

## TRORC Regional Emergency Management Committee

Quarter 4 Meeting

September 25, 2024

6:00 – 8:00 pm

### In person:

VA Training Building "Freedom" at the VA Medical Center,  
163 Veterans Drive, White River Junction.  
First building on the right coming from I-91, parking is on the left.

Pizza, salad, and refreshments will be provided.

### Minutes

#### 1. Attendees:

KellyAnn Donahue (Corinth)  
Mark Belisle (Granville)  
Scott Cooney (Hartford)  
John Haverstock (Hartford)  
Kendra LaRoche (SNSC)  
Richard Doolen (Brookfield)  
Brad Salzmann (Royalton)  
Ariel Young (VAMC)  
Chet Pasho (Hartland + proxy)  
Jeff Morin (Newbury + proxy)  
Alex Northern (Norwich + proxy)  
Brenda Field (Tunbridge)

#### Zoom attendees:

Delsie Hoyt (West Fairlee)  
Gary Moore (Bradford)  
Taiga Christie (VEM)  
Peter Berger (Fairlee)  
Misha McRabb (VDH)

#### 2. Call to Order

- i. Sydney Steinle, TRORC, called the meeting to order at 6:07PM

#### 3. Approval of June 25, 2024, REMC meeting minutes

- i. Motion by Mark Rosalbo, second by Alex Northern. Motion passed.

William B Emmons III, Chair ~ Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director  
128 King Farm Rd. Woodstock, VT 05091 ~ 802-457-3188 ~ [trorc.org](http://trorc.org)

4. Presentation and discussion of emergency planning for and with vulnerable populations with Dr. Kendra LaRoche, Executive Director of the Special Needs Support Center (SNSC).
  - i. Presenter's contact info and resources at end of minutes. SNSC is happy to train volunteers and/or staff on interacting with people with disabilities. SNSC would also be happy to assist towns with getting communication boards.
  - ii. Kendra began the presentation by gauging audience knowledge of emergency planning and response regarding behavioral health, deaf/hard of hearing, mobility challenges, etc.
  - iii. Plans to transfer info for those with medical needs w/o violating HIPA if you needed to evacuate. Route design, how do you get people from higher floors if the elevators don't work?
  - iv. Continuity of Services- The person taking the vulnerable populations to another location should have their information, people at the receiving location should be prepared to receive and use that information.
  - v. Exercise to see where participants are in planning for more accessible emergency services- where is your planning at- do you know your at-risk groups?
  - vi. Overview and example of physical needs shelters should have.
    1. Social stories, communication boards, assistive equipment, accessible transportation, spare O2 tanks, food for service animals, sensory-friendly spaces, mental health workers
5. VEM update
  - i. The State of Vermont needed to restructure their emergency planning grant for RPCs, so there will be some changes in RPC responsibilities starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. VEM will be taking over Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) from RPCs, so VEM will be the main contact for these plans going forward. VEM will also be taking on the responsibility to coordinate and conduct trainings and tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises with all towns in the State. RPCs will no longer have funding to undertake these activities with towns.
6. "Binary Blizzard" statewide exercise introduction
  - i. Basics: On October 23, 2024, Vermont will be holding a statewide Tabletop Exercise (TTX) called "Binary Blizzard." TRORC's regional location of play will be our usual REMC location- VA Hospital, Conference Room 103A, 163 Veteran's Drive, WRJ, VT 05001 (Freedom on the attached map). Please see the following link for registration information:  
<https://vem.vermont.gov/training/exercises/binaryblizzard>
  - ii. Purpose: The exercise follows up a functional exercise that occurred in March of 2023 called "Frosty Force." The purpose of the exercise is to validate the state's plans and to work jointly with as many federal, state, and local municipalities as possible. This is also a precursor to a full-scale exercise which will take place in October 2025.
  - iii. Scenario: A severe early-season winter storm impacts Vermont with heavy winds, feet of snow, and significant icing. At the same time, a series of phishing

attempts grant a hacker organization entry into Green Mountain Power's systems. They shut down the power grid south of Route 4, demanding a ransom.

7. REMC member list update

- i. We continue to work to update our REMC membership list and will be contacting current REMC members and town clerks to confirm REMC representatives. If your town changed its EMD or EMS representative, or does not have a second member, we will need to get this rectified. TRORC will be reaching out to each town to confirm members.

8. Questions

- i. Where can REMC members get communication boards?
  1. You can find communication boards online. Below in these minutes are links to boards Kendra has found useful. If an Upper Valley community desires a communication board, they are welcome to reach out to SNSC for information or for SNSC to print and laminate.
- ii. This meeting is Sydney's last in-person REMC meeting as she prepares to move to rural Kansas. Thank you all!

9. Adjournment at 6:58PM.

- i. Motion by Chet Pashto, second by Richard Doolan.

Presenter Contact information:

Kendra LaRoche  
Special Needs Support Center  
129 S Main St, Suite 103, White River Junction, VT 05001  
603-448-6311  
kendra@sns-c-uv.org

Kendra asked that we share the following links to communication boards that she has found useful.

- [Police Officers](#)
- [Medical](#)
- [Spanish/English](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Emergency Communications](#)

Anyone can print them out and laminate them- Kendra is happy to do that for anyone in this group. You will need to let Kendra know which board(s) you would find most useful. She also brings communication boards to hand out whenever she does a full training, which she would love to do for any staff/volunteers for towns in the REMC.