

VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

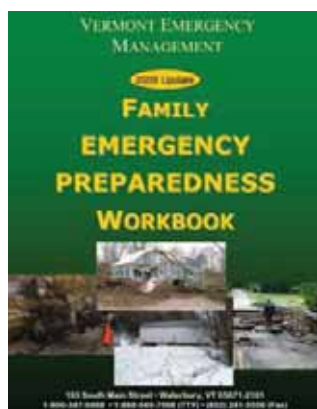


2008
ANNUAL REPORT



VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FY2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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AGENCY OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Vermont Emergency Management Division of the Department of Public Safety (VEM) provides aid and support to Vermont's local emergency management directors (LEMDs), local emergency planning committees (LEPCs), regional planning commissions (RPCs), community emergency response teams (CERTs), state agencies, and emergency response providers. Through its programs, both before and during and after times of crisis, VEM empowers local communities through disaster preparedness programs, guidance and technical assistance.

There are numerous situations during which Vermont's emergency management professionals provide assistance. They include floods, fires, winter storms, hazardous materials and transportation accidents, search and rescue operations and most recently pandemic flu planning along with continuity of operations planning. To meet these diverse demands, we utilize a four-phase process comprised of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and use the federally recognized National Incident Management System (NIMS) for command and control.

VISION

Vermont Emergency Management builds strong collaborative partnerships to deliver nationally standardized emergency services that reduce the loss of life and property during natural and manmade disasters.

We provide Vermont citizens with an organization capable of facilitating the active participation of local, state and federal governments, the private sector and volunteers in partnership to meet the public's emergency management needs.

MISSION

Vermont Emergency Management's mission is to reduce the threat posed by all hazards affecting Vermont through mitigation prior to an event, plan strategies to respond to disasters when they occur, coordinate the response of state and federal agencies/departments in assisting local governments and citizens when disasters occur and coordinate recovery efforts of the state and federal governments with local communities after a disaster.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

To work with state agencies and organizations, communities, individuals, and businesses in the area of emergency preparedness, continuity of operations and overall individual preparedness for all types of emergency situations.

- Continue efforts to train and exercise state agencies on the State Emergency Operations Plan under the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Outreach to local communities and first responders with technical assistance and programs to increase capabilities and awareness in emergency response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness.
- Continue to develop plans for a new emergency operations center.
- Continue efforts to coordinate all aspects of emergency management.
- Coordinate all levels of response and recovery to any disaster impacting Vermont.
- Facilitate a mitigation program that will allow for communities to identify potential hazards and to develop strategies to protect themselves from future disasters.

FUNDING SOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION FOR VERMONT'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

During FY 2008, Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) received grant funding from a variety of sources including federal funds, state funds and special funds. Almost 30% of funds that come into VEM are sub-granted to local and regional entities to help foster local planning, preparedness and mitigation programs. VEM provides staff program support and grant administrative support to these communities and organizations.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) – *FEMA funds*

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) funds – *FEMA funds*

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – *DHS/FEMA funds*

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) – *DOT funds*

Vermont Yankee—*Special Funds*

Hazardous Material Compliance Program—*Special Funds*

Vermont Transportation Funds—*Appropriated*

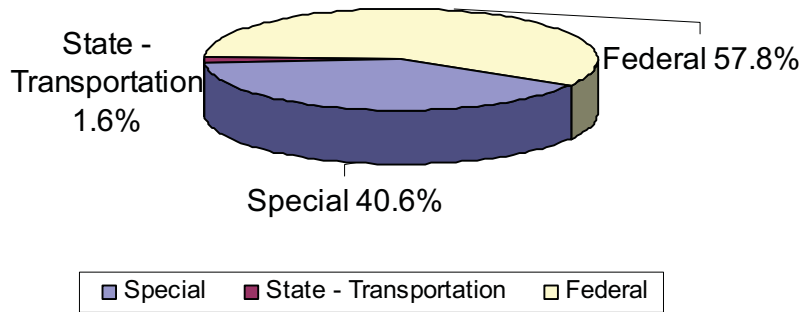
VEM received pass-through allocations from the Vermont Department of Homeland Security to augment several joint initiatives related to planning, public outreach, education and training. Preparedness funds were allocated to local municipalities for work to assist with the completion of Rapid Response Plans and Emergency Operations Plans. Citizen Corps Program funds were sub-granted to Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) for training and supplies.

The Radiological Emergency Response Program (RERP) is a major emergency preparedness program. The funding comes from Entergy Vermont Yankee as authorized under V.S.A. Title 20, Chapter 1. Funds for planning, preparedness, and training are distributed annually upon approval by the legislature to the Vermont communities in the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) that are within a ten-mile radius of the nuclear power plant in Vernon, VT. This program also supports a Brattleboro field office where VEM and other State personnel focus on exercises and training for a potential radiological event.

VEM administers the Hazardous Substance Fund, also authorized under V.S.A. Title 20, Chapter 1. Any persons, businesses, or organizations that meet the requirements and definitions of stored hazardous materials under the law are required annually to file a report and submit a fee. These annual fees support the HAZMAT Compliance Program, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) and the HAZMAT Response Team (now under the Division of Fire Safety).

VEM received \$65,149 from the state Transportation Fund in the past fiscal year to help augment the emergency management program. These are the only state funds that support VEM.

