

LEPC #12

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE



LEPC12@TRORC.ORG

C/O TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION
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**June 15, 2017
Thetford Fire Department
Thetford, VT**

Attendees: Tory Littlefield, Kevin Geiger, Mark Warner, Scott Cooney, Mariah Whitcomb, Chad Whitcomb, Cindy Spaulding, Mark Belisle, Mary Hamisevicz, Joe Truss, Lance Colby, Doug Merrill, Mike Manley, Heather Rigney, Laura McNaughton, Victor Ribaud, Lynn Thomas, Alec Droussiotis, Tim Caulfield, and Jack Schonberg.

1. Call to order at 6:02 p.m. Mark Warner presided. Introductions were made.
2. Election of Officers – current slate:
 - a. Chair – Mark Warner
 - b. Vice Chair – Mark Belisle
 - c. Treasurer – John Durkee
 - d. Secretary – Cindy SpauldingScott Cooney made a motion to keep the current slate, seconded by Mariah Whitcomb. The Committee approved the current slate of officers for the FY18 fiscal year unanimously.
3. Approval of minutes for 4/20/2017
Motion made by Cindy Spaulding and seconded by Scott Cooney. The Committee approved the minutes of April 20, 2017 unanimously.
4. Action on \$2,000 TRORC Invoice
Motion made by Cindy Spaulding and seconded by Lynn Thomas. The Committee approved the \$2,000 invoice to TRORC unanimously.

TRORC staff was reminded if payment was needed faster to notify the officers as stated in the bylaws.

5. Treasurers Report
Mark Warner presided for John Durkee. After this payment to TRORC, there will be \$5 in the account.
6. Solar Field Response
Alec Droussiotis from Conti Solar gave the presentation. His company is currently developing the Elizabeth Mine (borders Thetford and Strafford) for a large solar field. Alec stated that soon solar will be everywhere, on homes, businesses, and in fields. There are two types of solar panels; Thermal and Photovoltaic (PV). PV is the most dangerous, and the type you see the most often. PV's are constantly producing power and act like a large circuit board. In Vermont, a single family home can have to 600 volts of power in their solar panels.

There are two types of currents in a PV system, direct current (DC) and alternating current (AC).

DC is the most dangerous as it is a one-way channel of electricity that cannot be shut off. In the event of a fire, the fire department should not touch any of the wires or the panels as they are still producing power. There is a shutoff switch that can turn off electricity from going in and out of the AC system, but power can still run through the DC system. Since solar panels run off of large batteries, water is ineffective to spray. Fire departments should spray foam or chemical extinguishers and should always be aware of the chemicals in batteries.

In a large solar array, it can feature 600 amps of power, where only 0.1 amps can kill a person. Always treat everything as if it's live, even if you think it's off. There are approved tarps that can be laid over PV solar panels that almost stop energy production. It would be a good idea for Towns to obtain a list of all homes and businesses that have solar panels so they know what they are going into in the event of a fire or other emergency.

7. Hartford Industrial Fire

Chief Scott Cooney gave a short presentation on the large industrial fire in White River Junction in February of 2017. The fire occurred in the Harrison Avenue Industrial Park, where the cause of the fire is still unknown. This fire ended up being a large HazMat response from the storage of oil, propane, and electric transformers. The major problems with this fire is that there was one way in and out of the industrial park, and the water availability was not as good as it should have been to operate the water towers and engines.

Because of Hartford's pre-planning efforts, response went smoothly. Hartford had \$48,000 worth in equipment damage from the hazardous waste, but was able to get that through insurance claims. Overall, the fire caused \$4.8 million in damage. The companies that were there are starting to rebuild.

8. CERT Update

Brad Salzman did not attend the meeting. Kevin Geiger stated that several other CERT's in the state have stopped their operations and their gear is up for grabs. There is a rumor that the state might just make two CERT teams instead of one for each LEPC. The trailer is still in South Royalton but Brad is actively looking for a permanent home.

9. HMEP Update

Kevin Geiger stated that TRORC is doing a hazardous flow study and that field work is coming to an end. Northwest RPC was able to obtain border crossing data. Tory Littlefield will be doing data analysis and writing up the report this summer for distribution this fall to all LEPC's in Vermont. TRORC is waiting to hear about the next HMEP grant that will possibly analyze hazardous materials in rail and air.

10. Other Business/Upcoming Training

There is an Officers Training at the end of June that was cancelled and put back on in Montpelier. It is a three day training and will be helpful to those interested in ICS.

DEMHS is now VEM again. There is a lot of staff and roll changes up at the state.

Vermont now has a state wide website that handles training, called the Learning Management System (LMS). Contact Todd Sears if you have problems signing up.

It was requested for TRORC to look into another flagger training as first responders/organizations in the region may need a refresher., All LEOP's are in. Chelsea has adopted it, but has yet to send to TRORC for approval.

Mark Warner and Kevin Geiger are working with state officials on revamping the EMD training. It should be ready this fall and will feature an online platform.

Heather Rigney and Laura McNaughton from the VT Dept of Health brought materials warning of ticks in Vermont this year and how to be safe.

11. SERC Funding Discussion

Peter Gregory at TRORC received an email from Josh Cox at VEM questioning why certain things were not in the HazChem application. Kevin Geiger has prepared a draft response in conjunction with the LEPC officers.

A motion was made by Cindy Spaulding and seconded by Mark Belisle to approve the draft response to SERC for signature by Mark Warner. The Committee approved unanimously.

12. Adjournment

A motion made by Mark Belisle and seconded by Cindy Spaulding to adjourn the LEPC meeting at 7:58 p.m. The Committee adjourned until its next scheduled meeting of August 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Stockbridge Commons Meeting House in Stockbridge, VT.

Respectfully submitted by,
Tory Littlefield for Cindy Spaulding, LEPC Secretary