AGENDA
Local Emergency Coordinating Committee Meeting
March 5, 2020
5:00 PM
Town Hall Conference Room B

1. Call To Order, Roll Call
2. Audience Of Citizens
3. Acceptance Of Minutes: February 6, 2020 (E)
   Documents:
   LECC MINUTES 2-6-20.PDF
4. COVID-19 Preparedness: Discussion With Eastern Highlands Health District (E)
   Documents:
   CORONA VIRUS EHHD UPDATE 2-26-20.PDF
   LAMONT PROVIDES UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION.PDF
5. Agency Updates
6. Radio Communications With Police & Fire And Future Public Works
7. Fire Transition Study Committee: Progress Report
8. Wolfpack Fire Safety Night (E)
   Documents:
   MEMO STYLE.PDF
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

___________
(E) denotes enclosure
Minutes
Local Emergency Coordinating Committee
February 6, 2020
Town Hall Conference Room B

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. Present: Julie Blanchard, Town Council; Bud Meyers, Fire Marshal/NCVFD; Mark Palmer, Chief of Police; Mark Kiefer, Public Works Director; Lenny Bragdon, Coventry Public Schools; Ryan Boutin, CVFA; John Elsesser, Town Manager.

2. Acceptance of Minutes: Bud Meyers moved to accept the minutes of the January 2, 2020 meeting, seconded by Mark Palmer. A correction was requested on page two, second line of the last paragraph: GALEA should be CALEA. The motion to accept the minutes as corrected carried on unanimous vote.


4. Coming Events:
   - Ice Fishing Class and Practice, 2/8/20: The class is still on but practice will not take place with the thin ice we are experiencing with warmer temperatures this winter.
   - RimaConn relay, 8/29/20: Chief Palmer noted this is the third year for this event. The Hartford Marathon organization is requesting permission to go through our town. It is a 96-mile run through 20 towns. The course stays on the rails to trails path and there is no anticipated traffic impact and no need for town services. John said he doesn’t think we need to meet with the race organizers but he does want people to know there will be a group of people running on the trail that day. Bud said we might run the utility out vehicle out.
   - Veterans Day Patriot Race, November 2020: John said we already received the permit request for this event. Mark Palmer noted that they want to begin advertising. It went smoothly last year but if it gets much bigger we may need to close roads for the entire race. John said the only hiccup this year was that UConn was removing their boats from Patriots Park and that tied up some of the parking.

5. Updates: NCVFD – Bud Meyers:
   - During the month of January, NCVFD responded to 36 calls: 1 structure fire, 1 vehicle fire, 1 brush fire, 1 fuel burner/boiler malfunction, 1 hazardous condition, 3 CO-related, 8 MVA’s, 5 false alarms, 8 wires down, 4 good intent and 3 medical.
   - For the structure fire, we responded with all the engine tankers (3), along with the truck, tanker, engine, rescue and ambulance along with 24 personnel.
   - One of the MVAs was a rollover resulting in a fatality. Another was a head-on collision with rollover necessitating transport by LifeStar. A third MVA caught on fire. An average of 13 personnel responded to these calls.
   - Equipment: ET 211, ET 311 and T111 were sent to DPW for preventive maintenance. R211 continues to see an increase responding to calls, with four new drivers within the last three months.
   - We are in the process of ordering five sets of turnout gear and miscellaneous PPE. We are also pricing SCBA bottles and masks.
• The departments have ordered a new printer/software that can be used town-wide; this is to improve our ability to issue ID tags that are required for accountability on emergency scenes and hospitals.

Public Works – Mark Kiefer:
• Snow – we have had 12 call outs this season, including the one this morning. We have received 16 and a quarter inches of snow to date, which is not a lot of volume, but is a lot of frequency. We have used about 45% of our salt, with 700 tons in the barn.
• When it’s not snowing we are working on cutting back brush on rails to trails, and cutting trees with contractors.
• We are taking delivery of the new roadside mower soon. We are prepping the roadside to get ready with removal of rocks, stumps, etc.

Public Schools – Lenny Bragdon: We continue to work on security enhancements.

