

Committee Chair Brad LaRose kicked off the monthly Safety Committee Meeting by asking that introductions be given around the table for all attendees that were present.

Chief LaRose announced that Patrick Stewart is leaving Essex Rescue and taking a new position in Burlington working for the Burlington Fire Department. Best wishes to Patrick on his new position with the BFD and for all that he has done for the community in the Town of Essex.

The members gave comments and opinions regarding whether meetings were considered public or not. The members were in agreement to keep the meetings as is. The committee is informal and is not intended to be a "public body". Further, due to the sensitivity of some topics, the meetings are not intended to be public. However, notes of the meetings are posted on the PD website as a means of informing the public as to what is being discussed. The notes are a skeleton of information that is discussed.

Kate Brayton, Director of the Community Justice Center, gave a presentation about the Reparative Justice programs that are in place in some of our schools and the community. Kate provided handouts to the members which included a power point presentation. CJC created a reparative board at EMS. The organization accepts referrals of low level crime. Twenty volunteers review the cases and affected parties are allow to participate in the repair process. The restorative system deals with the relationship that was harmed. There is a group of high school students who sit on a volunteer board reviewing the middle school cases. These are cases that don't rise to a criminal level. Kate also handed out a FAQ for Parents sheet that answers several commonly asked questions. There is a CJC website that you can visit at www.essexcjc.org. This is a tremendous program for the community.

Mike Collins from IBM Emergency Services engaged the attendees in a round table discussion about the management of a chemical release. A scenario was given of a fuming red nitric acid spill that was dropped on the floor. The hierarchy of protection is: Life – Environment – Property – Continuous Operations. Mike showed a photo of nitric acid fumes.

There are informational resources that can be handed out in the schools and businesses.

FYI. When a 911 call comes in, the media is notified via scanners and most likely on the way to the area in distress. First responders should be aware of media personnel present and social media. Formulate and deliver a common message to give to the media. Stick to a unified message so the media doesn't get an incorrect story. Counseling may also need to be brought in if the incident was traumatizing to the students and/or staff. The fire department will not clean up the room of the incident. Special Haz Mat unit must be called. Who declares the room safe again? Most likely the EPA or NAR. Return back to normal operations.

Be prepared in the event of an emergency. Mike referred to the severe weather events that happened during the recent snow storm in Atlanta. The Red Cross is not necessarily able to provide everything that is needed, especially in the early stages of an incident. For example, the schools had to plan for feeding the children that spent the night at the school – cafeteria staff was not well prepared for the unusual event. We should think about how a school or business would handle a crisis like this. Be prepared.