Source of Funds Breakdowns



SPECIAL: 10% HazChem
90% RERP

FEDERAL						
Citizen Corp Program	Emergency Management Performance Grant	Flood Mitigation Assistance	Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Homeland Security Grant Program	Pre-Disaster Mitigation
\$107,897	\$1,554,898	\$137,585	\$72,153	\$20,786	\$18,326	\$452,321

FEDERAL FUNDS EXPENDED: \$2,363,976

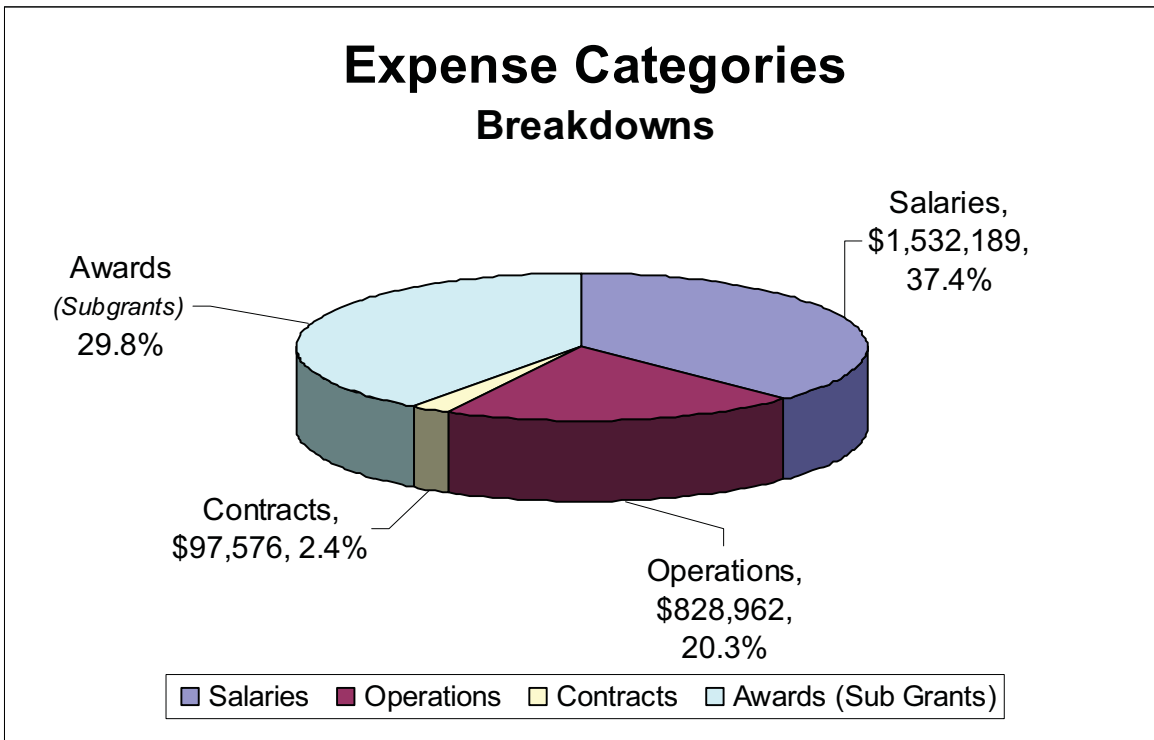
STATE	SPECIAL			
Transportation	Emergency Alert System	Radiological Emergency Response Program Administrative	Radiological Emergency Response Program EPZ	State Emergency Response Commission
\$65,149	\$0	\$867,351	\$653,055	\$142,222

