

**Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
(DEMHS Region 3) (UASI Region 3)
July 18, 2024
9:30 a.m.
CRCOG, In person and via Zoom**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Vice Chairman Harley Graime.

Public Comment – none

Adoption of the Minutes

Robert McCue, seconded by Harley Graime, moved to adopt the minutes from the May 16, 2024, meeting. All in favor, so voted.

FEDERAL AND STATE LIAISON REPORTS

Congressman Larson's office was not represented at this meeting. DEMHS Region 3 coordinator Josh Cingranelli spoke briefly about the state's plans to implement Crisis Track software statewide for disaster management and invited those interested in being on the email list for training opportunities for the software to let him know. He also gave an update on the EMPG Pool Grant applications – 53% of the most recent awards went to Region 3. He encouraged CREPC participants to check the online DEMHS training calendar for training opportunities.

DESPP Commissioner Ronnell Higgins, Deputy Commissioner Brenda Bergeron and Emergency Management Director William Turner were introduced. Commissioner Higgins is in the process of meeting with each REPT in the state to learn more about the issues and needs of those who are directly involved with public safety and emergency management, and he hopes to continue these visits at least annually. Deputy Commissioner Bergeron encouraged CREPC to encourage member towns to take advantage of the federal Cybersecurity Grant funds available to address gaps identified from the recent National Guard assessments. Applications must be submitted by 7/30/2024. A hurricane briefing is scheduled for July 30. Registration is required to receive a link to the briefing. Ms. Bergeron thanked the 135 municipalities that participated in the recent EPPI focused on Election Security. A webinar will be available to offer training. She noted Bill Perkins' participation on behalf of Region 3 in the cyber disruption response exercises.

When asked about major issues needing attention, the Commissioner noted the need to identify, publicize, and create new career paths for those interested in public safety and emergency management. Statewide recruitment and retention of police and fire personnel is increasingly challenging.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

HAZMAT - Bill Perkins provided an update on the status of the Region 3 Hazard Mitigation and Climate Control Plan. It has been submitted and reviewed by both the State and FEMA, and it has now been sent out to municipalities for their individual adoption. He reported that Region 3 is on schedule to meet the September deadline for its adoption as the plan for the region.

Salamander ID System – Bill reported that an upgraded Salamander ID system (with 2 printers) has been purchased and should be set up by the end of August. The intent is that one unit will stay at CRCOG and the other will be assigned to a CERT team. There was discussion about the possibility that the federal government will require anyone working in an EOC to have credentials/certification, desirability of having a statewide common template for credentials, and also discussion about training that will/might be needed to qualify individuals for the credentials.

Everbridge Alerting System – Bill Perkins reported that the Everbridge system is in the process of being upgraded, and an effort is being made to incorporate the public health component. The goal is to put more onus on municipalities and health districts to update and manage their individual accounts. Everbridge is helping to rebuild those segments and will provide training. Steve Huleatt noted that many Long Term Care facilities are switching to ProtectAdvisor for sharing information.

SHSGP Budget

Cheryl Assis stated that CRCOG closed out the FY 20 SHSGP grant. The last purchases included: a truck for the Hartford Bomb Squad, new glass for the Manchester Bearcat vehicle, and training for the Incident Management Team. We have begun the FY 21 grant and currently looking at sonar equipment and a training session for the Capitol Region Dive Team, upgrades to our South Windsor and Newington regional Mobile Command Vehicles as well as upgrades to the Everbridge and Salamander systems. We recently held a training day for all 8 regional SWAT teams at the New England Disaster Training Center. The barricade system purchased through the Protection of Soft Targets set aside grant is being housed in Bristol and was used recently for planned events in Middletown and Enfield.

NEW BUSINESS

Integrated Public Alert & Warning System Overview – Kevin McManus (Everbridge)

Mr. McManus described various means used for public notification, public communication, public alert and public warning – how they differ, who has the authority to initiate alerts for each system, and to whom they are sent. Much of the focus was on the differences between the CTAlert and IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert & Warning Systems). CRCOG has a copy of the very brief PowerPoint slides that he used filed with the minutes of the meeting.