Police Department – Mark Palmer:
• Chief Palmer went to a Town Council meeting to talk about the PREA grant, which provides $30,000 for detainee safety in the lock-up area. The grant provides equipment upgrades and training, as well as an audit of the lock-up facility.
• The department is inundated with press inquiries for myriad issues. It has become a time management issue. The press is seeking some details on cases that can’t be shared yet.
• We had a meeting regarding the police vs. fire annual softball game. There were some good ideas. One of the thoughts about a prize was to wash a truck or car of the opposing team. We may also make it a fundraiser for Human Services or some other group. John recommended the summer camp because rates will have to go up due to minimum wage increase. The event will take place on May 16th at 10 AM on the middle school softball field.
• There was a falling accident at a resident’s home. Unfortunately, the victim has died.
• We made an arrest for sexual assault yesterday. A press release will be distributed today.
• We had a meeting about a potential grant that would fund most of the cost of a school resource officer for three years. We are not eligible because we would have to sign an affidavit allowing ICE access to detaining facilities and provide notice prior to release. State law prohibits that. This stipulation may also affect some of our other grant funding opportunities in the future.

Fire/EMS/EMD – Jim McLoughlin (reported by John Elsesser):
• Jim is out sick today, but submitted a written report. Highlights are below.
• New communications tactical channels were initiated on 2/1/2020. All radios have been reprogrammed and the conversion to one “in-vehicle” repeater has been accomplished.
• A radio subcommittee for town-wide communications, including the schools, is scheduled for 2/12/2020 at 1 PM. Subcommittee to include EMD, Fire-EMS, Police, and Schools. This is different than item #6 on today’s agenda (radio communication with police, fire and future public works). Discussion topics: interagency communications including the schools in time of crisis. This subcommittee formed from the Workers Health & Safety Committee quarterly meeting.
• P.O.’s were submitted for new fire gear/PPE.
• Four vendors have looked at ET 308 – awaiting quotes.
• Attended training from COST (Emergency Management workshop) and CIRMA (Sexual Harassment training, and the Annual Member Meeting in Hartford) as well as participated in online webinars.
• Met with the Paramedic Advisory Committee, discussed routine business with our neighboring departments.
• Attended the DEMHS Region 4 steering committee meeting in Colchester.
• Attended the Tolland County Annual Meeting in Mansfield. Presentations by the State Police on the Tactical Emergency Critical Care teams and LIFESTAR.
• Budget talks with fire departments were held with the Town Manager and Finance Director.
• Station maintenance issues addressed as they arise.
• Quarterly report provided for publication.

Town Manager – John Elsesser:
• We had a meeting with TN to talk about issues with town wide radio. They would like to revamp our whole radio tower inside - get all the old equipment that’s not being used out, adding air conditioning instead of exhaust fans, etc. at their expense. While there they would repurpose some of the equipment for TN purposes. We told them to put a concept in writing but we are in agreement conceptually that they can take over the management of this equipment. They also are starting to have dialogue with appropriate people at the State Police to allow communications through TN that would bridge the fire to police issue. When we get public works radios in we could cross-band and get on the system. We have had problems with Fluid Mesh to get an antenna to public works and they will take care of that too. We have been having ongoing issues with the way public works gets internet. There are wide fluctuations – and it could be a number of causes. We would like to get the new antennas up. Getting fiber there is extremely expensive and there is no cable there, so that alternative is not available.
• The Board of Education applied for some E-rate money and got assistance for running new fiber. They are using a company called Wan Rack. This may start as early as March. They will be micro-boring in the CTDOT right of way from the Grammar School to Robertson School. DOT is expected to issue a permit. Call Before You Dig is going to be critical. The Board will be looking to fund about $80,000 in the capital budget. We are on a month-to-month contract with Charter now. This would be about the same price for five years and then the price drops. It would give us links to Patriots Park and a tie near the public works garage. It will be an interesting project.
• The parking lot at CGS will be in construction this summer, probably for the whole summer. The project will be out to bid soon.
• A primary is coming up in the schools. Robertson is not a big deal because the gym can be isolated. The Grammar School will be more complicated. Mark Palmer noted that there will be police presence at both sites.
• Corona Virus: The local Health Dept. and State Health Dept. are monitoring this issue closely. They are starting a campaign about hand-washing. With UConn here we should not rule out that it will arrive in our area. There is a travel ban to China – the high school canceled their trip.
• Another summer camp fundraiser will take place the weekend after Memorial Day. Human Services and Recreation will have a lake festival. They will be asking for participation, including a possible demo of the fire boat, games, inflatables, etc. Plans will ramp up faster when the Valentines dance is over.
• We are meeting with CTDOT and LOTCIP next week to discuss issues with new requirements for the signal light at Swamp and Rt. 44. We could lose a construction season over it so we are hoping it can be resolved. Plan B may be to go ahead with construction of the intersection and leave it closed until the signal is installed. We are also having a discussion on the Northfield intersection - they did not like our plan and
want a more dramatic turn. Our plan was better for emergency vehicles so we have proposed an alternative. We might consider looking at zoning in response to a request to change a property in that area to commercial. We are working on replacing the catch basins.