STATE FUNDS EXPENDED: \$65,149

SPECIAL FUNDS EXPENDED: \$1,662,628

TOTAL FUNDS EXPENDED: \$4,091,753

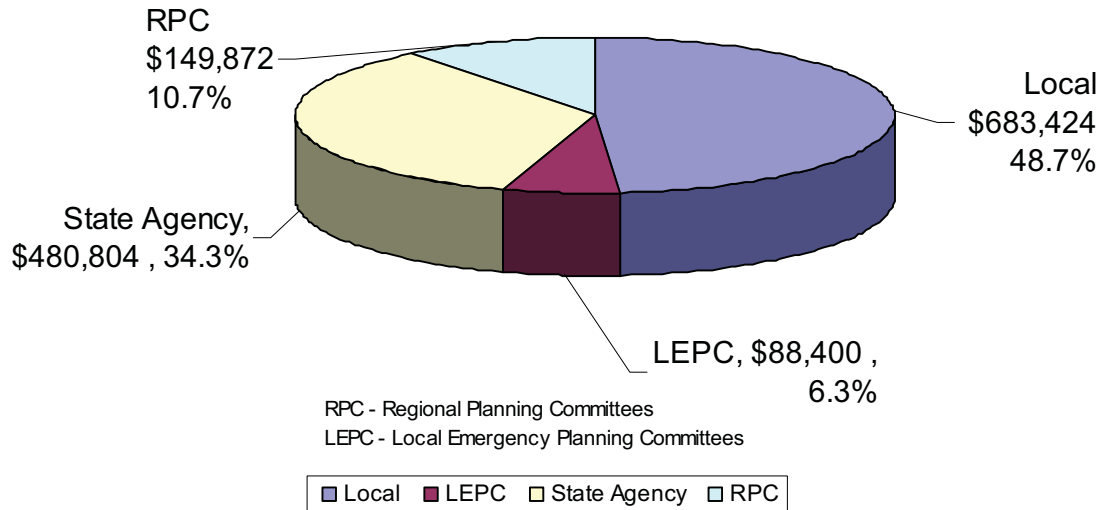
Expense Categories Breakdowns



EXPENSE CATEGORY	Citizen Corp Program	Emergency Management Performance Grant	Flood Mitigation Assistance	Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Homeland Security Grant Program	Pre-Disaster Mitigation
Personal Services:		\$950,910	\$1,024	\$8,303			\$393
Operations:	\$103,896	\$366,280	\$831	\$5,026			\$5,934
Contracts:		\$11,920					
Awards (Subgrants):	\$4,001	\$225,798	\$135,730	\$58,824	\$20,786	\$18,326	\$445,994
Total Expended:	\$107,897	\$1,554,908	\$137,585	\$72,153	\$20,786	\$18,326	\$452,321

EXPENSE CATEGORY CONTINUED	Transportation	Emergency Alert System	Radiological Emergency Response Program Administrative	Radiological Emergency Response Program EPZ	State Emergency Response Commission	TOTAL
Personal Services:			\$244,383	\$250,453	\$76,723	\$1,532,189
Operations:	\$60,830		\$142,055	\$123,840	\$20,270	\$828,962
Contracts:			\$25,655	\$38,804	\$21,197	\$97,576
Awards (Subgrants):	\$4,319		\$455,259	\$239,957	\$24,032	\$1,633,026
Total Expended:	\$65,149	\$0	\$867,352	\$653,054	\$142,222	\$4,091,753

State and Local Organizations Breakdown of Awards



Acronyms

CCP	Citizen Corps Program
EMPG	Emergency Management Performance Grant
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance
HMEP	Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
HSGP	Homeland Security Grant Program
PDM	Pre-Disaster Mitigation
EAS	Emergency Alert System
RERP-Admin	Radiological Emergency Response Plan, Administrative
RERP-EPZ	Radiological Emergency Response Plan, Emergency Planning Zone
SERC	State Emergency Response Commission

SUBGRANTS AWARDED

LOCAL TOWNS/ORGANIZATIONS	
Award Recipient	Total Paid in FY08
Barre, Town of	\$336,561
Brattleboro, Town of	\$56,632
Dummerston, Town of	\$18,311
Guilford, Town of	\$27,200
Halifax, Town of	\$29,100
Marlboro, Town of	\$11,168
Montgomery, Town of	\$88,203
Rescue Inc.	\$6,295
Springfield, Town of	\$5,203
VT Center for Geographic Information	\$50,000
Vernon, Town of	\$29,550
Westminster, Town of	\$9,500
Wilmington, Town of	\$8,000
Windham County Sheriff	\$7,700
Total Awarded:	\$683,423

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEES (LEPC)	
Award Recipient	Total Paid in FY08
LEPC - 1	\$6,800
LEPC - 2	\$6,800
LEPC - 3	\$9,600
LEPC - 4	\$9,600
LEPC - 5	\$6,800
LEPC - 6	\$4,000
LEPC - 7	\$6,800
LEPC - 8	\$6,800
LEPC - 9	\$6,800
LEPC -10	\$6,800
LEPC - 11	\$6,800
LEPC - 12	\$6,800
LEPC - 13	\$4,000
Total Awarded:	\$88,400

STATE AGENCIES	
Award Recipient	Total Paid in FY08
Agency of Agriculture	\$19,503
Agency of Transportation	\$3,485
Department of Environmental Conservation	\$58,978
Department of Health	\$354,245
Department of Human Services	\$13,624
Department of Labor	\$5,424
Division of Fire Safety	\$25,546
Total Awarded:	\$480,805

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS (RPC)	
Award Recipient	Total Paid in FY08
Addison County RPC	\$20,000
Bennington County RPC	\$14,000
Lamoille County RPC	\$20,000
Northwest RPC	\$19,966
Rutland RPC	\$18,500
So. Windsor RPC	\$20,000
Two-Rivers Ottauquechee PC	\$20,000
Windham RC	\$17,405
Total Awarded:	\$149,871

Organizations Awarded Funds for Emergency Shelter Generators

LOCAL TOWNS/ORGANIZATIONS	
Award Recipient	Amount Awarded
Barnard, Town of	\$8,350
Berlin, Town of	\$9,650
Brandon, Town of	\$12,000
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union	\$25,000
Greensboro, Town of	\$7,410
Hartford, Town of	\$4,400
Manchester, Town of	\$5,713
Middlebury, Town of	\$3,350
Morristown, Town of	\$10,500
Pownal, Town of	\$20,000
Rochester, Town of	\$21,638
Rutland City	\$7,050
Shrewsbury, Town of	\$3,250
Windham, Town of	\$17,000
Total Awarded:	\$155,311

Preparedness and Planning

Preparedness and Planning personnel of Vermont Emergency Management are responsible for emergency and mitigation planning, as well as coordinating with partner organizations to meet those goals. This section writes and updates all documents that outline actions at the State level during an emergency situation and provides guidance for local preparedness and planning.

