



**Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of  
the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3)  
Committee Meeting – Monday July 11, 2016**

**PDE+P Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2016**  
*Approved at PDEP meeting 8-8-2016*

**Attendance:**

Members Present:

Bill Tyler	CoChair, DC3 Member, Batt. Chief Novato Fire, Fire Marshal
David Peery	MMWD Safety & Risk Manager
Frank Cox	CoChair, DC3 Member, OES Auxiliary, OES trainer
Catherine Way	Mayor, City of Larkspur, member, MCCMC
Garry Lion	DC3 member, Marin Economic Forum
Maggie Lang	CERT Coordinator, Get Ready / Southern Marin
Philippa Lockwood	ARC Disaster Program Specialist / MIDC contact
Terry Scussel,	Access & Functional Needs - Develop Disability.

Members Excused or absent:

James Wickham	PG&E Safety + Preparedness Specialist
John Bruckbauer	San Rafael Emergency Management Coordinator
Tom Roberts	AFN Communities: Whistlestop Chief Op Officer

Members of Public Present

Christie Neill	Battalion Chief, MCFD <a href="mailto:cneill@marincounty.org">cneill@marincounty.org</a> ,
Todd Lando	FIRESafe Marin <a href="mailto:toddlando@firesafemarin.org">toddlando@firesafemarin.org</a>
Lori Schifrin	MMRC training officer, CERT, etc. / <a href="mailto:lori.sch@att.net">lori.sch@att.net</a>
Joshua Szarek	Neighborhood Response Group Coordinator for Larkspur Corte Madera areas <a href="mailto:joshuaszarek@gmail.com">joshuaszarek@gmail.com</a>

Handouts distributed:

- Agenda, PDEP Monday July 11, 2016 version (a)  
(Note: The April + June PDEP meetings were cancelled.)
- Draft Minutes of PDE+P meeting of May 2, 2016 version (d)
- West Marin Disaster Council (WMDC) Minutes May 26, 2016
- Email 6-9-16 Anne Sands with picture WMDC marchers Western Weekend Parade
- Emails 7/7/2016 Tom Roberts / F Cox re Marin Community Foundation grants to NGOs
- Email 7/7/16 FCox re Draft Internal Study Marin Transit Mobility Mgmt June 2016. See: [http://www.marintransit.org/pdf/planning/Draft\\_Senior\\_Study.pdf](http://www.marintransit.org/pdf/planning/Draft_Senior_Study.pdf)
- Webpage re Marin Amateur Radio Society classes <http://w6sg.net/site/education>
- PDEP Contact Sheet dated 5-3-2016
- “2015 Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan CWPP Update” One page.  
See <http://firesafemarin.org/cwpp> for a downloadable copy of the 2016 Draft.
- FireSafeMarin “Homeowner’s Guide to Fire Safe Practices in Marin Co.”<sup>1</sup>
- Folding Brochure on fire preparedness from [www.fireadapted.org](http://www.fireadapted.org)

**I. Welcome, Introductions,**

- Bill Tyler called meeting to order at Central Marin Police Community room est 1302 hr., and asked members and attendees to identify themselves. Maggie Lang noted she has changed her personal email from a Yahoo account to: [Maggielang101@gmail.com](mailto:Maggielang101@gmail.com)
- PDEP members J. Bruckbauer, T. Roberts, and J. Wickham were excused.

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<sup>1</sup> A downloadable PDF of the Homeowner’s Guide can be found here:  
<http://www.marincounty.org/~media/files/departments/ff/prevention/defensible-space/marin-landscape-brochurerev2.pdf>



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- Bill welcomed BC Christie Neill, MCFD, and Todd Lando, FireSafeMarin.org as our guest speakers.

### Review Minutes

- Catherine moved, Maggie 2<sup>nd</sup>, the May 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes were approved
- (Note: The April + June PDEP meetings were cancelled.)

