

Windham Region Emergency Management Committee (REMC) Agenda

Date: Tuesday, May 20th

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Dummerston Fire Department, 1049 East West Road, Dummerston, VT

Attendees: Josh Brookes, Corey Miner, Drew Hazleton, JD (Rescue Inc); Rich Cogliano (Dummerston EMD); Greg Lakis (Jamaica EMD); Parker Waite, Allen Pike, Scott Hatfield, Larry Pratt Jr (Dummerston Fire); Gig Zboray (Whitingham EMD); Paul Fraser (Jamaica); Angela Litchfield (Newfane EMD); Dennis Annear (Halifax Fire); Taiga Christie (VEM); Alyssa Sabetto, WRC Senior Planner and REMC Staff

Topic: Southern Vermont Technical Rescue Team, affiliated with Rescue Inc.

Members of the Technical Rescue Team are highly trained (and nationally certified) in Swift-Water, High and Low Angle Rescue, Search and Rescue. The Team can also provide Incident and Search Management. The Team will respond in all weather, any time of the day, and once committed will remain as long as required. The Technical Rescue Team includes First Responders, EMTs and Paramedics who can paddle, climb, and/or hike as part of their skillset. EMS providers are nationally certified and work within sophisticated protocols specially developed for the challenges of technical rescue in the wilderness.

Objective: Learn more about the Southern Vermont Technical Rescue Team, an amazing asset right here in the Windham Region.

Guest Speaker(s):

- Drew Hazleton, Chief
- Josh Brookes, Team Lead

Agenda:

1. Group Introductions
2. Rescue Inc. speaker discussion
 - 30-40 technical rescue volunteers are on the Team; lots of skillsets represented
 - Four specialty areas of training:
 - Technical rope rescue; wilderness search; swift water rescue; large incident support
 - Technical Rescue team has been operating for over 20 years
 - Operate 24-hours per day
 - Have MOU with State of Vermont, USAR asset
 - Intense training program for volunteers
 - Largest team in VT outside of USAR
 - Provide animal rescue
 - Fully self-sustaining team
 - "There is no halfway in technical rescue" – Drew Hazleton
 - Can be called upon locally through dispatch, or activated by the state for out of the region situations
 - They have many tools for their job; being specific in your request helps them bring only what they need which saves time in getting to incident
3. Updates and other items:
 - August meeting topic
 - Type 3 Incident Management Team, and Comms unit – to be led by Dennis Annear
 - Keene Mutual Aid fiscal agent
 - WRC has agreed to play that role; funding still needs to be found
 - Recent shifts within FEMA, recommendations for towns to consider

- Overall plan for more self-reliance; federal assistance is not as reliable as it once was; lots of changes at the federal level and the funding landscape is uncertain going forward
 - [Local Emergency Management Plans](#) reminder – Due June 1
 - Binary Blizzard exercise is October 22 – will focus on southern VT
 - Information shared with towns and Google form to sign up; towns are encouraged to participate!
 - Topic suggestions/requests for meetings/events/trainings/speakers
 - DEC to speak about River Corridors
 - VEM to speak about Communication options for towns during long term power outages, and PACE (likely November)
 - Upcoming trainings
 - Effective Facilitation course coming up in June in Newfane; see LMS for details
 - The latest [Vermont Emergency Management newsletter](#)
4. Our next REMC session will be August 19th in-person likely in Vernon.
5. Thank you for attending! Remember that REMC meeting agendas and minutes can always be found [here](#).