MAJOR 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Assisted in the State level coordination of response support to local jurisdictions for multiple incidents including two Presidentially declared disasters for flooding in Washington and Windham Counties, and Addison and Franklin Counties.
- Continued to support the update of Local Emergency Operations Plans and Rapid Response Plans that are National Incident Management System compliant.
- Utilized DisasterLAN for numerous disasters and exercises.
- In 2008 more than 450 duty officer calls have been entered into DisasterLAN, the disaster management software for the state, in support of Vermont's Duty Officer Program.
- DisasterLAN became available to State Police Dispatch Centers.
- Mitigation projects approved for City of Montpelier, Barre Town, Moretown, Montgomery and Enosburgh.
- Mitigation planning approved for Chittenden Regional Planning Commission for fluvial erosion risk assessment, local mitigation planning and flood mapping efforts.
- State Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by DHS, FEMA.

DISASTERLAN

DisasterLAN in the State's Emergency Operations Center:

- The State Emergency Communication and Coordination (SECC) module within DisasterLAN allows State Duty Officers to immediately initiate an emergency call that can be responded to and monitored by all DLAN users.
- It affords consistent and time-sensitive situational awareness and communications, with coordination capabilities.

DisasterLAN Training in Vermont:

DisasterLAN was formally offered as a disaster management tool to cities and towns in March, 2008 at no cost to the communities. By the end of the fiscal year nine towns had been trained and have access to DisasterLAN. There are currently 17 more in queue to be trained. During the fiscal year 2008, 237 people from 33 different organizations at State and local levels were trained in DisasterLAN.

STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANNING

Vermont State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP)

Vermont's State Emergency Operations Plan is the framework for the coordination of Vermont capabilities to support local jurisdiction response with state-level resources in compliance with Federal guidelines.

The goal is to develop emergency management potential by utilizing all available resources for the effective response to and recovery from all types of emergencies or disasters. This state-level integrated emergency management document is designed to describe the Vermont emergency-disaster response and serve as a central information source in all phases of comprehensive emergency management.

In addition to updating the Basic Plan VEM reviewed actual responses to incidents, updated State Support Function Annexes, the recovery annex, the terrorism incident annex, the cyber annex, the avian & pandemic influenza annexes, and debris management.

Local Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) and Rapid Response Plans (RRP)

The Emergency Management Coordinator worked with the towns to update the local RRP. Of the 251 towns 57 submitted an updated RRP during fiscal year 2008. There are currently 229 town RRP on file. Local EOPs are also being updated.

State Rapid Assessment and Assistance Team (SRAAT)

Over the past year Vermont Emergency Management utilized the SRAAT capability and deployed teams for local support and coordination assistance for one federally declared disaster in Barre and one additional incident in Middlebury.

HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECTS & PLANNING

The State of Vermont is invested in creating comprehensive mitigation opportunities in all of its emergency management initiatives.

There are a number of programs that directly support mitigation in Vermont: the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) for NFIP insured properties, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM). Each of these programs is designed to reduce the vulnerability of local citizens and property during a disaster, saving lives and money.

State Hazard Mitigation Plan

VEM and State mitigation partners updated the State Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with FEMA requirements.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) allows for Federal mitigation assistance following a presidentially declared disaster. Program funding can be directed to technical assistance for planning and identification of hazard mitigation projects, as well as implementation of mitigation projects.

Vermont Emergency Management distributes the federal funds following a declared disaster under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:

In 2008, there were two Presidentially declared disasters. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program will be implemented for new mitigation projects and planning efforts under this program; newer projects will commence in FY 2009.

Mitigation projects in connection with the prior disasters were concluded in the towns of Grafton, Fairfax, Fairfield, Norwich, and Rochester in FY 2008.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDM-C) Grant Program

In FY 2008, Vermont received federal PDM-C funding (\$106,440) for local mitigation planning, fluvial (riverine) erosion studies, and local flood mapping in Chittenden county

Work is continuing on the State Planning grant for fluvial erosion and flood studies in Lincoln, Bristol, Charlotte, Shelburne, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, Colchester, Strafford, Norwich, Worcester, and other locations around the state. A flood-proofing project is continuing for the Burnham Hall municipal building in the town of Lincoln.

A project was approved for the town of Rupert. VEM also provided assistance to the town of Northfield with its Disaster Resistant University PDM-C planning grant for Norwich University.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program

FMA Technical Assistance and Planning grants were approved to support proactive flood mitigation efforts which will assist the State in achieving its flood mitigation goals and objectives.

Regional and Local Mitigation Planning

Those with FEMA-approved plans include the following jurisdictions: Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Bennington County RPC, Central Vermont RPC, Chittenden County RPC, Lamoille County RPC, Northeastern VT Development Association, Rutland RPC, Southern Windsor RPC and Windham RPC. Those not yet approved include local plans for Northwest Regional Planning Commission and Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC. The recently approved PDM-C FY 08 State Planning grant will assist communities in competing local hazard mitigation plans.

VEM has compiled a database spreadsheet indicating the status of Vermont towns with local mitigation plans, emergency operations plans, rapid response plans, VTrans codes and standards and other public safety information.

Mitigation Training

Grant workshops were conducted for mitigation project development and benefit-cost analysis. These workshops are designed for municipal and regional planners, selectboard members, town managers, road commissioners and engineers.