## II. Community Fire Protection Plan – Current Draft

- BC Christie Neill MCFD and Todd Lando from FireSafeMarin<sup>2</sup> used a PowerPoint presentation to summarize elements of Marin County's Fire history, ecology, FireSafeMarin, and the outline the current Draft of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).<sup>3</sup>
- Christie outlined a few key moments in Marin County fire history, including:
  - 1923 Ignacio Fire: est 40K acres, 5,358 structures lost
  - 1929 Mill Valley Fire: 2,500 acres, 110 structures lost
  - 1945 Carson Fire: 10K acres, with some structures loss
  - 1995 Vision fire: 12,354 acres, with 48 structures lost.
- Should fires break out over these same areas today, the loss of homes and other structures would be far greater, as detailed in the CWPP.
- FireSafeMarin FIRESafe MARIN is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization started In the aftermath of the Oakland Hills fire in 1991. It's members include representatives from:
  - Homeowners and neighborhoods
  - Community service organizations
  - Emergency management agencies
  - Fire departments
  - Insurance companies
  - Public land managers
  - Utility companies
- FireSafeMarin managed more than \$816,472 in grants awarded during 2014-2015. In 2016 several new grants were awarded to fund wildfire prevention projects, bringing the three year funding total to \$1,130,773.
- The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a written plan describing wildfire hazards and mitigation measures for a community. Implementing a CWPP is an important means for Marin residents to address wildfire threats. CWPPs are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, passed by Congress in 2003. Marin's CWPP was last updated in 2005, and the 2016 Draft CWPP is now online.
- The purpose of a CWPP is to "reduce wildfire risk to communities, municipal water supplies, and other at-risk land through a collaborative process of planning, prioritizing, and implementing hazardous fuels reduction projects."
- As required by law, the Marin CWPP was collaboratively developed among local and state offices, private land management stakeholders and community members to identify and promote fire fuel reduction efforts and recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the plan area.
- FireSafeMarin retained experts from Sonoma Technology, Inc (STI) of Petaluma who analyzed fuel, topography and other elements subject to major fires to develop the

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<sup>2</sup> FIRESafe MARIN website: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/> See the current Board of Directors Executive Committee listed online at: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/about/board>

<sup>3</sup> The July 2016 Draft to the Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) can be downloaded from the FireSafeMarin.org site: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/cwpp> See: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/projects/cwpp-update/what-is-a-cwpp>



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Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS). This computerized system in turn helped create multiple County maps displaying fire behavior projections for the County with variable input (wind, temperature, relative humidity, etc.) for both planning and tactical fire response.

- Christie and Todd displayed several key maps from the CWPP to illustrate this process, and predict high fire risk to most of the developed Marin County, notably including:
  - Figure 12. An average fire season potential flame length map (see page 47 of the CWPP), and
  - Figure 14. Composite map of population density, flame length, and rate of spread for the average fire season model scenario (Pg 49, CWPP).
  - Figure 18. Composite map of population density, flame length, and rate of spread for the extreme fire conditions scenario. (Pg. 53, CWPP).
- What these and multiple other tables, maps, and conclusions articulated in the CWPP demonstrate is that most of urbanized Marin County is in a High to Very High fire risk zone, and is in no way confined to open space, park, agricultural, or West Marin zones, all of which carry obvious risks of wildland fires as well.
- The Draft Marin CWPP makes 5 primary recommendations<sup>4</sup>
  1. Continue to identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property, and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, wildlife habitat, and other values of functioning ecosystems.
  2. Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning related to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.
  3. Support and continue to participate in the collaborative development and implementation of wildland fire protection plans and other local, county, and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.
  4. Increase awareness, knowledge, and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and fuels reduction activities, and fire prevention through fire safe building standards.
  5. Integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state, and federal responsibility areas.
- In answer to a question Joshua asked, it was stated the FireSafe Marin maps, GIS layers, and analysis would be made available to County, city and town Public Works departments for local use. Fire mitigation and risk reduction grants managed by FireSafe Marin can help local efforts, as well.
- Marin faces continuing risks in multiple areas, particularly:
  - Evacuation / Fire response ingress & egress over narrow, winding roads lined with dense vegetation.
  - Inconsistent building codes across various local jurisdictions designed to reduce structure ignitability in both new and refurbished buildings.
- Historically in California, residential buildings in the wildland urban interface (WUI) zone have been the primary fuel and ignition source for fire spread – even more than adjacent flammable vegetation, due to the rapid promulgation of fire embers in dry wind events through residential zones.
- Bill Tyler briefly referenced the California Fire Code, built on International Fire Code, particularly Chapter 7A, promotes Fire-Resistant-Rated Construction not only for newly constructed buildings, but also for substantially remodeled buildings. Some cities in Marin County have not yet adopted these standards in permitting remodeling of homes and other buildings.

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<sup>4</sup> CWPP Recommendations: page 67 et. Seq. of the Plan.



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- Every year, the California Fire Code amendments address these issues, and local cities and towns have 180 days to amend and adopt, (Strike –“or reject”) the proposed building codes. Some Marin jurisdictions have yet to adopt a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code, or adopt a WUI map that identifies these high fire hazard zones and identify where these more restrictive building standards would apply for building permit purposes, focusing rather on direct vegetation management issues, given local fire risks.
- Frank commented further the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) jointly announced the 2016 Bay Area Earthquake Plan, an update to the 2008 version, referred to as the San Francisco Bay Area Earthquake Readiness Response: Concept of Operations Plan (CONOP).<sup>5</sup>
- These plans make it clear that the likelihood of a catastrophic earthquake occurring in California, similar to the devastating Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes, in the next 30 years has increased to a 72 percent probability, per the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Such quakes, in turn, can ignite urban firestorms, particularly in unprepared and easily ignitable structural zones.<sup>6</sup>
- PDEP members reflecting on these risks concluded that a presentation on the CWPP, perhaps with reference to the July 2016 Bay Area Earthquake Plan, would be an excellent agenda item to present at the September 8, 2016 DC3 meeting.

