



State of Connecticut Emergency Response Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting January 18, 2024 at 1:30 PM

The meeting was held **online and in-person** at CT DESPP-DEMHS Headquarters, 1111 Country Club Road, Middletown.

1. The meeting came to order at 1:35 p.m.
2. Introductions and welcomes
3. The November 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Bill Abbott, seconded by Kyle Zimmer.
4. Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Training Activities updates—A new MOU between DEEP and CFPC and SERC was executed recently. This is in place to fund training and the annual exercise with this year's US DOT Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant. The CT Fire Academy will be scheduling hazardous materials training courses.
5. EPCRA overview and status of Tier II Reporting cycle underway for 2023 reporting year. Efforts to connect local emergency management directors with the online platform Connecticut has put in place to assist with sharing information among local officials and state agencies.
6. EPCRA Tier II webinar for facilities: info is on [SERC website](#) Date: February 6, 2024; 10am-11:30am
7. Overview of DEMHS EPPI Exercise [October 14 & 18]—Bill Turner highlighted the exercise which had good participation from municipalities and agencies. Planning will begin for next year's exercise.
8. Overview of CT DOT/FRA Rail Freight Exercise [rescheduled from October 21 to December 2] -Ryan Donovan, Andrew Morrill, Jason Coite of highlighted the exercise. DOT, DESPP-DEMHS, DEEP participated with the Federal Railway Administration and Hartford Fire Department to practice coordination in responding to rail freight incidents involving hazardous materials. Discussion about future hazardous material freight exercises, whether tabletop, functional, or full-scale exercises. Constraints for municipal fire departments and hazmat teams discussed with respect to funding for overtime and backfill during training events. Lt. Col. Neumon reminded members of the availability of the New England New England Disaster Training Center (NEDTC) at Camp Hartell and suggested it as a potential functional exercise location. Discussion about [Transcaer](#) in person and online training opportunities for freight preparedness. Agreement to keep hazmat freight topic as a continuing topic for future commission meeting agenda.

9. Planning for 2024 exercise in Southeast Connecticut [Date TBD]: Planning is underway; CT Fire Academy instructors Bill Seward and Steve Foley are the contacts.

10. Updates on LEPC status and plans;
 - a. Discussion of any LEPC designations needed: No needed designations identified.
 - b. Discussion of the status of both LEPCs and plans and strategies for updating plans and preparing for commission's review of plans. This topic will remain on future agenda.
 - c. Overview of updated [LEPC map](#) and [LEPC Chair contact information](#). These are dynamic and anyone with updates should direct them to the DEEP.CTEPCRA@ct.gov email.

11. EPCRA Federal Register notice calling for comments regarding proposed reporting changes. Discussion about the benefits of federal funding for EPCRA work at the state level and the usefulness of chemical inventory information being managed at local and state levels rather than the national level. No objections were expressed if Chairman Goudreau wishes to submit comments.

12. Diane Duva provided a brief introduction to a coastal hazards critical facility/infrastructure emergency management platform pilot being planned for State Fiscal Year 2025 involving state agencies, a few municipalities, URI, and UCONN organizations. This is funded by the US Department of Homeland Security with technical assistance from NOAA. More information can be shared at future meetings as the project gets underway, and no objections were noted regarding SERC involvement in assisting with guiding the project, along with others.

13. Information sharing between Agencies; Updates on Current Issues

14. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

15. Adjournment 2:58 p.m. on a motion by Bob Araujo, seconded by Lt. Col. Neumon.

Attendance 01-18-2024

In attendance?	Member
Yes	<p>Gerard P. Goudreau - Chairperson</p> <p>Facility member</p>
Yes	<p>Diane W. Duva, Director, Planning Office, Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Div.</p> <p>CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection</p>
No, schedule conflict	<p>Jeffrey Morrissette, State Fire Administrator</p> <p>CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection</p>
Yes	<p>David Kallander, Ph.D. , Toxicologist/ Francesca Provenzano</p> <p>Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program/Preparedness</p> <p>CT Department of Public Health</p>
Yes	<p>Jason Coite</p> <p>Environmental Compliance, Bureau of Engineering and Construction</p> <p>CT Department of Transportation</p>
Yes	<p>William Turner, Director, Emergency Management, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security</p> <p>CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection</p>
No	<p>Jeff Saltus, CONN-OSHA</p> <p>CT Department of Labor</p>
Yes	<p>Matthew LaFayette, Budget Analyst, Budget and Financial Management Division</p> <p>CT Office of Policy and Management</p>
Yes	<p>William Abbott, State Fire Marshal</p> <p>Office of State Fire Marshal, Division of Construction Services</p>

	CT Department of Administrative Services
Yes	LTC Benjamin Neumon Connecticut Military Department—substitute attendee: Colonel Joseph Roden
Yes	Chief John C. Littell, Tolland Fire Department Volunteer Fire Department member
Yes	Chief Edward N. Richards, Enfield Fire Department Municipal Fire Department member
Yes	Robert J. Araujo, Facility member
No	Lisa Morrissey, CT DPH Deputy Commissioner
Yes	Robert Ross, Public member
Yes	Anthony Salvatore, Town Manager, Cromwell, member
Yes	Kyle Zimmer, Jr., Public member

Also present for some or all of meeting: Rick Swan, Lori Saliby, Gary Trombly, CT DEEP; Andrew Morrill, Ryan Donovan, CT DOT; Albert Bassett, Fairfield County HIRT; Ryan Hirt, CISA; Bob Kovach, environmental consultant