

LEPC #12

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE



LEPC12@TRORC.ORG

C/O TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION
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**December 16, 2010 - 6pm - 8pm
Royalton VSP Station, VT**

MINUTES – DRAFT

Attendees: Ken Goss, Tony Ercole, Stephen Hill, Bill Burden, Dot Burden, Jim Tonkovich, Kevin Cole, Jackson Schonberg, Jerry Fredrickson, Mark Belisle, Pat Edwards, Bob Quilla, Joshua Maxham, Stephen Allen, Tig Tillinghast, Steve Cota, David Palmer, Karen Smith and Rita Seto.

1. Call to order – Meeting was called at 6:08pm by Bill Burden.
2. Introductions made.
3. The minutes of October 21 were approved.
4. Treasurer's report – Ken reported that the budget balance is \$2255. 1st installment given to TRORC already. 2nd installment to TRORC soon.
5. Bruce Pollock from American Red Cross (ARC) gave an overview of ARC and what you need to open a shelter. There are 14 shelter trailers all equipped the same scattered in VT, but only 2 tow vehicles (Brattleboro and Burlington). ARC is chartered by Congress but no federal funding available. Exist through fundraising and donations. Anyone can open a shelter (4 types: community, Red Cross, combined and private) differences lie in who operates and who runs it. Difference in Warming Shelter vs. Full Shelter – warming shelter only provides hot beverages, no sleeping arrangements, operate limited hours a day. Full shelter has sleeping cots and full service. ARC has a feeding van equipped with full commercial kitchen provide 3000 meals/day. ARC also has agreement with Southern Baptist who will provide a trailer with 5 showers and also child care services. In 3 yrs of opening shelters, only 20 ppl used it. Vermonters hunker down, until 3 days later there's no hot water or hot food. Ppl tend to show up at shelters then.

Under FEMA, SSF6 (mass care), ARC enters info into National Shelter System database to document everything including people with Functional Needs, must make reasonable accommodations. If you decide to open shelter without ARC, 100% of liability is to you and the community for everything happening in the shelter (damages to resources, health issues, and behavior issues). If you partner with ARC in opening a shelter, 100% liability transferred to ARC. ARC is also working with animal rescue teams to address pet shelters and service pets. Benefit of having a Red Cross Certified Shelter – 50/50 match grant for generators. Bottom line: call Bruce for resources!! Bruce brought the Red Cross trailer to show group what's inside. Nearest RC trailer in Hartford, Rutland, Barre and Springfield.

6. Rita and David discussed with group on where does public transit providers currently fit in town/region's emergency evacuation plan? Stagecoach has a contract with VTrans that he signs every year and in the contract is a condition agreement with VEM that Stagecoach must provide transportation service in case of evacuation. David has tried to get information on what exactly does that mean for Stagecoach? He has no idea and his counterparts don't seem to understand what is asked of them either. But they all sign in order to get funds. Some questions Rita asked include:
- Does Stagecoach have an agreement with VEM with just Vermont Yankee or for all types of evac? *Stagecoach has an agreement with VEM through VTrans contract.*
 - Who activates Stagecoach's services during an emergency? Who pays for your service? What town gets priority if they receive multiple requests? *Don't know!*
 - Do you have any mutual agreements with any towns or senior centers ahead of time? *no*
 - Any other background information for evac procedures to note. *None at this time.*

Lots of questions to be answered, Stagecoach, TRORC, Bill, VEM and VTrans will get together to clarify the role. A suggestion was trying to get a sample MOU from First Student with Vermont Yankee to customize for public transit providers. Ken asked David if Stagecoach has a 2nd operating office since Amtrak is right there and what happens if a train derails and takes out the office? Stagecoach would be out of business. Karen says she will speak with her director Peter about the vagueness of public transit provider's understanding in evacuation role.

7. State Catastrophic Exercise (CatEx) – Karen noted there were over 750 players and over 100 evaluators and controllers in 25 venues around the State including Federal, State, Local and Private Sector partners. After exercise, conference on Nov 9 to recap and develop lessons learned. The final report of recommendations will be out Dec.31 (Rita will send out to LEPC12 group for review before next meeting for discussion). Major lessons learned – communication problems with day-night-day shift changes and that Hamm radios are vital.

Special Needs Population – there was the Annual State Emergency Preparedness conference and seminars held at Lake Morey about similar issues.

Shelter Training – Bruce says 3 hour training is free but to have 10-15 ppl participating. There is no official renewal period but 3-5yrs is good for refreshing. Recent change with focus on Functional Needs. Rita noted if towns have ppl interested, to call her and she will coordinate with Bruce to schedule a training session.

8. Bill asked team to work on 2nd simulation for this year, involving a communications plan. Has guidance from HSU. February meeting may include 1hour table top – could include pager/communication training. Part of the

VCOMM Grant Requirement is that the user needs to participate in a training using their communication device. Currently no pager grant money for narrowband conversion. Bob noted the Minitor 5 pager is only one compatible for narrowband.

9. Emergency Generator Grant – Rita / Karen recapped – grant due Dec 29, 2010 at noon. Email the grant in. Only if your town has a Red Cross Certified Shelter. You can apply just for the switchgear and not just the whole generator.
10. Other Business – Jerry asked EMDs if they're working with local businesses for continuity planning? Not really. Rita says if your town has interested business owners looking for business continuity planning, to contact TRORC staff Sally Hull.

Rita mentioned that TRORC one of top two RPCs in VT to have completed all town BEOPs that are signed and adopted for 2010! Thanks to LEPC staff for making her look good and persuading town Selectboards to sign quickly. She'll be sending out 2011 BEOPs in March.

Steve (MRC) – April 16th at Fireside Inn, Leb – NH Integrated Emergency Conference (MRC members only but are looking for new members). Nationally, there are only 6 MRCs that are multistate and VT/NH is one.

Bob wants to increase community awareness of what LEPC12 does and general emergency awareness. It would be beneficial to have an Emergency Management post for public display during Town Meeting. Rita says she could probably create a simple and informative poster.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Next meeting – February 17, 2011. Location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Seto, TRORC