ESF- Selected Committee Reports

RESF-1 Transportation – Terri Thompson reported that traffic IMT training is going well with good participation. She noted the need for a statewide Traffic IM task force and a working group to discuss traffic IM policies and procedures. She noted two specific incident management problems - resources that are requested in response to an incident but not paid for, and safety.

RESF-2 Communications

Mike Boucher reported. Last quarter and current quarter to date activity included the following:

- **Avon** - Structure fire, Hartford County Coordinator request STOCS channels for mutual aid, and reflector notification.
- **Region 3** - I-COMM Team partnered with CTS to update Region 3 DEMHS portable radios.
- **Farmington** - Planning meetings for Dream Ride 2024
- **BDL Bradley Airport** - Coordinated STOCS channels and reflector notification for triennial exercise
- **RAFS 1** - Repair transmit issue and testing.
- **ESF-4/CSP/CTS** - Assist with planning and coordinated comms support for Trooper Pelletier's Funeral procession.
- **ESF-4** - Comms plan and support for procession of Minneapolis Officer Mitchell
- **Cromwell (Fire)** - Comms support, CP and STOCS Boxes and reflector notification for mutual aid interop
- **Windsor Locks** - Coordinated STOCS channel and reflector notification for carnival and fireworks
- **Farmington** - Coordinated STOCS channels and reflector notification for carnival and fireworks
- **East Hampton** - Coordinated STOCS channel and reflector notification for Old Home Days

Upcoming Request for Support include: CREPC - CT SWAT Challenge; Farmington - Dream Ride 2024; Burlington - Active Assailant exercise; and Berlin – Fair.

ESF-5 Emergency Management – Bill Perkins reported on the scheduled ICS classes and noted that he had presented a well-attended FEMA 402 for CEOs and town managers, providing an overview of their responsibilities during a disaster.

RESF-6 Sub-Committee for Volunteer Management – Don Janelle reported that there was a CERT Day at CCSU on Saturday June 1. He raised the question of training for “fire police” – qualifications, standards, certifications? CERT teams are frequently activated to assist with parking, traffic control, traffic diversion. It was noted that the Fire Academy offers a one-day course for fire police.

RESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services – Pat Srenaski reported that DPH and CT HealthCare Coalition have been involved with a lot of training. They will be getting decontamination equipment. Region 3’s Project Public Health Ready application has been prepared for submission. They have been nationally recognized for their public health preparedness plan with their previous four submissions.

Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps-Katherine McCormack reported continued participation in ESF 8 meetings. Working with various towns to plan or provide support for local events - Hebron Fair, Southington’s Apple Harvest Festival, Middletown festivals and fairs where assistance may be needed.

Public Health – Steve Huleatt suggested that the MRC may want to take advantage of radiation safety training that is available.

RESF-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE – Don Janelle had nothing to report.

RESF-10 HAZMAT – Kevin Munson reported through the Zoom chat for the meeting. ESF 10 report is limited to the coordination among the five teams to standardize mass decon across all five regions. Planning is also underway for the statewide five team drill happening sometime in early 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024.

ATTACHMENT:

Update for CREPC Region 3 ESF 8 – May 16, 2024

- ESF 8 continues to expand membership across the region. Monthly meetings are hybrid with up to 50 attending.
- ESF 8 members have participated in the following community events:
 - CT Healthcare Coalition Annual Conference in March
 - CCM Emergency Management Conference in April
 - ChemPack TTX
 - West Hartford Bloomfield HD Measles TTX
- Annual Hurricane Update provided by Doug Glowacki at the May meeting
- Region 3 ESF 8 members have participated in trainings offered across the state including:
 - Various TEEK courses
 - ICS 300 and 400
 - CT HCC Continuity of Operations Workshop on June 26
 - Hospital Decontamination Program and Equipment Assessment
 - CT HCC De-escalation classes
 - LTC-MAP Conference on June 4, 5 or 6

Medical Reserve Corp

- Regular training programs continue for Capitol Region and Middletown
- Work continues on HCC funded projects: LTC Bedside Support
- Middletown MRC attending local fairs

Region 3 Public Health

- Completing application for submission to the **Project Public Health Ready** national recognition.
- Monitoring H5N1 status and increase in Monkey Pox cases

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Srenaski, RN
Region 3 ESF 8 Chair