SEOC INCIDENT ACTIVATIONS & EXERCISE PARTICIPATION

Incidents

- Flooding in Barre, Vermont in July 2007
 - Declared Disaster FEMA-1715-DR
 - Counties Declared for Pubic Assistance- Orange, Washington, Windsor, Addison, Franklin
 - All Counties Declared for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- Middlebury Train Derailment, October 2007
- December Snow Storm, 2007
- December Wind Storm, 2007
- Daylight Savings Time Winter Storm, March 2008
- Father's Day Storm, June 2008

Exercises

- Vermont Yankee exercises (June, August, September, October, 2007 and March, April, 2008)
- Hurricane Preparedness Exercise (April 2007)
- Operation PANEX (December 2007)
- Medical Surge Functional Exercise (June 2008)

Logistics and Operations

The Operations and Logistics sections of Vermont Emergency Management are responsible for providing assistance and training to local emergency managers, emergency planning committees, and community leaders. They assist in the location of and coordination of resources when an event goes beyond what a local community has available during an incident. These sections also inventory all of the hazardous materials stored in the state and assist facilities in the reporting process. Operations and Logistics also oversee the state Duty Officer program. A representative of VEM is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to emergency calls. The DO works with the Supervisory Duty Officer to ensure proper state resources are dispatched or further activation of the state Emergency Operations Center is accomplished when appropriate.

MAJOR 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided training for local emergency management directors throughout the state.
- Supported Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) by regularly attending monthly meetings of all thirteen LEPCs across the state.
- Provided training for the Citizens Emergency Response Teams (CERT).
- Purchased equipment for the CERT teams including trailers in which to store equipment.
- Increased the number of reporting hazardous materials facilities by 10%.
- Provided grant funding to LEPCs for hazardous materials response planning and exercises.
- Increased the number of amateur radio operators (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services) in the state to assist in redundant communication capabilities.
- Assisted in the coordination of testing RACES radio in all Vermont hospitals and Health Department district offices.
- Coordinated with LEPCs to plan food and water Points of Distribution after a disaster for the public to access these necessities. Planned to test the capability of those by exercising them in early 2009.

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC)

The SERC meets quarterly on the 3rd Wednesday of February, May, August, and November. The SERC membership consists of six state agencies and 9 non-state agency positions established by Statute, 20 VSA Chapter 1, Section 30. The state agencies represented are the Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Labor, Agency of Agriculture, and Agency of Transportation. The remaining 9 public member positions are filled with representatives from EMS, Local Government, Regional Planning Commission, Local Emergency Planning Committee, a Hospital, the Fire Service, Law Enforcement, transportation entity required to report chemicals, and a facility required to report EHS chemicals. The following website contains SERC related information:

www.dps.state.vt.us/vem/serc_members.htm

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

There are 13 LEPCs within Vermont. Each one meets on a regular basis to conduct the business of the LEPC. Each and every LEPC is actively involved in promoting planning, training, and exercises, through a variety of funding sources. LEPCs receive financial support from Homeland Security grants, State Emergency Response Commission funding, Citizen's Corps grants, and Hazardous Materials Planning Grants. Some of the LEPCs are currently conducting training and tabletops within their districts to help local jurisdictions understand their roles and responsibilities during emergency events. Contact your local LEPC for more information related to scheduled activities within each district. The mailing addresses for all LEPCs can be found at the following webpage:

www.dps.state.vt.us/vem/lepc_chair.htm

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT (EPCRA)

The federal EPCRA Program is established under federal law 42 USC Chapter 116, and Vermont Statute, 20 VSA, Chapter 1. Each year facilities storing or possessing hazardous materials are required to report inventory levels of these materials prior to March 1st for the preceding calendar year. Tier II Reporting Packages were mailed out to facilities within Vermont during the first week of January 2008. The EPCRA Program received back 2242 Tier II forms from the reporting facilities. This program recently sent the Calendar Year 2008 Tier II reporting package at the end of December, 2009. The fees generated from the filing of these reports are used to support the EPCRA Program, the State of Vermont Hazmat Team, the LEPCs, hazmat training and exercising, and the SERC. The EPCRA Program received \$483,771 from the facilities that reported inventories of chemicals during the reporting period. The following website contains information related to the EPCRA program:

www.dps.state.vt.us/vem/index_hazmat.htm

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PLANNING GRANT (HMEP)

The HMEP Grant Program is an award received from the US Department of Transportation to provide funding for hazardous materials planning and training. The funding for this program comes from the assessment of hazardous materials fees on the transportation of these materials on the highways of the US. Vermont received \$84,172. This year marked the 15th year Vermont has received this award. 11 of the 13 LEPCs applied for and received \$2,800 to support a hazmat related scope or work within their respective districts. The Vermont Fire Academy received \$44,277 from this grant to support hazmat related training within Vermont. The recipients of this training included Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, LEPCs, and Local EMDs. The HMEP Grant funded the training of 761 responders in Vermont.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

The Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) is a federally sponsored system designed to assist in a disaster. The Northern New England group is the only multi state MMRS in the country. The New England Center for Emergency Preparedness based at Dartmouth College is the coordinating group for the NNE MMRS. Each state, Maine New Hampshire and Vermont have a team that can respond in their respective states or assist one of the other members if needed.

The Vermont team has 2 trailers and trucks to respond when requested to by VEM. The team can be on the road within 90 minutes of activation. They have a tent that can be inflated in minutes to serve as a mobile emergency department to provide an advanced level of medical care should it be needed.

