

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Chief State's Attorney's Office, 300 Corporate Park, Rocky Hill, CT
June 12, 2008

ATTENDEES: Michael Berry, New Britain; Peter Boynton, TSA; Natalie Braga, DEMHS; Mario Bruno, ARC; Scott Devico, DEMHS; Marian Evan, BHD; Tom Gavaghan, DEMHS; Libby Graham, DEMHS; Len Guercia, DPH; Bill Hackett, DEMHS; Betsy Hard, Bloomfield; Al Hoffman, USCG; Don Janelle, Manchester; Katherine McCormack, Hartford; Phil Moberg, DOT; Jim Mona, DOT; Jeff Morrissette, CFPC; Jim O'Leary, COST; Bill Palomba, DPUC; Roy Piper, DEMHS; Mike Purcaro, CEMA; Vito Savino, USAR; Terry Schnure, OPM; Laurie Ann Scotti, The Hartford; Mike Spera, Old Saybrook; Gary Stango, Hartford; Dan Stebbins, USAO; James Thomas, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; Rob Ware, CTNG; and Dan Warzoha, Greenwich.

I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Thomas at 0915 hours followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Introduction of Assistant Secretary Joxel Garcia, M.D. of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services who spoke about Public Health Preparedness, Avian Flu, and the importance of CT with it's location between Boston and New York City. He would like to showcase CT's successes better and advised that we be aggressive with our Senators and Congressmen to work for State needs.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. None

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion made to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2008 meeting by Gary Stango; seconded by Marian Evans; approved with two abstentions.

IV. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

- A. None

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Interoperability Committee – Reported on by Bill Hackett. Last meeting was May 20th and discussions included: 1) The 2 Emergency Telecommunications positions; 2) STOC's MOA's are returning; 3) Region 3 is inventorying all equipment using the CASM program; 4) Special 700 MHz channels for Regional Teams – HazMat, Bomb Squad, etc.; 5) Region 1 Communication Van. In addition, Region 3 has completed its TIC Plan in draft form. See attached report.
- B. Citizen Corps Advisory Council – Report by Don Janelle in the absence of Bill Austin. 1) Annual Conference will be at Mohegan Sun in November; and 2) Manchester Case Mountain event which included the CERT Team and HAM Radio operators working with the Fire and Police Departments to rescue and elderly man who was injured. Commissioner Thomas thanked the Regional Coordinators and all the EMD's for their work with the CERT Teams.
- C. Credentialing Committee – Reported on by Betsy Hard. Minutes attached. Next meeting will be held on June 24th at 10am, at Brainard. The bylaws were addressed at the last meeting.

- D. Training/NIMS Committee – Jeff Morrissette advised that the last meeting was held on May 7th and updating was done on the NIMS Implementation Plan and the ICS minimum training requirements.
- E. Incident Management Teams – Gary Stango advised that the next meeting was upcoming.
- F. Child Safety & Crisis Response: Commissioner Thomas reported in DC Sandford's absence. The date of July 23, 2008 has been secured for the next School Security Seminar which will be held at Rentschler Field and focus on *Mental Health Issues on Campus*. Dr. Radison will be the keynote speaker and the Virginia State Police Response Team will also be in attendance. This seminar will be geared at the college level.
- G. Regional Collaboration Committee – Libby Graham reported that the next meeting will be held on July 8th to discuss FY07 Implementation Issues, the REOP development schedule, and begin discussion on the FY09 grant process.
- H. Medical Reserve Corps – No report in Mary Duley's absence.

Motion to accept committee reports was made by Mike Spera, seconded by Betsy Hard, unanimously approved.

