

1 **Franklin County Regional Emergency Management Committee Meeting**

2 **March 27, 2025;**

3 **Swanton Municipal Complex / Hybrid via Zoom**

4
5 **Attendance:** Reginald Beliveau Jr. (VDFS, Swanton Village and Town EMD), Eva Gillilan (Fletcher EMD), Micah Genzlinger
6 (Fairfax Fire Chief), Jacquie Kelley (VDH), Shaun Coleman (NRPC), Michaela Foody (VEM), Dan Dillner (FP&R), M.
7 Mulheron (STAC/STAT FD).
8

9 **Welcome and Introductions**

10 The meeting began at 1:02 p.m.
11

12 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

13 Jacquie asked if she could give her VDH EP report first because she had another meeting to get to. All agreed.
14

15 Jacquie reported:

- 16 • She supports the Northwest VT Medical Reserve Corps which is a group of volunteers most of which are
17 medically trained (retired doctors and nurses).
- 18 • MRC members are supporting foot care activities in the community including Martha's Kitchen in St. Albans.
- 19 • MRC is developing an infant comfort station for outdoor events where people can change diapers, breast feed,
20 etc.
- 21 • MRC also has Stop the Bleed training resources for anyone interested. Contact Jacquie at
22 Jaqueline.Kelley@vermont.gov.
23

24 **Wildland Fire Assets – Dan Dillner, Forests, Parks and Recreation**

25 Dan provided a slideshow. FP&R has a small team of 3 full-time fire specialists who cover the entire state of Vermont.
26 They are nationally certified for wildland fires (red card system). They respond to fires lasting more than one operational
27 period. Key Resources include 3 response trucks, 4 extended attack trailers, and communication equipment for multiple
28 fire frequencies.
29

30 The team is part of the Northeastern Fire Protection Compact. This is a mutual aid agreement between New England
31 States, New York, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Labrador, USFS, USF&W
32 and US NPS. Only gateway to order additional out-of-state resources. There is a 24-hour response agreement with
33 neighboring states/provinces
34

35 There is a notification process to request the team. Contact Vermont Emergency Management's watch officer. They are
36 not dispatched through 911 or scanner calls. They can assist with state or private land wildfires. They can provide fire
37 behavior and suppression tactics support.
38

39 2023 Fire Season Highlights: burned twice as many acres as is typical in a year; fall fire season was 18 times higher than
40 25-year average; one major incident in 2024: Morgan Road Fire (12-day response).
41

42 There was a brief discussion about fire wardens. By statute, a forest fire warden is authorized to be the head person in
43 the event of a forest fire. In practice, the warden may not be qualified. When a town wants a new fire warden, the state
44 can appoint one with the approval of the local governing board. Preferably the fire warden will be a member of a fire
45 department.
46

47 There was a brief discussion on National Guard Resources. The Guard can assist with wildland fires on the ground. The
48 pilots are not trained in wildland fire air operations such as bucket drops. Through the NE compact, Quebec air
49 resources could be requested but there is a cost.
50

51 For more information on the program: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/wildland>

Community Risk Reduction – Reginald Beliveau, Jr., VT Division of Fire Safety

Reg gave a powerpoint presentation.

Fire Death Demographics

- 76% of fire deaths in past 10 years: Over 50 years old
- 54% of fire deaths: Over 60 years old

Challenges in Fire Service

- Lack of personnel
- Limited budgets
- Time constraints
- Limited partnerships

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Approach

- Five E's Strategy:
 1. Education
 2. Engineering
 3. Enforcement
 4. Emergency Response
 5. Economic Incentives

Key Programs

- FireSafe 802:
- Home safety visits
- Free smoke alarm installations
- Community volunteer involvement
- Steps to Safety:
- Presentations for senior groups
- Focus on slip/trip prevention
- Fire safety education

Recommended Community Partnerships

- Home health agencies
- Senior services
- EMS teams
- Community advocates
- American Red Cross

Key Recommendations

- Proactively identify community risks
- Target underserved demographics
- Develop strategic prevention plans
- Utilize community volunteers
- Continuously evaluate and adapt programs

LEMP Changes – Michaela Foody, VEM

Michaela provided a PowerPoint presentation on the new LEMP changes and methodology.

Changes include but are not limited to:

- Identify local shelters and remove regional shelters.
- Identify REMC representatives.
- Identify what is not required versus what is required.

- Option for redacting personal information when the plan is shared with other agencies.
- Regional Coordinator using Word to update plans.
- Regional Coordinators will meet with every town they cover to help update their plans.
- Less NIMS typing.
- June 1 deadline.
- Modernized terminology for population references.
- The new plan and adoption form is on VEM's website.

There was a discussion about shelters. Shelters must be identified as required by statute. The new LEMP has a line for shelter contact. This is the contact person who can open a shelter. Doesn't necessarily mean a shelter manager. Most towns have difficulty identifying a shelter manager. Many towns do not have the capacity or training to open a day shelter or even an overnight shelter. If a town decides to open a shelter, they should notify the State Duty Officer. If a town has capacity issues with a shelter, they can call VEM for assistance. If there are just a few individuals in need of sheltering, the Agency of Human Services has motel vouchers they can offer.

Member Updates – None.

Officers – Reginald Beliveau Junior volunteered to serve as Chair. There were no objections.

Other Business - None.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.