RESF-1 Transportation
September 19, 2007
Meeting Notes

In attendance: Ken Loock, East Hartford, Chair; Bill Austin, West Hartford FD & CREPC; Tom Gavaghan, DEMHS; Jim Mona, Bob Kennedy, and Ronald P. Cormier, ConnDOT; D. J. Gonzalez, GHTD; Andrew Lawrence, Achilles Rethis, and William Long, Hartford PD; Lowell Humphrey, Canton PD & CRCOPA; Robert Haramut, MRPA; Sanhita Chattopadhyay, SWRPA; and Karen Olson, CRCOG.

Welcome: Ken Loock called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., welcomed everyone and asked for introductions around the table.

ConnDOT’s Role in Incident Management: Bob Kennedy, ConnDOT Highway Operations, gave an indepth presentation about the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s role in managing incidents on our highways, and about the equipment and services, both in place and planned, that are available for emergency responders and the traveling public when an incident takes place. Chief Bill Austin invited Mr. Kennedy and Jim Mona to give the same presentation at a CREPC meeting in the near future.

Highway Incident Management:

1. Review of previous work: Karen Olson briefed the group on the efforts of the Greater Hartford Incident Management Steering Committee over the past ten years. She mentioned that the group had been dormant for the past few years given the fact that most incident management efforts had been taking place at the State level, but that it was time to reactivate the regional group.

2. Update on statewide incident management: Ms. Olson continued by reviewing the work that has taken place at the State level, citing progress in many areas.

3. Update on the draft statewide Unified Response Manual: Ms. Olson stated that a first draft of a statewide URM had been prepared by a consultant and that the Statewide Incident Management Task Force was undertaking some preliminary review (tabletops or workshops in a rural area and in an urban area) and that a second draft should be available soon for review by larger numbers of responders. RESF-1 will have a role in that effort; Ms. Olson will keep the group informed of the progress in that effort.

Emergency Response:

1. RESF-1 responsibilities: Carmine Centrella briefed the group on two documents that describe the role of RESF-1: the RESF-1 section of the RED Plan and the RESF-1 section of the Regional Evacuation and Shelter Guide.

2. Update on the Evacuation Plan: Mr. Centrella also reviewed the status of the regional evacuation plan and the fact that CD copies have been provided to each municipality.

3. Update on the Regional Collaboration Homeland Security Grant: Mr. Centrella spoke about the fact that Homeland Security monies have been reduce considerably over that available in recent years, and that grant money will now be funneled only through regional agencies and not individual municipalities.
Next Steps: The committee discussed several ideas for future work to be undertaken:
1. Recruitment of members: a larger cross section of emergency responders is needed.
2. Review of the existing RESF-1 requirements and the changes that will be required when the National Response Framework is adopted.
3. Identification of local responsibilities regarding the “transportation” element of any response, as opposed to the State and federal responsibilities.
4. Review the State’s new Freeway to Freeway diversion plans.
5. Future endeavors: test the draft Statewide Unified Response Manual and work to get it adopted locally; test the regional evacuation plan.

Next Meeting: Mr. Loock will contact committee members before determining the best time, day and location for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.