



State of Connecticut Emergency Response Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting September 17, 2026

The meeting was held **online**.

1. The meeting came to order at 13:34.
2. The draft May 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Robert Araujo, seconded by Chairman Gerry Goudreau.
3. Introductions and welcomes-

Mr. Neo DeLoreto is replacing Mr. David Kallander as the Department of Public Health (DPH) SERC Commission Designee. Mr. DeLoreto is an Epidemiologist 4/Program Supervisor for the Environmental and Occupational Health Hazards Program at DPH.

Mr. Levi Campbell, Emergency Management Specialist, Sector Long Island Sound, U.S. Coast Guard will be joining the routine SERC meetings and will provide information sharing with the SERC members related to U.S. Coast Guard emergency response operations and preparedness.

4. Updates on LEPC Status and Plans-

Ms. Carolinne Nascimento announced that regional coordinators will be sending out a survey to collect data on the current state of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The survey/questionnaire contains approximately 20 questions, many of which are multiple-choice, covering topics such as leadership, meeting frequency, and whether the municipality has an annually updated plan. The survey will be sent to over 160 municipalities. Chairman Gerry Goudreau and Mr. Robert Araujo posed several questions about the coordination and timing of the survey. While no firm deadline was initially set due to the onset of hurricane season, Ms. Nascimento stated that they are aiming for results by January. Chairman Goudreau agreed that it is a reasonable timeframe. Mr. Araujo requested that Ms. Nascimento provide a progress report at each future SERC meeting showing the number of responses received versus the number sent, to determine if a different outreach approach is needed. Mr. Araujo suggested that, if funding is available, training for LEPCs should be considered. Chairman Goudreau confirmed that funding should be available to run training programs next year if the survey results reveal a significant deficiency in municipal planning capabilities.

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

Mr. Ryan Santos reported that the CT DESPP/DFSA and CT DEEP now have a fully executed, three-year MOU for the HMEP grant funded activities. Mr. Santos also provided updates on the plans to conduct a commodity flow study in Year 2 of the FY25-27 HMEP grant and provided updates on current enhancements being made to the EPCRA planning tool, Hazconnect. Hazconnect now requires multi-

factor authentication and suggested that users log on to verify their email address so that they will not have to worry about that process in the event of an emergency and the need to gather Tier II information quickly.

Mr. Santos also provided an update regarding the 2026 Annual Full-Scale Exercise in Region 5. The original August 28th exercise was postponed and rescheduled for today, September 17th. A reminder was provided of the exercise scenario, and it was stated that a full report of the exercise would be provided at the November SERC meeting.

Chairman Goudreau expressed concern over the difficulty in getting volunteers and fire departments to participate in exercises recently. A meeting will be scheduled for late September or early October to brainstorm ways to increase involvement from LEPCs and fire departments. Region 3 was suggested for next year's exercise.

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

Mr. Santos stated that there were no significant EPCRA updates for this meeting and passed the mic to Mr. Levi Campbell of the U.S. Coast Guard for an information sharing regarding updates to the Area Contingency Plan (ACP). Mr. Campbell shared that the 36 Captain of the Port Zones are working to standardize the ACP to ensure consistency across different regions, such as Jacksonville and Long Island Sound. The new plan format is designed to be user-friendly and mobile-accessible, allowing users to click links directly to specific annexes for air quality or hazmat releases. Mr. Campbell clarified the Coast Guard's jurisdiction in Connecticut, noting they cover the Connecticut River up to Hartford and the Thames River up to the Mohegan tribal lands. The draft plan is 95% complete and will be shared with DEEP and the committee for review, likely by November or the first of the year. Mr. Campbell agreed to return at a future meeting with a slide presentation to further explain the synergy between the Coast Guard and local emergency responders, specifically regarding inland waterway incidents.

Additionally, the group acknowledged the upcoming retirement of Mr. Jeff Morrisette, State Fire Administrator, on October 2nd. Mr. Morrisette has served the state for 42 years, including over 20 years with the SERC. Chairman Goudreau and others expressed their appreciation for the service and dedication of Mr. Morrisette throughout his career and service to the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Campbell and Mr. Santos also discussed the need for additional Hazconnect licenses for federal on-scene coordinator representatives and agreed to resolve the logistics offline.

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

There were no public comments.

8. Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 19th from 13:30-15:00.
9. The meeting adjourned at 14:04 on a motion by Chairman Gerry Goudreau, seconded by Mr. Robert Araujo.

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
n	Jeffrey Morrisette , State Fire Administrator CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
y	Neo DeLoreto , MPH, Epidemiologist 4, Program Supervisor; 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
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
n	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

List of Additional Attendees;

CT DEMHS- Carolinne Nascimento

CT DPH- Nicol Jenna

CT DOT- Andrew Morrill

USCG, Sector LIS- Levi Campbell

City of Meriden- Cristina Shoeck

CT DEEP- Lori Saliby, Gary Trombly, Lisa Lawson