

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
September 20, 2007 9:30 a.m.
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT

Call the meeting to order

Chairman Austin chaired the meeting and called it to order at 9:30 a.m.

Adoption of the minutes and handouts

Chief Whalen, seconded by Ken Loock, made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 19, 2007 meeting.

Federal and State Liaison Reports

Senator Billy Ciotto introduced Paul Mounds, the new Grants Coordinator in Congressman Larson's office.

Tom Gavaghan reported on: the high band radio checks; the EOP's received from all towns in Region 3; the distribution of shelter emergency CDs to Emergency Management Directors, resource typing, and scheduled school workshops.

Unfinished Business

Emer. Mgt. And Homeland Security Council report – Chief Austin referred to the August 9th and September 13th DEMHS Coordinating Council meeting minutes included in the packet.

Training Coordination Project Report – Dan Scace, CRCOG Homeland Security Training Coordinator, reviewed his distributed report, which included information on NIMS compliance, training data, the EMS training program, and AHIMT Training.

CRCOG HS Update – Cheryl Assis reported on progress being made on various projects, including the distribution of body armor vests to the SWAT teams, the Capitol Region Citizen Corps meeting and their determination of budgets, and the CAPTAIN Fire pilot project rollout. Ms. Assis also reported on the FY 2007 grant process and stages as well as its focus on regional collaboration.

Public Safety Council Report – Cheryl Assis reported on the September 13th quarterly Public Safety Council meeting. She concentrated on the presentation and discussion of the service sharing initiative, comprised of \$8.6 million dollars in surplus funds from OPM which CRCOG and other regional planning organizations are eligible to submit proposals for.

Regional Planner Report – Carmine Centrella reported on work being done on the standardization of EOP's and ESF's, hazardous materials response plan and grant, and the Cities Readiness Initiative.

CREPC By-law revisions – Katherine McCormack reviewed the revised by-laws and thanked Betty Morris, Vince Palmieri, and Don Janelle for serving as members of the by-laws committee.

She stated that the committee recommended passage of the new by-laws. Keith Victor, seconded by Ed Lescoe, made a motion to approve the by-laws. All in favor, so voted.

REPT By-Laws – Cheryl Assis gave an update on the REPT by-laws and stated that she will be presenting the CRCOG Policy Board a resolution pertaining to their adoption in September. If the resolution is approved, CREPC will vote on the REPT by-laws at the October meeting. She thanked Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS Legal Council, for her help on this process.

Report of Standing Committees

R-ESF-1 Transportation – Ken Loock reported on ESF-1 activities, highlighting the draft unified response manual.

R-ESF-2 Communications – Keith Victor announced that Dan Dube is the new RID team Coordinator and stated that the RID team will be presenting at the APCO Atlantic Chapter conference at the end of October in Mystic. He also reported on the State Communications Interoperability program, which will provide funding to enhance and sustain interoperable and multi-jurisdictional projects.

R-ESF-4 Firefighting – Chief Richards reported on the work being done with the task forces and strike teams. He also stated that Chief Varney was named the National Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year and that a reception honoring him will be held on October 14th.

Chief Whalen stated that once the case arrives for the Salamander system training will begin. The case will allow the system to be mobile.

R-ESF 5 Emergency Management – Don Janelle reported on the child rescue in Manchester and the activation of their CERT team during that incident.

Chief Austin reported on the September 12th Duty Officer's meeting and stated that they are now meeting quarterly.

R-ESF-7 Resource Management – Bruce Lockwood reported on ESF-7's research on resource typing software and discussed the difference between inventory and resources.

Bruce Lockwood also commented on the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) regional conference on October 22nd and stated that he is running for Region 1 President.

R-ESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services – Chief Austin reported that John Shaw is recovering well from a heart operation and that Steve Huleatt will be standing in for him. Steve Huleatt reported on the following day's Military Capstone meeting project, in which West Point will assist ESF-8 in developing a community-based medical surge capacity system. He also reported on: the Alternative Care Sites tool; the MRC's October 3rd meeting; the public health preparedness grant; Manchester's August 14th pandemic flu drill (a AAR has not be released yet); and the SNS CRI drill occurring on the upcoming weekend.

R-ESF 9 USAR – Chief Austin introduced Dr. Peter Vernesoni, the new Chair of ESF 9, and said a few words regarding his forty-three years in the search and rescue field.

R-ESF 10 Hazardous Materials – Chief Allyn reported on recent training exercises the Hazmat team has been involved in as well as equipment recently received. He also stated that the Hazmat marketing team will be releasing a marketing brochure shortly.

R-ESF 11 Animal Protection – Dr. Goldman reviewed the mission of ESF-11 and its inventory as well as public education and resource typing efforts. Dr. Goldman stated that he is now working on engaging volunteers and training them.

R-ESF 13 Safety and Security (LE) – Chief Rinaldo reported on the Avon Mountain crash, stating that the RED plan was activated and 14 agencies and 150 emergency personnel responded. He stated that the ESF 13 function went very well and thanked Bruce Lockwood and George Dunn for their help as CREPC duty officers.

R-ESF 16 Volunteer Management – Chief Austin stated that Craig Hancock was recovering well from back surgery and Sylvia Dake, Andover’s Emergency Management Coordinator, would be giving ESF 16’s report. Ms. Dake reported on various CERT issues, such as, the possibility of background checks on CERT volunteers, recruitment and retention, and the upcoming Annual CERT Conference at the Mohegan Sun on November 20th.

R-ESF 19 Special Needs Management – Jim Battaglio reported on the results of the survey sent to chief elected officials regarding registration programs for residents with disabilities. It is ESF-19’s intent to provide training for those communities interested in starting or enhancing their program.

Steve Thal reported on the Office of Protection and Advocacy “Playing It Safe: Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities” conference, stating that fifty to sixty people have attended each of the four sessions offered to date.

R-ESF 20 Disaster Interfaith Services – Reverend Pavignano reported on ESF-20 activities and liability issues that are being resolved.

Guest Speaker: James M. Thomas, Commissioner DEHMS

Commissioner Thomas spoke about national and State priorities, referring to the National Incident Management System and the National Response Plan. He also spoke about the challenges, successes and short and long term goals of DEMHS.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.