

Guest speaker: Rich Long, Director of Security, Champlain College

Rich created the first safety plan at the college. The policy is updated twice a year.

Rich presented handouts to the group on The Emergency Response Plan for Champlain College. There are two parts to the plan – the operations piece and the administrator’s piece. The Operations people decide what needs to be done. The administrative structure is set up of five levels of responses. Level 1 - Minor incidents / Level 5 severe incidents. A major incident requires an operation room where response planning takes place.

Rich went over the makeup of the emergency crew. There is an Operations team and a Policy Team. Champlain has local agreements with other organizations to help accommodate issues such as emergency housing and police response requirements.

There is an emergency alert tree that alerts members within 5 seconds of initiation.

Rich explained a recent emergency exercise that tested the system for deficiencies. Potential problems were identified and the college did not hesitate to spend money to correct them. For example, a generator was installed.

The College’s Incident Command structure was reviewed – there is one structure, one command. However, the system plans for unified command when necessary.

Rich talked about man-made and natural catastrophes. The college trains freshman on safety for 1 ½ hours the second day of each school year. The college instituted a program titled, “Keeping Champlain Safe” as a reference guide. All staff and faculty spend one hour with Rich going through his power point presentation. He promotes, “make yourself safe”, “take the person next to you if you can”, “do what you can”. Think for yourself. Run, hide, or take cover.

Specific situations reviewed include suspicious people, disruptive people, and casualty incidents. In the event of an incident warnings/notices will go out with initial information which is updated as appropriate. Rich is also on UVM’s Alert System and can forward information to students, staff and faculty in seconds.

Dublin and Montreal campuses (part of Champlain College) are also trained on safety. Rich travels there every January to give training.

Incidents of self-harm have significantly increased at area colleges this year. Such incidents generally increase in the spring, after spring break and before the end of the school year.

This meeting is the last of the 2013-14 school year. The next meeting is planned for October and will likely be held at the new police station.