

12:00 Call to Order

Brief Introductions and Roll Call

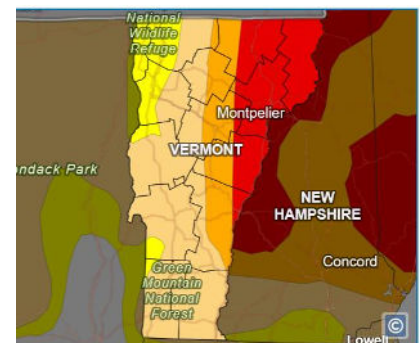
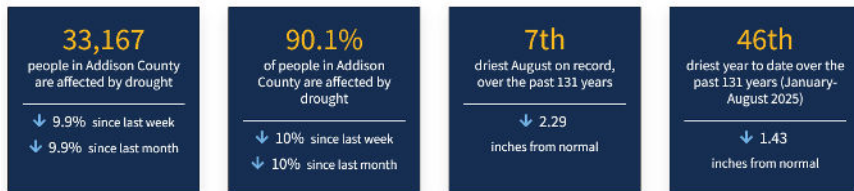
- o EMPG funding is still on hold, so H. Schoppmann is running REMC meetings in place of A. L’Roe

12:03 Approval of August 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes, motion to approve by Jason Covey, second by Marty Haitz, Unanimously approved by voice vote.

**12:05 Scott Whittier- Warning Coordination Meteorologist
 DOC/NOAA/National Weather Service**

Drought update:

Many areas of Vermont are still in moderate-severe drought
 Update will be available tomorrow (11/13) on Vermont Drought status <https://www.drought.gov/states/vermont>



Drought & Dryness Categories		% of VT
D0 - Abnormally Dry		10.9%
D1 - Moderate Drought		48.1%
D2 - Severe Drought		16.4%
D3 - Extreme Drought		24.6%
D4 - Exceptional Drought		0.0%
Total Area in Drought (D1-D4)		89.1%

Addison County has improved over last two weeks, but this has been one of the more severe droughts in the last 20-25 years.

It’s part of pattern of alternating between flooding (e.g. 2023&2024) and drought

Due to changing climate, we’re having greater frequency of heavy rainfall events with little in-between

Stream flow has improved and is back to normal levels, but groundwater is still lagging and deficits are below normal

Lake Champlain almost reached its minimal level in October, though it’s now starting to increase. We’re now past most risk of tropical storm activity but persistent upslope rain and snow showers are expected in the next 7 days.

After soil freezes, the water will run off, so we want precipitation now and then after the ground thaws, ideally with a good snow pack and gradual melt-off

To get out of drought we need 7-10 inches of rain in the next month, or 20-24 inches in the next six months.

Ben Marks asked whether there was a predicted timeline for groundwater levels to return to normal?
S. Whittier answered that we shouldn't expect major improvements in the short-term, so it won't be until spring, at the earliest.

Beate Ankjaer-Jensen noted that with low-water levels, residents should be encouraged to think about well testing for contaminants- more well info from Dept of Health can be found at:
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/drinking-water/drought-and-your-well>

S. Korda asked if there was a cost for well-testing?

B. Ankjaer-Jensen answered yes, unless it is declared and granted an exception by the Commissioner of Health.

H. Schoppmann noted that the state DEC has been gathering records of well concerns and monitoring the situation, and the Northeast part of the state is the most concerning
(<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1d3753b053804415bd0fd00a813a115f/page/Welcome>)

Andrew L'Roe asked about impacts on spring wildfire risk?

S. Whittier answered that will depend more on precipitation over the winter and drying-winds in the spring.

Marty Hartz asked about local fire wardens and how drought conditions affect burn bans

H. Schoppmann pointed out that the government banned burning statewide due to the drought conditions and lack of available resources. He noted that the VEM Daily Situation Report always includes the Vermont Fire Danger Forecast
(<https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/wildland-fire/monitoring-fire-danger>)

George Gardner asked about increasing fire dangers and dealing with the need for additional water in the case of a large structure fire? The group discussed reliability of dry hydrants and public water system intakes under drought conditions, and automatic calls for mutual aid for neighboring fire department tankers.

