

Windham Region Emergency Management Committee (REMC) Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 20th

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Putney Fire Department, 21 Carl Snyder Dr, Putney, VT 05346

Attendees: Rich Cogliano (Dummerston EMD); Larry Pratt Jr (Dummerston Fire); Paul Fraser (Jamaica); Angela Litchfield (Newfane EMD); Keats Diffenbach (Marlboro EMC); Marisa Traniello, Lyndsey Morin (ARC NNE); Taiga Christie (VEM); Alyssa Sabetto, WRC Senior Planner and REMC Staff

Topic: Northwest Massachusetts Incident Management Team and tour of the Team's Communication Vehicle

A brief overview of what the Northwest Massachusetts Incident Management Team is, how they operate, what they have accomplished over the last 15 years and what they can provide to communities. There will also be a demonstration of the Teams Communication Vehicle.

Objective: Learn more about the Northwest Massachusetts Incident Management Team and their Communications Unit, and consider applicability of something similar for Vermont

Guest Speaker(s):

- Dennis Annear: Fire Chief/ Emergency Management Director for Rowe and Charlemont, Massachusetts along with Fire Chief for Halifax, Vermont; Retired Orange Massachusetts Career Fire Chief (23 years), NWMIMT Team Leader, National Registered Paramedic, and credentialed FEMA Type III Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief, Med Unit Leader and trained as a Resource Unit Leader
- John Taylor: Chief of the Shelburne Center Fire Department in Massachusetts; credentialed as a FEMA Type III Logistics Section Chief and a Communications Specialist

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Updates:
 - VEM Conference is on September 4-5 in Killington
 - Topic suggestions/requests for meetings/events/trainings/speakers
 - Red Cross offerings are available, just reach out to Lyndsey Morin (8 attendees min. to hold an event)
 - KMA communications are difficult
 - Keene Mutual Aid technical upgrades in Vermont
 - No recent updates
 - [Local Emergency Management Plans](#) reminder (4 towns have not completed)
 - Upcoming trainings (Taiga)
 - 'Emergency Planning for Performing Arts Venues' training is coming up
 - VEM conference in-person attendance is nearly at capacity – register soon!
 - The latest [Vermont Emergency Management newsletter](#)
 - REMC business
 - None
3. Guest speaker discussion
 - The Northwest Massachusetts Incident Management Team ('Team') is a multi-jurisdictional team from western Massachusetts that responds to complex incidents across the state and nation, including natural disasters, law enforcement operations, and public health emergencies.

- Supported by a broader statewide system for requesting emergency response assistance from other participating communities
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) used for requesting assistance from other states
- Created to assist any member town with meeting NIMS standards.
- Local town maintains control during incident and the Team helps them out with filling needed roles
- Team is made up of about 40 people of various backgrounds: fire, EMS, GIS, insurance industry, police, government, logistics, operations, planning, communications skills
 - All have ICS training
 - Team has complete NIMS skill set on board
- Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid Association Board governs and funds the Team (southern border VT towns are members already). There are 47 member towns.
- Started over 15 years ago
- State MA EM agency has funded a lot of training for the Team.
- There is no similar team in VT.
- Towns that are part of the Tri State Mutual Aid system can request the Team by calling Shelburne Control (413-625-8200). Towns outside of that area would have to have a Team activation approved by the Tri State Board.
- Team does charge for services when the event becomes a reimbursable FEMA event.
- They have been on activations throughout the eastern US, Puerto Rico, though most of their activations are in western Mass.
- They are able to make difference and help the locals wherever they go.
- They are open to new towns joining, so reach out if your town is interested.

4. Tour of the Team's Field Communication Vehicle (FC40)

5. Our November REMC session will be virtual. Date and topic coming soon.

6. Thank you for attending! Remember that REM

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C meeting agendas and minutes can always be found [here](#).