VI. UPDATES

- A. Grant Program – Libby Graham gave the following report: 1) Following much effort, work, and collaboration by all involved the FY04 grant of \$48 million dollars will be completely obligated by the end of the month; 2) The second stage of the School Security Grant will begin with the release of the grant application by the end of June with a return date of October; 3) The Severe Repetitive Loss Grant program will bring federal dollars in to mitigate homes in Westport, Milford and East Haven which are repeatedly damaged due to storms, etc.; 4) Regional Catastrophic Planning, a tri-state effort, is expected to begin looking at planning gaps in August. Some agencies that may be involved include DPH, DEP, and DOT; 5) Release of the PSIC Grant MOU to municipalities. This is a grant administration matter to document state administration of pass through funding. It will rely on RESF 2 (Communications) regional reps and the interoperable communications committee members to help explain the PSIC to the locals; and 6) FY07 REPT funding awards are expected to be released July 1st to the coordinating RPO's in Regions 3, 4, & 5. Arrangements are being made to administer funding for Regions 1 & 2.
- B. CTIC – Commissioner Thomas advised that the Governor's office is impressed with the work the team is doing and fully supports the move to Hartford. Grant Funding will allow for the hiring of a State Analyst. Ofc. Chris Whibey will be leaving to return to his department and will be replaced by Paul Markette of Naugatuck PD. Also discussed the HSIN site. If you wish to be added to the HSIN website, please contact Deputy Commissioner Sandford or Lee Toffey.
- C. Urban Search & Rescue – Reported on by Sgt. Vito Savino. See attached full report. Sgt. Savino advised that US&R has an aggressive training schedule, has increased its public awareness, and now has a community on HSIN.
- D. Legislation – Scott Devico asked that any proposals for 2009 legislative consideration be sent to the office as soon as possible. Reverse 911 legislation was discussed. Motion made to draft a letter from the Coordinating Council to endorse proceeding with the 911 system implementation as determined by DEMHS and DPS by Mike Spera, seconded by Gary Stango, unanimously approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Thomas broached the idea of a public safety night to celebrate collaboration between all responders/entities to include DPH, EMD's, FD's, PD's, EMS, Federal, Coast Guard, and Military. If interested in helping to coordinate please see Commissioner Thomas.
- B. Dr. Marian Evans introduced Maryann Cherniak Lexius from the Manchester Health Department who will be replacing her as a voting member of the Coordinating Council.
- C. Roy Piper introduced the new Region 2 secretary Natalie Braga.
- D. Katherine McCormack advised that Manchester would be holding a Public Health drill on June 23rd that will feature much of the MMRS equipment set up. Participation is welcome.
- E. Peter Boynton advised that a VIPR operation was taking place today in New London at the Cross Sound Ferry to include state and local police, Suffolk County, Coast Guard and FBI personnel.
- F. Al Hoffman wanted to thank DEMHS, DPH, DPS and DEP for their participation with the USCG Chemical Incident Exercise. He advised that it was very successful and that the Federal people gave CT accolades on how well all the agencies worked with one another.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The following items were presented:

- A. Local Emergency Management Director's Seminar – June 17, 2008
- B. LI Sound Underwater Terrorism Preparedness Workshop – June 26, 2008
- C. FEMA Region 1 Hurricane Exercise, Maynard, MA – July 23, 2008
- D. Category 2 Hurricane Functional Exercise, Middletown – July 29, 2008
- E. FEMA Region 1 Functional Hurricane Exercise, Maynard, MA – Sept. 24, 2008

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Betsy Hard; seconded by Gary Stango; Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 1025 hours by Commissioner Thomas.

XI. NEXT MEETING – Commissioner Thomas suggesting postponing the next meeting until September to work around vacations over the summer months. All agreed it was a good idea. As the second Thursday in September falls on the 11th it was suggested that the date also be changed. The next meeting will be held in September, 2008, date and location to be determined.

TO: James Thomas, Commissioner DEMHS

FROM: Michael D. Varney, DOIT

RE: State of Connecticut, Interoperability Working Group Activities

DATE: June 2008

Significant Points of update:

Held monthly meeting May 20th at the DOT Research lab in Rocky Hill. Regular business was conducted. Additional detail and minutes available at www.ct.gov/demhs - communications.

Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program:

- MOUs for Investment Justifications are being addressed.
- Emergency Telecommunications manager positions are being reviewed by DAS.