12:45 Updates and Reminders

Vermont Emergency Management Update (Harry Schoppmann):

- Noted that even though the NorthEast Kingdom met all requirements usual requirements for a federal disaster declaration due to July 9, 2025 flooding, they were denied by the federal administration
- EMPG funding is still on hold, so H. Schoppmann is running REMC meetings in place of A. L'Roe until it comes back.
- Review of Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference, (September 4-5)- great attendance, lots of good topics
- A Binary Blizzard exercise was held in October with 8-9 towns in southern Vermont opening their local Emergency Operations Centers. The state called towns with injected information and helped identify strengths as wells areas for improvement in those local EOC's.
- Training details included in these minutes and will be posted on the ACRPC website as well as can be found in the VEM newsletter (<https://vem.vermont.gov/contact-us/newsletter>)
- H. Schoppmann pointed out that towns are required to report spills to the state. This can be done by calling the VEM Watch officer/HazMat line to report spills. Spills of more than 2 gallons need to be reported. He reminded town officials and fire departments that reporting doesn't make them responsible for cleanup costs or anything like that, but it starts a reporting process and allows the Agency of Natural Resources to track and ensure proper cleanup occurs.

Statewide LEPC (REMC representative Dan Kuzio)

- There was an October LEPC meeting- it was relatively short with review of exercises and recent spills (including the acid spill in Middlebury). There are more representatives from industry participating and a statewide HazMat plan is being presented to the SERC for Approval (on 11/19).

ACRPC updates (Andrew L'Roe)

- The RPC is working on updating its regional plan, including chapters relating to Health & Safety and emergency response agencies
- There are several Local Hazard Mitigation Plans in process: Drafts for Town of Goshen and Town of New Haven are posted here for public and stakeholder feedback: <https://acrpc.org/local-hazard-mitigation-plans/> and several more are underway.

12:50pm Adjourn

Next REMC Meeting- Wednesday, February 11, 2026
Zoom and ACRPC Office

Upcoming Training

December 2025

MGT 328 Critical Thinking and Risk Management in a Cyber-Converged World

A four-hour instructor-led course designed to strengthen decision-making and risk assessment in today's interconnected environment. The course introduces participants to the principles of critical thinking and applies them to real-world risk scenarios involving cyber, physical, technological, and natural hazards. Learners examine models of critical thinking, explore common cognitive biases and logical fallacies, and practice anticipating unintended consequences that affect organizational resilience. The course highlights widely used risk frameworks, including NIST CSF, ISO 31000, OCTAVE, and FAIR, and emphasizes the importance of adopting a common language taxonomy to improve communication across technical and executive leadership. Participants also gain practical experience with applied tools, such as calibrated estimation and Monte Carlo simulations, to measure and communicate risk in meaningful, actionable ways. By blending critical thinking skills with structured frameworks for risk management, this course prepares leaders to navigate complex decisions, allocate resources effectively, and align cybersecurity risk communication with organizational priorities

LOCATION: Burlington City Arts- Burlington, VT

DATE/TIME: December 4, 2025 12:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. each day

[REGISTRATION](#)

January 2026

L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) [REGISTRATION](#)

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) course provides a comprehensive overview of exercise design and practical skill development. Using the same terminology and processes, this course will offer activities allowing participants to interact with many of the templates and other materials that the National Exercise Division provides to ensure exercises are conducted consistently. Anyone who will be a member of an exercise design team or fulfill a role in one of the following areas of the exercise design process: design, development, conduct, evaluation, or improvement process for exercise. The primary audience for the course is training officers, exercise managers, persons who will utilize the exercise and evaluation system, and persons interested in becoming an HSEEP Evaluator for Vermont Emergency Management.

