

Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

MINUTES

May 16, 2006

2:00 PM

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Headquarters

645 New London Ave. – Cranston, RI

Agenda

I. Call to Order/Attendance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM. In attendance were:

Janice McClanaghan, RISEO Scott D. Caron, Smithfield Fire Dept.

Thomas Walsh, TSA Tom McMillan, Exeter EMA

John Blessing, RISP/RIDSFM Ray LaBelle, E911

Jim Swanberg, RISP Leo Kennedy, Cranston Fire

Thomas Kilday, HEALTH Robert Warren, RIEMA

Representative Joseph Trillo John Aucott, RIEMA

Leo Messier, PEMA Howard Boksenbaum, RIDOADOIT

Joseph S. Salter, TSA Thomas Kogut, RI DPUC

Ross L. Aker, Exeter Town Council Robert Johnson, Exeter Town Council

L. Anthony Cirillo, RI DOH

II. Approval of Minutes from March 21, 2006

The chairman requested the approval of the previous meeting minutes from

March 21, 2006 pending any corrections. The minutes were approved.

III. Introduction

A. Comments from the Chairman

Lt. Governor Fogarty noted the appointment of Rev. Holt as the new CEO of

the Rhode Island American Red Cross.

Chairman Fogarty stated that he recently had communication with Mayor

Avedesian of Warwick regarding its communication situation, regarding a

recent story in the Warwick Beacon. He then asked John Aucott if there was

any money left from the DHS Grants to help Warwick implement an 800mhz

interoperable communications system. According to John Aucott, the records

show there is approximately \$7 million that communities have not spent and

those funds should be available for reallocation to help Warwick implement

800mhz, should the city express an interest in doing so. Chairman Fogarty

noted that as the second largest city of Rhode Island, it is imperative that their

communications are up to date.

IV. Interoperable Communications Howard Boksenbaum, RIDoIT

Chief J. David Smith, Narragansett Police

Howard Boksenbaum and Chief Smith were introduced to update the

council on

Interoperable communications. The state now has 800mhz coverage for almost

half of the state. This accounts for coverage of 75% of populated areas within

Rhode Island. On June 5 th there will be a new tower installed at DOT in

Providence. The system allows fire or police in Westerly to talk with people all

the way in Cranston, this is a first. The State of Rhode Island is two years ahead

of schedule. For \$35 million the entire system would be complete and \$7 million

less than the RCC Study “low estimate”.

They are very close to full implementation and are willing to work with any cities

or sites interested. Chief Smith noted that RI has asked for \$30 million in

additional funding to give 100% for all involved. Chief Smith is extremely

confident that the RI plan fits exactly what the Federal government is looking for,

and RI is ahead of schedule. He noted the URI search for the drowned students

and how all the people involved were on the same band at the same time live and

encrypted. There is currently an implementation to bring the communication to the cabinet level vehicles.

Representative Trillo asked if there were any “super sites”. Chief Smith answered that they are all now “super sites” and he can explain in detail privately.

Essentially, the 800mhz band is so powerful that there is no longer a need for

what in today’s standard is referred to as a “super site”.

Representative Trillo

asked how many talkgroups and people could be on the system before it is maxed

out. Chief Smith answered that it would take hundreds and hundreds before it

was maxed out. The ability to organize talkgroups on the band will prevent any

particular band from being “maxed out”.

Lt. Governor Fogarty thanked Mr. Boksenbaum and Chief Smith for attending and presenting.

V. Hurricane Preparedness 2006 Preview – Robert Warren, RIEMA

Armand Randolph, RIEMA

Director Warren was introduced to give a preview of Rhode Island’s hurricane

planning. He began by noting that the plans call for the monitoring

and

implementation of procedures beginning at 72 hours out, then at 48 hours out and

24 hours out.

At 72 hours, the state must be aware, in stand by and capable of response.

Because of the changing nature of hurricane monitoring, the details this far out

must be vague. Once a hurricane is in the Bahamas, RI needs to pay attention.

Action plans must be ready to go at 48 hours. The hurricane plans have been

broken down into a number of different areas: Donations and Volunteer

Management, Resource Staging, Debris Management, Electric Power and Public

Awareness.

For Donations and Volunteer Management, Adventist Community Services,

United Way and Volunteer Center of RI have been contacted to help with donated

goods, monetary donations and volunteers, respectively. For Resource Staging,

RIEMA has adopted the FEMA staging, including the POD system. It is a

manpower intensive plan. Debris Management has been rewritten and

includes

ID'd assessment teams. Electric Power has involved the PUC and National Grid.

There is a reentry

plan. The Island Communities have been contacted and must consider evacuation at 72 hours.

The public awareness campaign will begin in June. RIEMA is working with the

Providence Journal, programs with tourism and will be piggybacking with the

state of Massachusetts for outreach.

Lt. Governor Fogarty asked about special populations. Director Warren noted

that they have been identified and will be notified at the 48hour mark. Director

Warren also noted that there is a new EOC Manager position, which will be in

charge of all ESF's. There are new purchasing agreements established for food

and water, generators, public assistance and debris management.

FEMA has

warned that both the State and its citizens must be selfsustaining for 72 hours

before FEMA will be ready to arrive.

Local EMAs have been asked to fix the evacuation signs. There will be

conference calls available for all locals beginning at 72 hours out.

Tom McMillan

has asked what to do if his town will not cooperate. Director Warren responded

that he would be happy to speak with the town council and anyone else involved

in the planning.

Director Warren also announced that there is a regional drill for the Northeast in

June by FEMA on June 20, 21 at the Coast Guard Academy in New London

V. Amber Alert Update Capt.

Jim Swanberg, Rhode Island State Police

Captain Swanberg was introduced to brief the council on Amber Alert. He

announced that the Rhode Island State Police want to have another training. EAS

redundancy has been installed at the State Police headquarters. There will be an

after action report on the events from April 27 th . Captain Swanberg ran through

the policy for issuing an Amber Alert and noted that if a local police district feels

an alert is necessary, they fill out a report and request the alert, the State Police

review the report and information and determine whether or not an

Amber Alert is

in fact necessary. Lt. Governor Fogarty noted that testing, redundancy mock

drills and the effort to work with locals by the State Police has all been excellent

and a crucial piece to making the Amber Alert work.

VI. Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan – Dr. Anthony Cirillo, RIDept of Health

Dr. Cirillo was introduced to brief the Council. He noted that a Pandemic will

occur and that it is a matter of time. The key to surviving through the flu will be

personal preparedness. So far to date there have been 208 documented human

cases of H5N1 and millions in birds. RI has looked at national plans. There will

be 10 geographic areas for health care in RI. There will be a tabletop exercise this

Thursday. Dr. Cirillo noted that there will be a Pandemic Flu Advisory Committee meeting on May 31.

VII. New Business/Comments

Leo Messier announced a tabletop exercise and Amtrak drill for June. Janice

McClanaghan noted that because of some extra dollars, the heating program was

able to stay on a little longer and in total helped 28,891 people. RI

received a

total of \$21 million. Some of that money will be carried over into next year.

TSA announced a hijack drill in July and a full exercise in the fall, the first largescale

drill since 1985. Ray Labelle noted a potential difficulty with Federal law

and reverse 911, but is looking into it.

IX. Adjournment

The Lt. Governor motioned to adjourn and the motion was seconded.

The

meeting adjourned at 3:41 P.M.