- Folly Lane Bridge: All permits are nearly in place – we will be out to bid in late February with construction in early June. We have to take down six trees and confirm there are no bat nests. There is an issue of delivery of golf carts with a tractor trailer vehicle, which is being resolved.

6. Radio Communications with Police & Fire and Future Public Works:
   John Elsesser said we are going to let TN take the lead and get us a plan in writing. We need to get a hold of J&S and get a plan in place for car conversions. Jim McLoughlin is requesting as we move forward with the transition to the State radio system, that we add radios for the Emergency Management Division, most likely two mobiles and two portables.

7. Fire Transition Study Committee – Progress Report:
   (Written report submitted by Jim McLoughlin): The Town Council approved the phase 1 report and has authorized the team to move into phase 2: consisting of final job descriptions, prioritizing expenses that will result from a merged state, and the implementation of the phase 1 recommendations. We anticipate an interim slate of officers to be appointed no later than July 1, 2020 with permanent officers to be filled by July 1, 2021. The next Transition Study Committee meeting will be held on 2/13/2020.

8. Discussion/Needs of Public Safety and Emergency Services in Consideration of Changes to or Elimination of Ordinance for Public Assembly:
   Julie Blanchard noted that a resident came in to request changes or elimination of this ordinance. The Council has talked about it at Steering but wanted this committee’s take. John Elsesser said that at a Council meeting a citizen requested eliminating it but has since submitted some modifications such as eliminating the fee. Mark Palmer emphasized the importance of this ordinance. Several years ago there was a property that was being rented every weekend for weddings, music festivals. Etc. There were complaints from neighbors for noise, traffic, etc. If we have previous knowledge of a large event we can help regulate certain elements, such as safe installation of tents, generators, etc. through inspection. He thinks it is important to keep the ordinance, but maybe we can make some changes to make it more palatable. The above-mentioned complaints are the only ones we are aware of so far. Julie said she can understand it at a certain level. Maybe the person wants to hold a rally and has no idea how many people might show up. John said one of the things we discussed at Steering was to have some pre-determined locations where an event can be safely held without causing traffic hazards, that offer adequate parking, and give us the ability to enforce if 500 people show up. We don’t think the ordinance is trying to stifle free speech or the right to assemble but we are a small town and need to know so we can provide police protection, traffic control, sanitation, etc. A permit is needed so we can plan. The process to change would be: Steering would make recommendations to the full Council, the Council would send it to a public hearing and then there is a vote. Mark Palmer suggested that perhaps the Council could put language in that indicates the permit is not intended to restrict rights that are protected by the Constitution but rather for public safety purposes. John said a large event with disparate groups could quickly become a major conflict requiring deployment of emergency response personnel, etc. There has to be some accountability, and if a legitimate organization, a certificate of insurance to protect us. Mark Palmer would even suggest lowering the amount of people to 150, as 300 people is a lot of people. Bud Meyers said he will take a closer look at the ordinance to see if he has any suggestions from a fire marshal standpoint. In his written report, Jim McLoughlin suggested adding the following: Section 66-62- #11(k) to include
Emergency Medical Technicians and Ambulance; and Section 66-65 – add payments for EMTs and a donation based on the fire service needs.

9. Other Business:
   Materials were distributed about the CCM annual Emergency Symposium.

10. Adjournment:
    The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM on a motion by Bud Meyers, seconded by Mark Palmer and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Stone
Greetings Everyone,

As the details of the COVID-19 outbreak change and the likelihood of community transmission increases, EHHD and our member municipalities will continue to see an increase in communications from residents. The Connecticut Department of Public Health has scheduled a conference call for all local health directors this afternoon, when I expect we will receive more detail on the statewide response. I will share this information with you as soon as I can.

In the meantime, please remember that we have embedded a link into our website, www.ehhd.org, that is updated in real-time; whenever the CDC updates their data, it is available on our website. Please share this link with your respective department heads, staff and the public.

There is a press conference is schedule today at 4:30PM. Governor Lamont will be providing updates on the state efforts against the COVID-19.

As always, I recommend referring any specific questions directly to us at EHHD.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

Thanks,

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Greetings EHHD Community Stakeholders –

As indicated in last weeks’ community email on the above referenced topic this is a quickly evolving, dynamic situation. The following are highlights of this agencies activities, and highlights from conference call briefings to local health departments provided by both the CDC, and the CT DPH on the state and national response.

