

Minutes:

School Public Safety Committee

December 17, 2013

Rob Schell, Vermont Emergency Management Chief of Field Operations, introduced the group to the VTAlert (All Hazards Alerting and Notification System) VTALERT.gov

The system is a real time online system that can provide public safety information to anyone who subscribes. The public must enroll online at VTAlert.gov in order to receive the information that is made available.

The system is highly customizable. Users will create accounts, then chose their local area and what types of alerts they wish to receive, as well as which delivery system they prefer to use to receive the alerts to include a choice or combination of text, email, telephone (cell and landline), fax, pager, social media, or via any other device that connects to the internet.

Utilizing the system, the state Emergency Operations Center VT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and partners can:

- Prepare and release Emergency Alert System messages.
- Prepare and distribute press releases and special notifications regarding conditions
- Post local and state road closures
- Post public health alerts
- Post locations of emergency shelters
- The National Weather Service can issue storm Watches and Warnings
- Issue evacuation warnings
- Automatically populate social media with information above

In the aftermath of a storm the state and federal government can post notifications about disaster aid to individuals and communities.

First Call – Confidentiality Issues – Annalisa Anderson

Annalisa Anderson, a supervisor with First Call, provided a document regarding the specifics of what First Call can do. Discussion ensued regarding the contents of the document and issues regarding the confidentiality of the information they receive. Annalisa emphasized that safety always trumps confidentiality and that they do not need consent from a parent or guardian when there is a need to notify police to complete their duty to warn.