



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

October 12, 2010

10:00 AM

RI Department of Transportation

Division of Highway & Bridge Maintenance

360 Lincoln Avenue

Warwick RI, 02888

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/ Attendance—Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts
RI EMA Director J. David Smith
Ed Johnson
Captain Verne Gifford
Erin Lambie
Peter Gaynor
Richard Brown
Lt. James Manni
Richard James
Brian Pires
Alan Seitz
Claudia Staniszewski
Joseph McCooey
Leo Messier
James Lanni
John Riendeau
Stuart Freiman
Donna Longo DiMichelle
Vladimir Ibarra

Lt. Governor Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Chairwoman Roberts was pleased with the efforts of RIEMA, FEMA and the Northern RI Chamber among others for putting together the Small Business Conference “How Should Small Business Create a Disaster Plan”. The conference provided information, tools and guidance for small businesses to create a disaster plan for all hazards. Also, the Chairwoman commented on RIPTA’s successful grant application of \$4.3

million for transit security. The grant will integrate voice communications on all buses along with a state of the art data link.

II. Approval of the minutes from August 10, 2010

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee reports

- A. Interoperability Communications Committee— *Director David Smith*, RIEMA Chair
Director Smith briefed members on the meeting of the New England Planning Committee (FCC Region 19-Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut) to review membership and votes.
The East Providence Police Department migrated to 800 MHz voice as a primary system and West Greenwich, Gloucester, and Newport all made strides toward implementation. Also, the Cumberland site was built and continues to install equipment linked to a brand new 140' tower to accommodate a new cell site for revenue. Lastly, the Director expressed the challenges with the D Block as Congress wants to auction it off (the B Block was purchased by Verizon and the C-Block was purchased by AT&T). The ICC will send an official letter to the Congressional delegation in opposition and urge them to maintain it for public safety purposes.
- B. Hospital Preparedness Working Group— *Alysia Mihalakos, DOH/Dawn Lewis, HARI*
Alysia, Dawn and Kate along with thirteen other individuals from HEALTH and HARI are at the initial training for the state's All-Hazards Incident Management Team comprising of 29 agencies throughout the state. This team will be activated to support incident management at major or complex incidents requiring a significant number of local, regional, and state resources, and at incidents that extend into multiple operational periods, strengthening the response capabilities of the state.
The current challenge is the standardization of plans, policies, technologies, and training throughout the healthcare system. One primary focus for this goal at this time is to ensure that the Public Health Emergency Management Suite (PHEMS), which includes the Hospital Capacity System, Event Calendar, and Patient Tracking System, is fully implemented.
Key activities for the subcommittee have been the Operation Green Round Robin, the TF Green Airport full-scale exercise on September 18, 2010. The Patient Tracking System was utilized during the exercise to ensure that the system would function properly during a mass casualty incident. Within the exercise, a small table-top was conducted to further define the roles, needs, and sharing of information between and among HEALTH, the hospitals, and the airline liaison officers.
- C. Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group— *Steve Preston, Woonsocket FD*
No report
- D. Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working Group—*Susan Earley, BHDDH*
No report
- E. Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council—*Claudia Staniszewski*
The committee continues with their volunteer recruiting efforts to assist communities. The volunteer efforts will have three levels and the highest level requires 65 hours of training. The response has been positive with 32 individuals signed up. This group will

respond to Hurricanes, First Aid, etc. The Attorney General's Office provided support with no charge for BCI checks and liability insurance.

The marketing campaign for the volunteer efforts will use billboards and PSA's as well as Campus CERT. Leo Messier thanked the committee for their help in providing 135 volunteers on a Saturday morning for the Operation Green Round Robin.

F. Law Enforcement Working Group—*Lt. James Manni, RISP*

Some changes were made to the WMD team including utilization of the Purvis system for notifications. Funding continues to be a challenge. Lt. Manni informed members that Sprint and Nextel provided the committee with 20 cell phones in case there are capacity problems with the grid. Training continues in Providence and at the Newport Naval Hospital.

