

# LEPC #12

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE



LEPC12@TRORC.ORG

C/O TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION  
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**October 20, 2011 - 6pm – 8pm**  
**Bethel Town Hall, Bethel, VT**

## MINUTES – DRAFT

Attendees: David Aldrighetti, Mark Warner, Mike Manning, Jim Tonkovich, John Grandi, Karen Mae Smith, Jerry Fredrickson, Joe Truss, Ann Ackley, Steve Leinoff, Mark Belisle, Mike Klingensmith, Peter Gregory, Steve Cota, John Durkee, Jan Williams, Al Poirier, Steve Allen, Lance Webster, Tom Morse, Kevin O'Donoghue, Bob Quillia, Cindy Spaulding, Capt. Ray Keefe, Kevin Cole, Josh Maxham, Stephen Hill, Kevin Geiger, Anthony Ercole, Joe De Freitas, Bill Richards, Jack Schonberg, Neal Fox, Dell Cloud, Jessica Allen, Brian Hamlin, Dot Burden, Lisa Ordway, Bonnie Cray, Bill Burden, Rita Seto.

1. Call to order – Meeting was called at 6:01pm by Bill Burden.
2. Introductions made.
3. The minutes of August 18, 2011 were approved.
4. Treasurer's report – Bill reported that the budget balance is \$5. LEPC12 is in process of applying for new \$4000 grant. Ken resigned as Treasurer, looking for new person for remainder of fiscal year (to July).
5. Flood Recovery Review – Bill, All

### Key summary points:

- The 1927 flood has 700 fatalities vs. 3 in Irene.
- Vermont's 211 was incredibly taxed but the system overall worked well. Almost 8000 calls were taken in 3 weeks. They had to branch out to other states to take their calls, along with training more people locally. They now have a list of 50 volunteers ready to come in and take calls. Maine/Portland/San Diego assisted with calls.
- Communities need more training in Red Cross operational skills.
  - Need to train more people on how to properly set up shelters.
  - Red Cross wants to train smaller more local shelters instead of their more regional design that is in place now. Pre-position trained people to prepare before Red Cross can arrive.
  - Also looking to supply cots to all towns.
  - Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) – SEOC never passed anything over – need greater public education on this resource.
    - Animal rescue and people rescue are intimately tied together.
    - Large animals are planned for the future.

- The VA needs to be used as more of a resource. They keep 8,000 gal tank of fuel on hand. Users need to provide own fuel transport. Had staffing issues as over 100 couldn't get to work.
- State Police: Capt. Keefe reported that they lost dispatchers and troopers as they lost homes, ¼ of his district was gone. Used Jeep club/ATV/bikes to access isolated areas, 150 welfare checks over 4 days. Will do hot wash too.
- UW Medical Reserve Corp. – Steve says they need more people who are retired to get involved.
- Town Class IV roads/trails/snowmobile trails proved to be crucial for this recovery. In many cases they were the only means of accessing residents, getting in and out of town.
- Clara Martin – Jessica said they couldn't get to Rochester/Stockbridge. Worked with law enforcement to get supplies delivered. Towns need clear MEDICAL CONTACT LISTS to be developed and updated these lists frequently – (possibly add to BEOP?)
- TRORC – The RPC has been in constant contact with all Towns, keeping track of local road and bridge damage, sending information up to VTrans, sending towns info on guidance from VTrans/ANR/FEMA. Rita's been working with FEMA specialists assigned to each town.
- **211 has a comprehensive list of funding opportunities.**
- Spring will be especially challenging next year because of Irene. Full preparations will be needed.

#### **Major Issues Identified for Improvement:**

- Communications: variations between town officials and/or with the public.
- Volunteers: the outpouring of support in towns is no question – but how to properly organize and manage them to maximize their efforts?
- Generators: the comparison of those towns who had them and who did not were clear in how smoother things ran. Some designated shelters did not operate well due to lack of generator – alt. shelters were selected.
- Shelters: practice in running shelters (designated shelter operator, who's got the key, keeping tabs on people)
- Mutual Aid: all towns have some form of mutual aid (fire, road, police). Road foreman group updating mutual aid inventory.

Please see attached table of each Town's Incident Review comments.

**6. Other Business**

Upcoming Training

11/4 + 11/5 - VEM Emergency Preparedness Conference, Stowe Mountain Resort.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Next meeting – December 15, 2011. Location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita Seto, TRORC on behalf of Cindy Spaulding, Secretary.

