



State of Connecticut Emergency Response Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting November 20, 2025

The meeting was held **online**.

1. The meeting came to order at 13:34.
2. September 2025 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Robert Araujo, seconded by Mr. Jeff Morrisette.
3. A vote was taken on whether to continue with the same meeting schedule in 2026. Mr. Robert Araujo made a motion to continue with the same schedule, seconded by Mr. Stephen Foley.
4. Introductions and welcomes-

Ms. Alyssa Israel- Fairfield resident

Mr. John DeCecco- U.S. Flood Control

Mr. Don Moore- Manchester Assistant Fire Chief

Mr. Tom Corbett- Region 5, ESF-10

5. Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Training Activities Update-

Mr. Ryan Santos reported on three training events conducted in 2025 (one virtual training on Hazconnect planning tool and two, in-person, dry-decontamination training events), funded by the HMEP grant, as well as a report that the FY25 HMEP grant was awarded and approved. Mr. Jeff Morrisette thanked Mr. Tom Corbett for hosting one of the in-person, dry-decontamination training sessions at Danbury.

6. Planning for 2026 SERC Exercise in DEHMS Region 5, tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 28, 2026-

Mr. Stephen Foley provided updates on planning efforts, to date, including;

- Main exercise and operational objectives (ethanol release from rail car/tanker, personnel with health impacts, dry decontamination, etc.)
- Sub-objectives involving the LEPC and local hospital
- Description of the site and scenario (Danbury railyard, figure provided of proposed layout)
- Discussion on after-action reporting to provide guidance on shortcomings

- Overview of parties involved (Danbury Fire, DEMHS Region 5, LEPC/SERC, MTA and Housatonic Rail, local hospital, etc.)

A group discussion ensued with a back-and-forth dialogue related to; the use of web EOC, the involvement of mutual aid from surrounding towns, drone capabilities, and the need to include CTDOT in future planning based on their presence at the facility where the exercise is planned.

7. CT-CHAMP, Coastal Hazards Emergency Preparedness Tool, University of Rhode Island-

Ms. Diane Duva recapped the previously discussed CT-CHAMP project to support planning for increased frequency and intensity of weather-related events, particularly in the Groton/New London area. Ms. Duva introduced Mr. Austin Becker of the University of Rhode Island (URI), who led the CT-CHAMP project team.

Mr. Becker provided a thorough presentation on how this tool can assist in planning for coastal storm events within a few hours of landfall, as well as planning for future events. The project included analysis of historic storm events' (Hurricane of 1938 and Super Storm Sandy) impacts to the Groton/New London coastal region to create a basis for future storm modeling and predictions. One of the main focuses of the research and development of this tool was identifying high priority facilities within the storm impact zones and identifying critical infrastructure/assets at those locations that may be impacted by storm surges. Assets included items such as electrical equipment, communications equipment, emergency generators, fuel storage, water treatment plants, and other similar critical infrastructures.

A group discussion followed with questions and answers related to incorporation of flood barriers into the predictive model, the addition of FEMA guidance into the model and asset databases, utility company involvement and recommendations that the DOD-related facilities conduct vulnerability assessments if they have not done so already.

8. Updates on LEPC Status and Plans-

Ms. Carolinne Nascimento provided updates on the progress of the LEPC planner module development and estimated that the planner module is anticipated to be available no earlier than April of 2026. This planner module will assist LEPCs in drafting, approving, and distributing emergency response plans. In the meantime, Ms. Nascimento will be working to engage with LEPCs throughout the state for status updates and to inform them of the planner module's development.

9. Future Topics...

Mr. Robert Araujo suggested that LEPC plans be at the top of the agenda for future meetings, particularly what the status of LEPCs, and their associated plans, are currently. Mr. William Turner

stated that DEMHS is engaging with LEPCs to update this information along with the development of the LEPC planner module.

Ms. Allysa Israel suggested that Tiger Dams be a topic for the January 2026 SERC meeting.

10. EPCRA Updates and Information sharing between Agencies and partners; Updates on Current Issues; Ideas and requests for future meeting topics; New Business.

Mr. Ryan Santos recapped that three additional questions were added by EPA and CT DEEP to the required Tier II reporting. Chairman Gerard Goudreau commented that the new changes make sense and should provide first responders with additional, valuable information.

11. Public Comments (opportunity for comments from any members of the public present)

Ms. Allysa Israel, a resident of the Fairfield beach area that was impacted by Super Storm Sandy, presented information on Tiger Dams. Ms. Israel had heard about these dams being used in NYC during flooding events and after researching this product was astounded by its capabilities. Ms. Israel explained the versatility of these portable containment dams and suggested that Connecticut consider investing in Tiger Dams. Ms. Israel gave additional examples of other states utilizing these dams, including the state of Florida which purchased over 60 miles worth of these portable dams.

Mr. John DeCecco, of U.S. Flood Control, provided further details on the benefits of these portable dams including ease of mobilization and setup, compact storage, stability with strong winds, and noted the main limitation was the time needed to fill the portable dams with water. Mr. Robert Araujo was interested in how this technology compares to Aqua Fence. Mr. DeCecco explained the difference between the two different technologies and the benefits of using Tiger Dams vs. Aqua Fence based on real-world experiences. Mr. DeCecco stated that a single pallet of these portable dams can provide 3,000 feet of protection and provided an example where he and another individual put up 200 feet of Tiger Dam in about an hour.

Mr. DeCecco plans to give an in-depth presentation on Tiger Dam technology in the upcoming January 2026 SERC meeting.

12. Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 15th from 13:30-15:00.

13. Adjournment 14:48 on a motion by Mr. Robert Araujo; seconded by Chairman Gerard Goudreau.

Attendance	Commission Members
y	Gerard P. Goudreau – Chairperson, Facility member
y	Ryan Santos , Assistant Division Director, Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection <i>[also Lori Saliby, Diane Duva, Gary Trombly]</i>
y	Jeffrey Morrissette , State Fire Administrator CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
y	David Kallander , Ph.D., Toxicologist; Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program/Preparedness CT Department of Public Health
y	Jason Coite Environmental Compliance, Bureau of Engineering and Construction, CT Department of Transportation
y	William Turner , Director, Emergency Management, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection <i>[also Carolinne Nascimento]</i>
n	Jeff Saltus , CONN-OSHA, CT Department of Labor
y	Matthew LaFayette , Budget Analyst, Budget and Financial Management Division, CT Office of Policy and Management
n	Lauri Volkert , State Fire Marshal, Office of State Fire Marshal, Division of Construction Services CT Department of Administrative Services
y	COL Benjamin Neumon , Connecticut Military Department
n	Chief John C. Littell , Tolland Fire Department, Volunteer Fire Department member
y	Chief Edward N. Richards , Enfield Fire Department, Municipal Fire Department member

y	Robert J. Araujo , Facility member
n	Robert Kovach , Public member
y	Lisa Morrissey , Facility member
n	Robert Ross , Public member
n	Anthony Salvatore , Town Manager, Cromwell, Public member
n	Kyle Zimmer, Jr. , Public member

Also present:

Tom Corbett, Danbury FD/Region 5 ESF-10; Stephen Foley, CT Fire Academy; Don Moore, Assistant Fire Chief Manchester FD; John DeCecco, U.S. Flood Control; Austin Becker, Univ. of Rhode Island Dept. of Marine Affairs; Carolyn McGowan, U.S. EPA Region 1; Alyssa Israel, Fairfield Resident (public);