CDC Highlights
- 293 persons have been tested for 2019-nCoV. Of those 206 tested negative, 11 tested positive, and 76 test results are pending, with the closest confirmed case in Boston.
- Effective February 2nd entry into the US for foreign nationals who have visited China within the past 14 days is prohibited, with few exceptions. Exempt persons are funneled to 11 US airports where they undergo clinical assessment and screening to assess risk. High risk individuals are detained for Isolation or quarantine for up to 14 days. Asymptomatic travelers from Hubei province will be allowed to travel onto their destination. The destination state health department will be notified accordingly. The local health department will supervised self-monitoring of such travelers through the end of the 14 day period. This guidance applies only those arriving in the US after February 2nd.
- Risk to US citizens remains very low.
- See this link for the latest CDC info: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

CT DPH Highlights
- Recent case study of asymptomatic transmission was shown to be flawed. There is still no credible data suggesting asymptomatic person to person transmission.
- CT DPH is not recommending that local health departments actively “investigate” claims of individuals recently arrived from China prior to February 3rd. The CDC guidance for these individual is essentially for voluntary self-monitoring and social distancing, and to seek out a healthcare provider if they become symptomatic. All healthcare providers have been provided information on evaluation, testing, transmission control, and DPH notification.
- FAQ’s for public schools will be posted to the DPH website hopefully by the end of the week.
- See this link for the latest from CT DPH: https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus

EHHD Activities
- We have fielded a number of calls from school districts in our area regarding questions of arrivals from China prior to February 3rd. We have been working with each of these schools providing guidance on a case by case basis. We are hopeful that the afore mentioned school guidance from the CT DPH will support those efforts. We will pass that guidance onto the schools as soon as we have it.
- This office has been working closely with UConn Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) on their efforts to support their student body on this matter. UConn Student Health and Wellness is very effective in their ongoing efforts to prevent illness and promote wellness in students, staff, and ultimately the broader community.
We participated in a survey by the CT DPH seeking to assess the stockpiles of personal protection equipment that is available state-wide.

We are preparing for the possibility of travelers arriving to our local area from China. As stated before, local health departments will be responsible for “supervising” self-monitoring for asymptomatic travelers from mainland China. This could involve either supervision activities lead by the EHHD public health nurse, or this could be delegated to a healthcare provider such as UConn SHaW as would be the case for a UConn student.

We continue update our local area healthcare providers with the latest information on evaluation, testing, and transmission control.

Furthermore, the importance of proper respiratory etiquette, personal hygiene, and getting your flu shot cannot be under emphasized. If you or your organization is seeking a way protect families, community members, and individuals during this outbreak, then spreading this message of prevent and protection is by far your best option. Please let us know if you need assistance in this regard.

Finally, both the CDC and CT DPH continue to stress that risk is dependent on exposure. There are currently 11 confirmed cases. The risk to the general public remains very low.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours in health,
Rob

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Preventing Illness and Promoting Wellness in the Communities We Serve

From: Robert L. Miller
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Robert L. Miller <MillerRL@ehhd.org>
Cc: EHHD-Staff <EHHD-Staff@mansfieldct.org>
Subject: 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Greetings EHHD Community Stakeholders –

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to closely monitor an outbreak of a 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China that began in December 2019. Infections with 2019-nCoV
also are being reported in a growing number of countries internationally, including the United States, where the first 2019-nCoV infection was detected in a traveler returning from Wuhan on January 21, 2020.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), working with the CDC, and local health departments has enhanced surveillance activities, and will facilitate testing for individuals who may be at risk of infection.

While both MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV have been known to cause severe illness in people, the situation regarding 2019-nCoV is still unclear. CDC believes at this time that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. No vaccine or specific treatment for 2019-nCoV infection is available at this time; care is supportive. When person-to-person spread has occurred with MERS and SARS, it is thought to have happened via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, like how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. Spread of SARS and MERS between people has generally occurred between close contacts.

The EHHD has forwarded clinical guidance from DPH to all healthcare providers in our area regarding the evaluation and infection control of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV. As of today there are no patients under investigation in our jurisdiction, with a total of 110 in the US, 2 of which are in CT. There are 5 confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in the US. Note that risk depends on exposure. There are only a handful of cases in the US currently. Each of these are closely monitored. Therefore, the CDC feels the risk to general public is low.

