioned Calais doing much the same. Fred M. spoke up that Waitsfield has one at the ambulance barn already.

The meeting ended at 6:14 pm.

#### Voting Attendees:

<input type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Keith Cushman, Fire Chief	<input type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Jeff Schulz, EMD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Aldsworth, EMC	<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	Chris Violette, Town Manager/EMD	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange	Eric Holmgren
<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calais	Nick Emlen, EMD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Fred Messer, EMD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jake Aho, EMC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Howie McCausland, MRVAS
<input type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Richard Charland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warren	Jeff Campbell, EMD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ian Stewart, EMC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Haviland, MRVAS
<input type="checkbox"/> East Montpelier	Seth Gardner, EMD/Selectboard Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington	Fred Blanchard, EMD
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jon Boucher, EMC/Constable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Carbee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Kirsten Savage, 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	Justin Campbell, EMD	<input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Jackie Higgins, Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Will Scharwz	<input type="checkbox"/>	William Graham
<input type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Liz Scharf, EMD	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	John Gordon, EMD
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Gowans, Fire Chief	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Kaeding
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown	Stefan Pratt, EMD		



Cortney Guyette

**Others Present:** Keith Cubbon (CVRPC), Sid Pollock (VEM), and Sunni Eriksen (VEM)