G. Port Security—*Erin Lambie, USCG*

Ms. Lambie was in Louisiana and has been very pleased with the top level personnel representing our state. On September 30th a meeting of the Southeastern New England Area Maritime Security Committee was held. The committee discussed many issues including Port Security Grants, Maritime Security Exercises, and creating a Port-wide Strategic Risk Management Plan.

In regards to exercises, the Vigilant Hope Exercise realized that additional works needed to be completed to determine what the prevention/response organization should be for increased Maritime Security Levels and responses to terrorist attacks.

On October 19th the Vigilant Hope After Action Conference will take place in East Providence to discuss what was learned from the Vigilant Hope Exercise in May and how to move forward with the identified areas for improvement. The Sector Southeastern New England is in the process of planning a symposium for Facility Security Officers to discuss best practices, TWIC, amendments to security plans, notification procedures (security breaches and suspicious activity), drills and exercises, procedures for implementing MARSEC levels, and areas for overall improvement.

H. Special Populations Working Group—*Kate McCarthy-Barnett, DOH*

The Special Needs Workgroup continues to meet on a quarterly basis.

Sheltering: The subcommittee has completed the draft shelter plan and is working with RIEMA and Red Cross to implement the FEMA Functional Needs Support Services for General Population Shelters.

Special Needs Emergency Registry: The outreach for the Registry continues and over 10,000 individuals are enrolled. The GIS component of the Registry is near completion and the emergency notification system is on track as the next enhancement to the Registry. In addition, the access to the Registry will be expanded to be included on WebEOC.

Communications: A subcommittee of the workgroup has been meeting to address the issue of communications. The focus of the subcommittee has been to examine current gaps and develop recommendations for communication mechanisms that can be implemented before, during and after an emergency.

Transportation: Members of the subcommittee have been participating in the RIEMA ESF 1 planning review team meetings. The workgroup continues to provide planning updates for the review team.

- I. Urban Search and Rescue—*Bill McKenna, Cranston FD*
The team is currently going through a reorganization to place more active members in key management positions. Some of the key activities have been monthly manager meeting's to provide a status of the team to all key subgroup managers.
The team prepared in anticipation of Hurricane Earl and participated in the Airport drill in September. In the near future will be conducting an awareness program so that emergency responders around the State know what USAR has to offer.

- J. Transportation Security Working Group—*Brian Pires, ATAC/TSWG*
In response to an individual pointing a hand laser at an aircraft, causing temporary blindness of the pilot and crew ; a laser threat working group alert system notification to assist law enforcement for immediate dispatch and a public awareness campaign was created. Mr. Pires saw a challenge convincing agencies that there is a need for a unity of effort to assure an orchestrated regional response to a transportation incident. The first step must include an accurate accounting and posting of equipment and resources purchased post 911 with DHS (UASI, Port Security Grant) or other funding. Mr. Pires, discussed the ATAC- statewide credentialing as very important

- K. Mass Casualty—*Chief Robert Church, Portsmouth FD*
Merge of a unit from Northern Cumberland to be incorporated with the rest of the group.

IV. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestions

In June, John Riendeau and Stuart Freidman provided an overview to ICC members of their broad band initiative and what it could possibly mean for public safety. They would like to provide a presentation to the larger group at the December 14th meeting.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration through the U.S. Department of Commerce, awarded Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation through Broadband Rhode Island Program a total of \$4.52 million from the State Broadband Data and Development grant program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The \$3.02M awarded on September 27, 2010 is in addition to the \$1.5M RIEDC received in December 2009 for the five-year project. For further information on this project please visit: <http://broadband.ri.gov/>

Donna DiMichele from the Office of Library Information Services was awarded a \$40,000 grant for the Protecting the Past project that will emphasize the adoption and use of the Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness (COSTEP), which is an emergency management framework for cultural resources. It is a way to develop an action plan for building alliances between cultural institutions and emergency management agencies.

The next meeting will take place December 14th at the RI DOT Division of Highway and Maintenance.