State Tactical On Scene Communications System (STOCS) Program:

- MOAs for first round of distribution are being received.
- Training program development is completed initial training sessions are being scheduled.
- Round 2 applications to be distributed soon.

DEMHS Region 3 Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP):

- Conducted by DHS personnel and staff from the Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) at CCSU May 29-30 over 60 participants.
- TICP draft was completed and is being distributed for comment.
- There was excellent participation and important education and information was shared.
- The Communications Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) tool was significantly used for the communication inventory. Region 3 ESF#2 Chairman Keith Victor did a tremendous amount of data input.

State Interoperability members participated in a communications exercise at Camp Rell on June 5th. Several Military assets, DPS, and the DEMHS Region 3 Regional incident Dispatch team and command post participated in the exercise testing interoperability between all organizations. It was an excellent opportunity for the different organizations to work together, a lot of lessons were learned and information shared by participants

700 MHz committee planning to allocate specific channels for regional specialty teams (HazMat, ESU, SWAT, Bomb, etc.)

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for June 17th 1PM at DOIT in East Hartford.

CT URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE (CT-TF1)

June Training:

- ❑ Rope Technician level course for the Rescue and Medical Components and Awareness Level for the rest of the Team.
- ❑ Logistics: Equipment relocation into new trucks and containers. 90% of all equipment has been placed onto the new trucks and we continue to adjust the shelving.
- ❑ US&R took part in the June Fire School at the Connecticut Fire Academy, assisting with a Shoring Class

FEMA Equivalent USAR Training:

- ❑ Hazardous Material awareness Course for the entire Team. - January
- ❑ OSHA – 10 Outreach Program, Blood Borne Pathogens, Fit Testing, Right To Know awareness training for all Team Members – March
- ❑ Rope Rescue Technician Course – February, April, May, June, and November.
- ❑ July and August – Administrative meetings only
- ❑ September - There will be a mandatory meeting of the entire team to introduce the new Task Force Leaders and their commitment to the team to take it to the next level. The US&R team in coordination with the CT Fire Academy is looking at another K-9 specialist course to be held here in CT.
- ❑ October – Team will finish up deep Trench Rescue at Local 478 in Meriden.
- ❑ November – Team will finish up Rope Technician course. ..SUSAR convention in San Diego, CA. which will be attended by the Administrative Coordinator and a Task Force Leader
- ❑ December and January Training – US&R team will complete yearly OSHA in-service requirements.

Public Education Events:

- ❑ May 15, 2008 – Emergency Management Conference – Cromwell
- ❑ May 17, 2008 – Touch a Truck – Meriden
- ❑ June 9, 2008 – US&R presentation at the Litchfield County Fire Chief Meeting.
- ❑ June 17, 2008 – Hurricane Conference, West Haven
- ❑ July 22, 2008 – US&R presentation at the CT Fire Chief annual meeting in Portland, Ct
- ❑ September 17, 2008 – US&R trucks in the CT day Parade at the Big E.

Advisory Board: - Next meeting, July 22, 2008, 1000 hours at Brainard.

Equipment:

- ❑ The three roll off containers for the aforementioned trucks are still being loaded but ready to roll out the door. They are about 95% stocked.
- ❑ The Mezzanine at Brainard Airport (110' X 24") is completed, and items are being moved to this storage area.
- ❑ Team Physical through Concentra Medical Centers began on March 5, 2008. 41 team members have completed their physicals in the first round. A letter was sent out to all members of the US&R team this week from Director Hackett to reaffirm everyone's commitment to the team.

Future Items:

- ✓ The following budgeted positions on the Task Force are still vacant which is currently being worked on by Administration to make these part-time positions:
 - 1-Task Force Leader (part time)
 - 1-Rescue Manager (part time)
 - 1-Assistant Training Coordinator (part time)
 - 2-Logistic Technician-(part time)

MOU committee is still working with DEMHS, to accommodate members from the Municipal, private and self employed sectors who wish to join the team.