LOCATION: Virtual

DATE/TIME: January 5, 6, 7 & 9, 2026, 12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. each day

PREREQUISITES: IS-120

Must attend both days to receive credit.

AWR-167 Sport and Special Event Risk Management and Planning [REGISTRATION](#)

The purpose of this course is to develop capabilities for multi-agency collaboration pertaining to sport and special event safety and security. Through activity-based training modules, participants will enhance their ability for planning, risk assessment, training, and exercising practices specific to conducting sport and special events. The expectation is for participants to return to their respective organizations and coordinate the development of a sport and/or special event risk management and planning process.

LOCATION: Vermont Intelligence Center- Williston, VT

DATE/TIME: January 13-14, 2026 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. each day

Mental Health First Aid Training [REGISTRATION](#)

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

LOCATION: Hybrid- It will be virtual and at DPS Headquarters, Waterbury, VT

DATE/TIME: January 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

This is for people within the state of Vermont.

February 2025

MGT-304 Sport and Special Event Staff Training and Development [REGISTRATION](#)

This course is designed to provide participants with tools and methodologies for training and developing stakeholders assigned to and responsible for public safety at sporting and special events through comprehensively reviewing safety and security staffing challenges, whole community training requirements, and the management and continuous improvement of sport and special event training programs. The training is applicable across the United States regardless of the venue size, capacity, or type of event.

LOCATION: Vermont Intelligence Center- Williston, VT

DATE/TIME: February 17-18, 2026, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. each day

Must attend both days to receive credit.

March 2026

MGT-412 Sport and Special Event Evacuation and Protective Actions

REGISTRATION

This course assists sport venue managers to prepare and/or enhance an evacuation plan to assist emergency responders in implementing flexible and scalable evacuation activities (i.e. evacuation, sheltering in place, or relocation). These emergency activities might occur in isolation or as a result of a larger, multi-entity response initiative. The course is highly innovative in that it builds multi-agency collaboration by delivering critical evacuation planning information.

LOCATION: Vermont Intelligence Center- Williston, VT

DATE/TIME: March 17-18, 2026 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. each day

Must attend both days to receive credit.

ICS 300- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents [REGISTRATION](#)

This course focuses on the management of expanding incidents. It is intended for those who will be serving in the following positions: command staff, section chiefs, strike team leaders, unit leaders, division and group supervisors, branch directors, multi-agency coordination system staff, and Emergency Operations Center staff. This course is for middle management, strike team leaders, task force leaders, unit leaders, division and group supervisors, branch directors, and Emergency Operations Center staff.

LOCATION: Vermont Fire Academy- Pittsford, VT

DATE/TIME: March 24-26, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

PREREQUISITES: ICS-100 and ICS-200

Must attend all three days to receive credit.

Meeting Attendance

Municipal Voting Members

(* = voting member, ** = voting member & proxy)(by Zoom)

- ** Martin Haitz, Addison EMC
- ** Erik Eriksen, Ripton EMC
- ** George Gardner, Ferrisburgh Emergency Services Rep
- ** Jason Covey, Middlebury EMD and Police Chief
- ** Sandy Korda, Orwell EMD
- ** Paul McMahan, Waltham EMC
- ** Ben Marks, Cornwall EMC
- ** Ethan West, Goshen EMD
- * Charlene Phelps, Starksboro EMD
- * Dan Kuzio, Starksboro FD

Also attending,

- Kate Rothwell, Middlebury Regional EMS
- Beate Ankjaer-Jensen, VT Department of Health
- Peter Brown, Middlebury College
- (in person)
- Harry Schoppmann, Vermont Emergency Management Regional Coordinator
- Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC Emergency Management Planner
- Scott Whittier, DOC/NOAA/National Weather Service

(10 voting members, representing 9 communities)