Town	Worked Great	Needs Improvement
Barnard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mutual aid between towns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ran out of fuel after 3 days, couldn't continue repair work.</li> </ul>
Bethel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to deliver meds.</li> <li>SB/Fire/Road Crew good communication and involvement.</li> <li>Barnard Fire set up radio – twin repeaters, high band radios – key communication.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No generator at the school.</li> <li>Highly isolated areas.</li> <li>Lack of communications w/ the public.</li> <li>MISINFORMATION ie. Facebook.</li> <li>Need accountability for people in shelters.</li> </ul>
Bradford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little damage to town, so Fire went to Corinth – provided mutual aid/sandbag.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Braintree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisted by Randolph – mutual aid</li> <li>Volunteerism, positive victim attitude, neighbor helping neighbor</li> <li>First Responders were SUPER</li> <li>Town Road Crew worked tirelessly to get roads passable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No power = No phone</li> <li>need a generator @ Town office. Not operational as an EOC without</li> <li>need to have an operational Red Cross shelter reasonably close</li> <li>poor personal preparedness; no water, no food, no meds, no Plan B</li> <li>need better communication between Town and First Responders</li> </ul>
Bridgewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting before storm to set up EOC and shelter.</li> <li>Volunteers who had equipment started helping road crew with repairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communications.</li> <li>Prioritizing resources and roads.</li> <li>More contact with neighboring towns.</li> </ul>
Brookfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very little damage, back up within 14hrs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Chelsea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evac. nursing home and residents to church.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need a generator at school for shelter.</li> </ul>
Corinth/Topsham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers worked well.</li> <li>Luckily Joe who's a radio tech opened his house as EOC.</li> <li>School bus provided evac transportation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No sandbag supplies prepared.</li> </ul>
Fairlee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Granville/Hancock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plenty of volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No road crew to help with immediate repairs.</li> <li>No access or on hand equipment.</li> </ul>
Hartford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Had problem with resources – Swiftwater team deployed to other towns.</li> </ul>
Hartland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

Norwich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ditching of dirt roads prior to the storm (a few years before) helped tremendously.</li> <li>• Actively trying to improve communications.</li> <li>• Lined up contractors beforehand just in case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ran out of emergency cones etc.</li> <li>• “Let’s take our kids out and play in flood waters”</li> </ul>
Newbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
Pittsfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community meetings at the town hall.</li> <li>• Keeping residents well informed reduced anxiety.</li> <li>• Volunteer sign in board – who can offer what</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
Plymouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community worked together to rebuild town.</li> <li>• Great neighbors and outside assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COMMUNICATIONS - poor radios.</li> <li>• Dispatch was overwhelmed.</li> <li>• No generators at the school, move to Town Hall but also had some flooding.</li> <li>• Had road crew equipment stuck in isolated areas – had to dig them out to use.</li> </ul>
Pomfret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truckers contracted beforehand.</li> <li>• Stockpiled large amounts of stone beforehand.</li> <li>• Had volunteers out in field to photograph damages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No generators/dispatch at town office. Switched to Teago.</li> <li>• Lost comm. w/ Woodstock.</li> </ul>
Randolph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided mutual aid to surrounding towns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor communication.</li> <li>• Firefighters were completely overwhelmed.</li> <li>• Need more official’s involvement.</li> </ul>
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily meetings within town to inform the public on what’s going on.</li> <li>• EOC had an on hand contact list of people with needs.</li> <li>• Phone service w/ generator was essential.</li> <li>• US Forest Service</li> <li>• Addison County mutual aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EOC had no power.</li> <li>• No radio communications.</li> <li>• Didn’t want to turn on the local cell tower for fear of breaking it. Should try to get pre-authorization in future.</li> </ul>
Royalton/Sharon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early warnings and evacuations.</li> <li>• Excellent communications.</li> <li>• Set fire engines into possible danger areas beforehand.</li> <li>• Volunteers work excellent but need leaders for top down information properly.</li> <li>• Hillbilly highway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridges isolated back side of Royalton.</li> <li>• Need to establish pool of people that know how to direct traffic along with signage on hand.</li> <li>• Some people would not leave when told to which caused problems.</li> </ul>
Stockbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commons worked well as a base.</li> <li>• ID’d who was missing</li> <li>• Excellent forest service assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stony Brook area was highly isolated.</li> </ul>

Strafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-storm meeting</li> <li>• Town website + listserv, school phone tree to contact residents.</li> <li>• EOC activated/running well.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned road detours failed, road blocked/isolated</li> <li>• Need generator at additional/new shelter</li> <li>• Implement formal ICS with training</li> <li>• Invest in more safety cones + road signs</li> </ul>
Thetford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had ran through an exercise recently – EOC/Shelter training</li> <li>• Mutual aid with Strafford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
Tunbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well supplied and notified residents before the storm.</li> <li>• Used the school phone system to inform residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get accurate info out to public.</li> </ul>
Vershire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Didn't have people to run shelter.</li> </ul>
W. Fairlee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awesome fire dept.</li> <li>• Pre- positioned radios across town to increase radio coverage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School shelter didn't work.</li> <li>• Church worked but no generator.</li> <li>• Not enough emergency signage.</li> </ul>
Woodstock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powered dispatch center was critical.</li> <li>• Volunteer group to assist residents with supplies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No water or sewer.</li> <li>• The overall dispatch area was too large and the system was inundated with information which was hindering.</li> </ul>