



State of Connecticut Emergency Response Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 19, 2026

The meeting was held **online**.

1. The meeting came to order at 13:35.
2. The January 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by COL Benjamin Neumon, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovach.
3. Introductions and welcomes-

Mr. Robert Duval, New England Director, NFPA

Ms. Lina Takahashi, EPA Region 1, On Scene Coordinator

Numerous "guest" attendees identified by "(NEW or All NEW)" in the list of additional attendees

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

Mr. Ryan Santos reported that the CT Fire Commission and CT DEEP have finished drafting the MOU, which is now under agency review and progressing towards final signature.

5. Planning for 2026 SERC Exercise in DEHMS Region 5, confirmed for Friday, August 28, 2026-

Mr. Sean Peltier was introduced as the replacement for Mr. Tom Corbitt, as annual SERC exercise coordination representative for the Danbury Fire Department. Mr. Peltier provided a brief update on planning efforts, to date. Planning is progressing well.

6. Updates on LEPC Status and Plans-

Ms. Carolinne Nascimento reiterated that a plan is in place to begin outreach to LEPCs, in the coming months, to update contact information and to issue a survey that will gauge the status of each LEPC.

7. 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 indicated that the Tier II reporting season has concluded as of March 1st. Tier II reports submitted via Hazconnect Tier II Manager, or by paper, are being compiled for upload into EPA's Tier 2 Submit platform.

An informational bulletin was also presented to the audience regarding a free webinar available to firefighters and first responders, aimed at dry decon techniques for metering equipment.

8. Firefighting and Emergency Response for Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries presentation by Mr. Robert Duval, New England Regional Director of NFPA.

Mr. Robert Duval provided a detailed presentation centered on the dangers of lithium-ion batteries in devices and electric vehicles. Mr. Duval’s presentation provided some background information on the construction/design of lithium-ion batteries and potential scenarios that can induce thermal runaway. Mr. Duval also showed several videos of real-world occurrences of fires related to lithium-ion batteries as well as a case study conducted by the NFPA. Following the presentation, Mr. Duval fielded questions from the audience and provided expert responses. Questions/discussions centered around; fire blankets, ferry transporting tactics and future regulations by the USCG, issues related to reignition, proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and breathing apparatuses, off-gassing hazards, and decon of PPE once the emergency response is complete.

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

There were no public comments.

10. Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 21st from 13:30-15:00.

11. The meeting adjourned at 14:37.

Attendance	Commission Members
n	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
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
n	Jason Coite Environmental Compliance, Bureau of Engineering and Construction, CT Department of Transportation
n	William Turner , Director, Emergency Management, Division of Emergency

	Management and Homeland Security, CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
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
y	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
y	Chief John C. Littell , Tolland Fire Department, Volunteer Fire Department member
y	Chief Edward N. Richards , Enfield Fire Department, Municipal Fire Department member
n	Robert J. Araujo , Facility member
y	Robert Kovach , Public member
y	Lisa Morrissey , Facility member
y	Robert Ross , Public member
y	Anthony Salvatore , Town Manager, Cromwell, Public member
y	Kyle Zimmer, Jr. , Public member

List of Additional Attendees;

CT DEEP- Lori Saliby, Gary Trombly, Rich Scalora, Robert Shuler

CT DOT- Mike Bedson

NFPA- Robert Duval

Office of State Fire Marshall- John Way

Metro-North Rail- William Welch, Andrew McCellan, Matthew Peloso (All NEW)

CT Fire Academy- Bill Seward
America Fire Blanket- Joe Hosey (NEW)
DEMHS- Carolinne Nascimento, Alexis Paquette
Danbury Fire/OEM- Sean Peltier, Brianna DiLapi (NEW)
EPA Region 1- Karen Way, Liam McDonald, Lina Takahashi
Housatonic Railroad Co.- Phil Bailly (NEW)
CRCOG- Steve Huleatt, William Perkins
Danbury Health and Human Services- Veasna Roeun (NEW)
Boehringer-Ingelheim Rail- Sergio Conde, Davide Roncari, Josh Haack (All NEW)
Northwell- Mary Mahoney (NEW)
Stamford Fire/ESF10- Adam Silverstone
Norbert E. Mitchell Co., Inc.- Andy Mongan (NEW)
Electric Boat Fire Dept- Mark Sicuso
Public (?) - Mike Pederson
West Hartford Fire- James Paul Jr., Chris Wilcox, Robert Grimaldi, Adam Pacheco, Adam Pillsbury, Craig Astle (All NEW)

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