For our part, the EHHD will continue to forward guidance and information to area healthcare providers as needed. We will remain in regular communication with the DPH regarding this issue, with weekly DPH conference calls scheduled to begin this Wednesday for local health departments. We are also participating in weekly CDC conferences beginning today. This office will continue to keep our community stakeholders informed as this emerging public health issue continues to evolve. In the interim it is important to note that everyone can be effective in protecting themselves and others from viral exposure by following these basic rules:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, and see your doctor.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The most recent national updates on this matter can be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Finally, please see a recent press release on this matter issued by Governor Lamont.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Yours in Health,

Rob

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Governor Lamont Provides Update on Coronavirus Prevention Efforts

Posted on February 26, 2020

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont today said that the State of Connecticut is continuing to coordinate its prevention efforts and organize necessary resources to respond to the potential novel coronavirus pandemic. While there are not any confirmed cases in Connecticut, the governor is urging residents to take all necessary precautions and follow guidelines issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Since January, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has taken the lead for state response and has been working to coordinate with the federal government, local health departments, hospitals, and educational institutions to provide guidance on how to prepare, including through weekly briefing calls with local health departments. DPH Commissioner Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell is in Washington, D.C. today meeting with her federal counterparts and other state health directors to coordinate response. Yesterday, DPH issued guidance to all K-12 schools and local health departments for dealing with potential cases.

DPH’s official website with updated information on state response to coronavirus, as well as resources for Connecticut schools, healthcare practitioners, and residents, can be found by visiting ct.gov/coronavirus.

“Although we have no confirmed cases of coronavirus on Connecticut, we must be prepared for any situation and that is why we are continuing to take all necessary precautions to protect Connecticut from this dangerous virus,” Governor Lamont said. “This is serious, and we are working with our health care system and schools to ensure that our efforts are coordinated and people are prepared.”

Commissioner Coleman-Mitchell this week took the step of adding coronavirus to the list of reportable diseases, requiring all physicians in Connecticut to report new cases or patients under investigation to DPH. This will help with active disease monitoring and surveillance, as well as coordination nationally with CDC. The State Public Health Lab in Rocky Hill is also slated to receive a kit from CDC to be able to test for coronavirus locally. The first kit – once prepared and tested – will be able to test results from 800 people for coronavirus.
Travelers who spent time in mainland China within 14 days before arriving in the United States are being diverted to land at one of eleven airports in the U.S. (Bradley International Airport is not one of these airports). In the airport, they are asked questions about their travel and whether they have been in contact with anyone with coronavirus. They also have their temperature taken and are asked about their health.

Travelers who have been in Hubei Province, China, or are sick, are referred for medical evaluation and are not allowed to continue to their final destinations. Travelers who have not been in Hubei Province and who are well are given information about self-monitoring and continue to their final destinations. For those who arrived on or after February 3, 2020, the local health department at their destination is notified and will contact them to discuss self-monitoring and other recommendations.

CDC has informed DPH of several Connecticut residents who are not showing any symptoms of virus but who have recently returned from traveling to China and are now in a 14-day period of self-monitoring for signs of coronavirus. This includes daily health and temperature checks, checking in with health care providers, while staying at home and away from work or large gatherings of people other than to purchase groceries or other essential items. People with a travel history to China and no symptoms can return to work or school after the 14-day self-monitoring period is complete. There is no clearance process. People without symptoms are not tested for the virus.

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses common in both humans and animals. These viruses usually cause mild to moderate respiratory illnesses. The source of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is suspected to be animals sold at an open-air market, in Wuhan, China; the virus is possibly a previously unrecognized bat coronavirus. It appears to cause a more severe illness progressing to pneumonia.

The most recent guidance from the CDC about the outbreak is available [here](#).

CT Firefighter’s Association Memorial
First Responders Awareness Night with the Hartford Wolf Pack

Join fellow friends, family and members as we gather in support of the Annual CT Firefighters Memorial Night and funds from your ticket purchase will be donated to the CT Firefighter’s Association Memorial!

Saturday, March 28th
@ 7:00PM
XL Center, Hartford
Doors open at 6:00PM

Promotional Giveaway:
Baseball Hat for First 2,000 Fans in attendance

Theme of the Night:
Heroes & First Responders Awareness Night

Tickets are $15
$5 per ticket benefits CT Firefighter’s Association Memorial
*Contact Ed Urbansky with any further questions*

Purchase Tickets Online @
https://groupmatics.events/event/ctfmhwpnight2

Deadline to purchase tickets is Saturday, March 21st!
Purchase Tickets Online @
https://groupmatics.events/event/CTFMHWPNight

Contact information: Ed Urbansky at cell#: (860) 985-3246. email:bobs510@yahoo.com