MOBILE SUPPORT UNITS

Mobile Support Units (MSU) are specially trained response teams that VEM can activate when they are needed. VSA Title 20 §7 addresses the purpose and fees associated with the MSU. VEM has agreements with the following to provide the specialized services for the State of Vermont.

Colchester Technical Rescue has technical training in swift water rescue, urban search and rescue, confined space and mountain rescue.

Hartford Fire Department can provide high and low angle rope rescue, urban search and rescue, confined space and water rescue.

Stowe Mountain Rescue specializes in mountain rescue and also is a certified swift water team.

Johnson Fire Department provides specialized training in swift water rescue.

The Medical Reserve Corps is based out of the Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington. They provide additional medical support in Bennington County if needed as well as supporting wellness clinics in the area.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

VEM continues to provide local emergency management director (EMD) support by offering regional training sessions throughout the state. The EMD sessions provide attendees with an essential understanding of the roles of EMDs in emergency management preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Topics covered include the four phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation), the role and responsibilities of the EMD, rapid response plan development, and developing an emergency management organization in towns. The sessions also feature an overview of the new State Emergency Operations Plan and the State EOC VEPARDS program. EMD training is designed to assist local EMD's in their efforts to provide their communities with strong consistent emergency management leadership.

Municipal emergency management directors and their associates from fire, rescue, law enforcement, select boards, and elsewhere were invited to attend and expand their knowledge of emergency management. Annually, local government appoint their local emergency management directors.

COMMUNICATIONS READINESS

VEM maintains several state and national communications systems designed to ensure the capability to contact local, state and federal agencies. Several radio systems are tested on a weekly basis. Networks including FEMA National Radio System (FNARS) and the National Warning System (NAWAS) are utilized to contact Federal agencies each week ensuring readiness. Additional communications systems are tested each week within Vermont contacting utilities, the National Weather Service, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), Town Emergency Management Directors, the Vermont Yankee Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), and other emergency service providers within our State.

In circumstances where the public must be notified of an emergency, VEM maintains the statewide Emergency Alert System (EAS). Vermont Emergency Management utilizes the EAS structure to relay local emergency messages via broadcast stations, cable, and wireless cable systems. Our EAS equipment also directly monitors the National Weather Service for local weather and other emergency alerts, which local broadcast stations, cable systems, and other EAS participants may then rebroadcast, providing an almost immediate relay of emergency messages to the public. Each month, VEM issues a required monthly test of the EAS network to ensure operational readiness. The EAS network is also one of the primary notification modes for Vermont Amber Alert system.

The VEM Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services or RACES program continues its efforts to establish a comprehensive emergency communications network utilizing 198 Vermont amateur radio operators. The primary mission of the program is to provide health and welfare emergency communications during disasters or significant failures of telecommunications systems.

In accordance with this mission, fiscal year 2008 resulted in new membership, several exercises and further enhancements to the RACES network's operational capabilities and technology including our 30 station Hospital and Health Department network.

Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) Program

The Vermont Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) Program is federally mandated (44 CFR§ 350) to provide “Reasonable Assurance” that the public health and safety of the citizens living around the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station are adequately protected in the event of a nuclear power station incident. The RERP provides guidance and procedures for state and local responders in the event of a release of nuclear radiation. The RERP program also informs and educates the public about radiological emergency preparedness.

The RERP establishes Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs) that encompass the area surrounding Vermont Yankee, and plans have been created to ensure prompt and effective actions are taken in these areas in the event of an incident. There are two types of EPZs: Plume Exposure Pathway Zone and Ingestion Exposure Pathway Zone. There are six towns in the Plume Exposure Pathway Zone; Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Halifax, Marlboro, and Vernon.



MAJOR 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Graded Exercise – Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts participated in a federally evaluated exercise on October 17, 2007. Vermont successfully passed the exercise.
- Emergency Worker Monitoring and Decontamination – A graded demonstration of our ability to effectively monitor and decontaminate emergency workers from the EPZ was successfully demonstrated on November 20, 2007.
- MS-1 Drill – An annual requirement of Vermont Yankee, the Medical Services 1 drill at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital on December 7, 2007 was assisted by the Vermont Emergency Management Staff from the Brattleboro Office.
- Transportation Drill – In May 2008, a drill was held to test the ability and availability of transportation resources to transfer school, child care, nursing home, and special needs populations in the event of an emergency. A staging area was established and over 40 buses and ambulances successfully responded to facilities to demonstrate the capabilities.
- Special facility drill leads to statewide waypoint initiative – During the planning process of the transportation drill, special facilities (hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living), VEM, and the Vermont Department of Health met to discuss emergency evacuation and relocation plans. Out of those meetings, a plan to relocate those populations to a location outside the EPZ was developed. That plan is the basis for a statewide waypoint initiative for all hazard response.
- Child Care transportation routes established – Another initiative to come out of the transportation drill were child care routes. There are now routes identified for buses to drive and pick up at child care locations that need transportation in an emergency.

