

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
July 24, 2008
9:30 a.m.
South Congregational Church

Call the meeting to order

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

Public Comment

Chief Austin introduced a representative from Homewood Suites in Glastonbury who spoke about a program they have to shelter people displaced from their homes in an emergency.

Adoption of the minutes and handouts

Ed Lescoe, seconded by Ken Loock, made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 19, 2008 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

The handouts included the Report of the Chairperson, the CREPC (DEMHS Region 3) Training Coordinator Report including a UAWG memo and the UASI priority list; 2 items related to a July 29 drill; minutes from the RESF-1 meetings on June 18 and July 16. There was no handout from the DEMHS Coordinating Council, since there was no meeting since the last CREPC meeting.

Federal and State Liaison Reports

Congressman Larson's Office – Paul Mounds introduced Connor Quinn, newly assigned to homeland security issues. He also reported on the fact that the House has passed the reauthorization bill for the US Fire Administration, and that he expects the bill to be finalized before Congress shuts down in September. This bill provides extra funding for fire training facilities.

DEMHS – Tom Gavaghan reported that training on the Web EOC was underway and that the roll out is expected to take place in March 2009. He also reported that DEMHS is offering a Flood Mitigation Grant: info has been sent out. Deadline for submittals is August 15. Also, two emergency workshops will be offered in October (Hamden and Hartford) for school administrators. Preliminary damage assessment workshops will take place in late August and early September, for public works officials.

Unfinished Business

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Council Report – Chief Austin stated that there was no meeting in July.

Training Coordination Project Report – Dan Scace, CRCOG Homeland Security Training Coordinator, gave a report on the status of the training project. He also talked about the UASI project and the fact that the group had met to determine priorities in the event that not all projects could be funded when the grant is awarded. He also demonstrated the electronic grant reporting tool. Ms. Assis emphasized that the funding budget will be kept as flexible as possible.

CRCOG HS Funded Projects – Cheryl Assis reported that there is expected to be some “leftover” funding from the FY2005 grant in the EOC and training projects and recommended that these funds be used to purchase equipment on the authorized equipment list. Following some discussion, Don Janelle made a motion that any money not expended from the FY05 grant be used to purchase equipment. Ed Lescoe seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Regional Planner Report – Carmine Centrella reported that he has been concentrating on the FY07 spending plan and on developing the final SWOT analysis. He also stated that Rita Reiss from DEMHS will be reformatting the RED Plan to look more like the plans from the other DEMHS regions. Regional nuances will be maintained.

Report of Standing Committees

R-ESF-1 Transportation – Ken Looch stated that the minutes from the last two meetings had been handed out.

R-ESF-4 Fire Service – Chief Perez cautioned that FY05 funds for training will most likely be expended before the end of the year. The HAZ MAT classes that he attended were in his opinion the best that he has attended. The FIRE-CAPTAIN program is being piloted in 4 towns. RESF4 has been updating its Task Force plans to include Strike Teams. Two drills are being planned in the Region for July 29: a hurricane drill in Middletown and a nuclear drill in East Hartford: they are being coordinated and will be run in real time. The Duty Officer plan has just been set up.

R-ESF-5 Emergency Management – Don Janelle reported that a Duty Officer Guide Book has been developed. They will be participating in the July 29 drills. Also, a Pre-Disaster Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is now complete and posted on the CRCOG website.

R-ESF-6 Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services – Chris Baker announced that shelter classes had been held at The Hartford in June and these classes can be run for towns that want them. The ongoing town surveys have shown that shelter agreements are about to expire. Computer based training is now available in Farmington.

R-ESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services – Dr. Shaw reported on a drill that Bruce Lockwood conducted in Bristol that for the first time involved hospitals and the CREPC planners. It was designed to test hospitals under pandemic field conditions. He also reported that DCD has an electronic data base of first responders and their families related to which meds they can take.

Steve Huleatt reported about alternative methods of medication delivery being investigated. The City Readiness Initiative looked at Hartford in year 1 and other surrounding communities in year 2. They are also developing a relationship with the USPS about delivering medications to people in their homes. He also discussed a change in the definition of a Mass Dispensing Area, from about 50,000 people to 100,000 people. The number of MDAs will be reduced under this new definition and in Region 3, the number of MDAs will go from about 12 to 7 or 8.

R-ESF-13 Public Safety and Security – Chief Mulhall reported that RAFS is moving ahead with a series of upgrades and the eight regional SWAT teams continue to receive new equipment. In regards to the OPM Service Sharing grant, the regional training center and the traffic teams projects are moving forward. The data sharing project will provide the CT-CHIEF records management system to interested communities and a demo will be held in September.

R-ESF-14 Long Term Community Recovery – Laurie Scotti reported that she is working on writing a shelter operations plan to share with other private companies. She is also working with other DEMHS areas to share information.

R-ESF-16 Volunteer Management – The CERT weekend will be held 9/6 and 9/7. The Citizen Corps has held policy program meetings. They need volunteers for the 7/29 exercise in East Hartford to drive vehicles and participate in the decon process. Finally, the annual CERT convention will be 9/29.

R-ESF-19 Special Needs Management – Steve Thanl reported that the second half of the special needs training would be provided at the Red Cross (2), Bloomfield (4) and Bradley (4). They need to get a handle on how many people would be attending. He has also been working with R-ESF 14 to include private industry in the special needs planning.

New Business

Chief Austin announced that there would be no CREPC meeting in August. The CERT annual meeting will be held 9/29 at Mohegan Sun. 300+ people are expected and there will be special guests. He also spoke about the upcoming drills to be held on July 29 which would involve two drills and a minimum of five events, including at least one hurricane.

Dr. Shaw asked about the badging system. Chief Austin reported that the registration form for badges is on the CRCOG website on the CREPC information page (www.crcog.org/homeland_sec/plan.html.)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.