- Town plans revised and completed – All of our local plans and procedures were revised and updated.
- State plans revised and completed – All of our state plans and procedures were revised and updated.
- Developed a 5-yr plan for instrumentation changes – A five year plan has been developed to switch instrumentation to newer equipment and away from civil defense era equipment.
- Tri-state communications and calendar working group – Committees have been established with representatives from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to establish better communications in the area around Vermont Yankee, and to standardize the annual Vermont Yankee calendar.
- DisasterLAN Training provided to all EPZ towns – DisasterLAN, Vermont's online emergency management tool has been brought to the local level with the EPZ as one of the first regions trained in its use. The towns around Vermont Yankee are now able to integrate better with the State Emergency Operation Center during drills and emergencies.
- Completed office staffing – The Vermont RERP offices became fully staffed.
- Increased funding to towns and Emergency Management Directors – The budget meetings for FY 2009 identified additional funding for Emergency Management Directors in the six EPZ towns. Each EMD will be given a stipend ranging from \$15,000-\$20,000 based on the expanded work responsibilities for the radiological program.



SIX PHASE APPROACH

The RERP program meets its goals through the following six phases:

Planning

The program staff prepare, review, revise, publish, and distribute over 100 emergency response plans for many response organizations, response facilities, schools, child care centers, nursing homes, and hospitals, as well as other critical facilities that would respond in the event of a radiological incident.

Coordination

Program staff coordinate nuclear emergency plans and procedures, and facilitate the involvement of participant organizations in the preparedness process. Each year there are a number of improvement issues involving multiple organizations, federal agencies, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the states of New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. RERP is instrumental in resolving these issues through collaboration with the participating entities.

Training

The radiological training program ensures that first responders, town officials, and other emergency workers are properly prepared for a radiological emergency. Program staff develop, conduct, and evaluate annual training, drills, and exercises to ensure state and local responders and officials are properly prepared for an emergency. The training group consists of a full time training coordinator and adjunct instructors, all of which are very knowledgeable in radiation and emergency response. Twenty-seven radiological trainings were held for a total of 314 state and local responders.

Preparedness

The RERP program staff coordinates preparedness issues with a number of federal, state, and local response organizations to ensure "Reasonable Assurance" through planning, coordination, and training. Facilities in Westminster and Wilmington are designated as reception centers to receive evacuees from the EPZs and provide services such as radiological monitoring, decontamination, reunification, and temporary sheltering.

Our radiological instrumentation and dosimetry went through annual recalibration as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Our calibration vendor is able to calibrate and return instruments within a two week period, significantly decreasing time the instruments are out of service.

There were twelve (12) monthly notification drills conducted. The monthly drills consist of sending simulated messages to the State Warning Point (SWP), and approximately eighty five (85) State and EPZ responders are contacted by the State Warning Point.

Resource Allocation

The program provides funding for communities, organizations, and State agencies to assist them in being prepared for a radiological incident. Four budget meetings were held in the months of August and September 2007 to prepare the FY 2009 RERP budget for the EPZ towns and participating agencies.

Administration

This program provides financial management, support services and logistics to participant organizations. There are a total of 8 RERP staff to coordinate all of the activities for the radiological program efforts from offices in the Emergency Management Division office in Waterbury, as well as from the Brattleboro office in the Brattleboro Municipal Building.



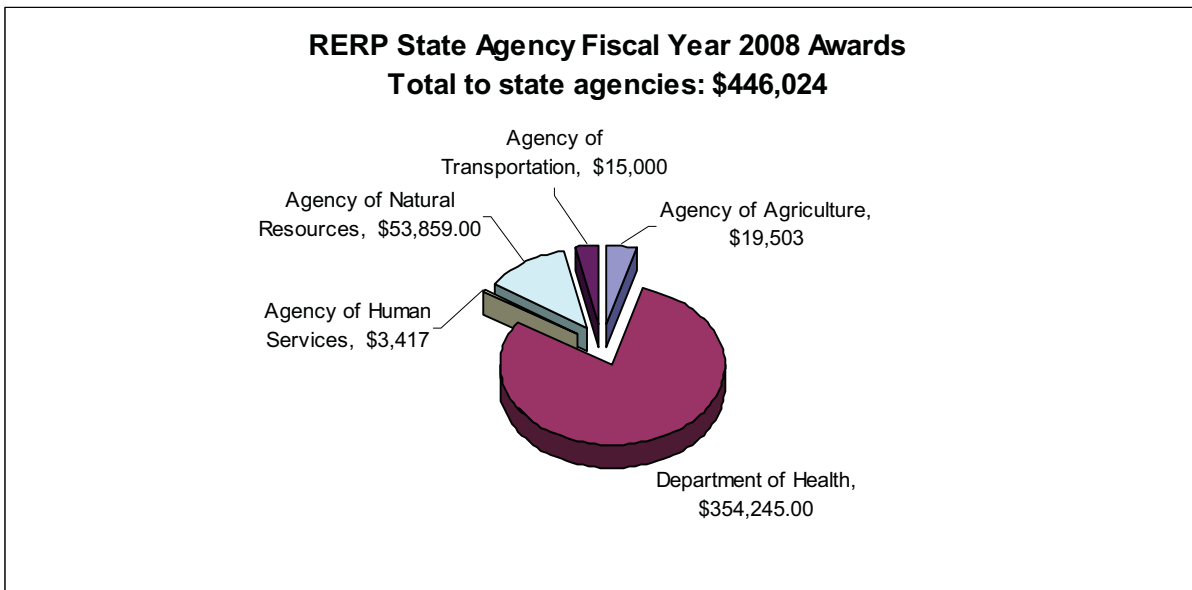
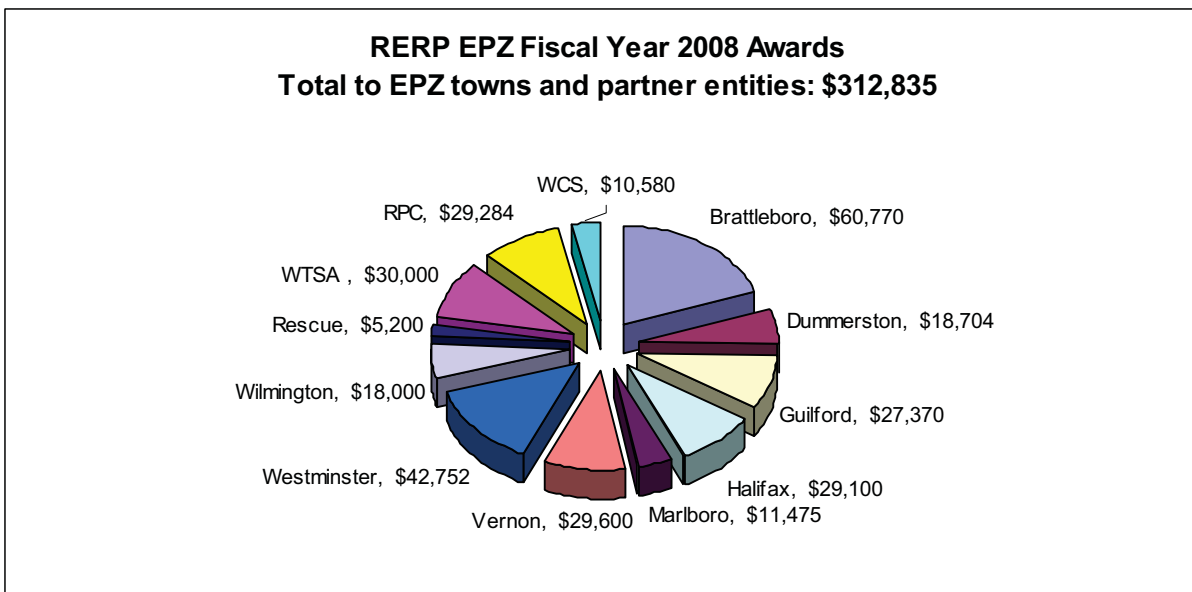
SUMMARY OF DRILLS AND EXERCISES

- Post-Plume Sampling Team Drill
 - Sept 20, 2007 Westminster
- Evaluated Exercise
 - Oct 17, 2007
- Emergency Worker Radiological Monitoring & Decontamination Evaluation
 - Nov 20, 2007
- Medical Services 1 Drill
 - Dec 7, 2007
- Plume Tracking Team Drills
 - Aug 8, 2007
 - Sep 27, 2007
 - April 30, 2008
- Transportation Drill
 - March 20, 2008
 - April 17, 2008
 - May 28, 2008

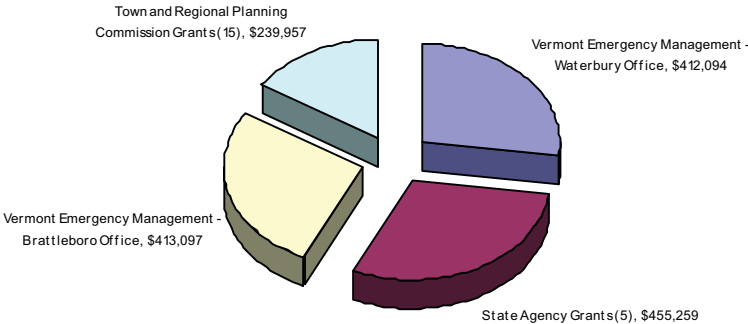


FUNDING

The fiscal year 2008 RERP budget was \$1,696,435.00 as approved by the legislature in May 2007. From that amount, the funds were dispersed in the following manner:



RERP Fiscal Year 2008 Expenditures
Total Expended: \$1,520,407



VEM Management



**Thomas Tremblay, Public
Safety Commissioner**



Barbara Farr, VEM Director



**Ross Nagy, Deputy
Director, Preparedness
and Planning**



**Peter Coffey, Deputy
Director, Operations
and Logistics**

VEM Staff



**Mark Bosma
Public Information
Officer**



**Christine Brown
Regional Outreach
Coordinator**



**Karen Smith
Grants Specialist**



**Randy Bronson
HazMat Compliance
Program Manager**



**Rob Schell
Chief of Field
Operations**



**Tom Woodard
Emergency Management
Specialist**



Erica Dodge
Emergency Planner



Ray Doherty
Mitigation Planner



John Mangione
IT Specialist



Bob Weinert
Emergency Management
Coordinator



Kim Bresett
Administrative Assistant



Sue Chalmers
Switchboard/Receptionist



Lew Stowell,
RERP Program Specialist



Jaclyn Harman
RERP Program
Assistant



John Angil
RERP Manager



Richard Cogliano
RERP Training
Coordinator



Charles Dissinger
RERP EPZ Local Planner



David Emery
RERP EPZ Local
Coordinator

Not pictured: Laura Conway RERP Administrative Assistant