### III. PDEP survey of DC3 members – Where are we now?

- Although PDEP has received excellent presentations from many sources in recent years, including M’BER business resiliency, preparedness training including Get Ready & Get Ready 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, OES + EOC operations, post-Napa quake lessons, neighborhood preparedness, West Marin senior and related services, Red Cross plans, Access and Functional Needs populations (AFN), regional and local transportation issues, CERT training and exercises, congregational preparedness, Shakeout drills, MCOE preparedness, Lake County fire lessons, Drought and storm issues, and many more issues as reflected in our (recent only) minutes<sup>7</sup>, we have not formally asked DC3 members for their concerns, priorities, and requested projects.
- DC3 meets quarterly each year, but has not scheduled or discussed strategic goals as a group since 2013. Two of the Strategic Goals approved by DC3 in 2013, notably the mandatory DSW / EOC training proposal, and also better coordination among various Countywide preparedness training efforts, may yet be adopted by the County.

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<sup>5</sup> Cal OES has (currently encrypted) links to the 2016 Bay Area Earthquake Plan here: <http://www.oesnews.com/cal-oes-fema-strengthen-bay-area-catastrophic-earthquake-preparedness/> and <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/PlanningPreparednessSite/Documents/CA%20Catastrophic%20Incident%20Base%20Plan%20Conops.pdf> The 2008 CONOP at pg 5 concluded: “Wildfires are the most frequent source of declared disasters in California and account for the third-highest combined losses (after earthquakes and floods). Since 1950, 56 percent of federally declared disasters in California have resulted from fires. Wildfires burn half a million acres every year. The interface between urban and wild land is particularly dangerous, as demonstrated by the Oakland Hills fire in 1991 and the fires of 2003 and 2007 in Southern California.” See a 5+ minute FEMA video on the 2016 Bay Area Earthquake Plan online at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/118139>

<sup>6</sup> The Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. See esp: <http://www.sfmuseum.org/1906/06.html> and <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/nca/1906/18april/index.php>

<sup>7</sup> PDEP & DC3 recent approved minutes: [http://marinsheriff.org/about.aspx?gi\\_id=51](http://marinsheriff.org/about.aspx?gi_id=51)



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- As the only standing committee of the Marin Disaster, Citizen's Corps Council, PDEP is under an obligation to draw on the experience and concerns of DC3 members and its leadership.
- Several options for us to reach out to DC3, and work more closely with its members, and to be more responsive to their concerns, were discussed.
- Philippa moved, and Catherine seconded, that PDEP request DC3 chair Judy Arnold that PDEP create and conduct a survey of DC3 members. Motion carried.
- PDEP members are invited to help the CoChairs draft a proposed survey instrument that could assess what DC3 members believe is the current state of disaster readiness in their various constituencies, discern what unmet needs there might be, and compile their proposals for enhancing the County's disaster readiness and resources.
- The proposed survey drafts will be discussed at the August 8<sup>th</sup> PDEP meeting, and potentially included as part of the DC3 9/8/16 agenda.

#### IV. Updates from PDEP members

##### - MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine reported that Larkspur and Corte Madera held meetings to discuss formalizing the interim joint fire command structure between their fire agencies, building on the success of the Central Marin Police Authority consolidation. A subcommittee, including retired fire Chief Jim Irving, of Southern Marin Fire Protection District, CMPA Chief Todd Cusimano, and key council members will review these proposals.
- Their success may lead to similar measures in several Marin jurisdictions.
- Catherine also re-introduced Joshua Szarek, recently hired Neighborhood Response Group Coordinator for Larkspur and Corte Madera areas. PDEP is pleased to join many Marin disaster preparedness and response efforts in welcoming Joshua to his new position.

##### - West Marin

- PDEP distributed the West Marin Disaster Council (WMDC) Minutes May 26, 2016 and a news clip of WMDC marchers Western Weekend Parade.

##### - Emergency Managers Group, other Public Preparedness

- John Bruckbauer was unable to attend the July meeting. This portion of the agenda will be moved to the August agenda.

##### - MIDC and Red Cross Events:

- Philippa outlined some recent activities:
- Red Cross:
  - ARC will hold a Red Cross Shelter Drill in Petaluma Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from Sonoma, Marin, and Mendocino will be invited, and will simulate a unified command structure responding to an event with volunteers complaining of disaster injuries and other issues that can be anticipated.
  - Joshua suggested scouts might be able to assist as volunteers.
  - Philippa mentioned ARC is open to suggestions such as this, but all volunteers must be managed to support the training goals.
- MIDC
  - The Marin Interagency Disaster Council (MIDC)<sup>8</sup> recently met at Marin Interfaith Council<sup>9</sup> offices, and continues to focus on an assessment of what each MIDC member's resources, needs, and mission might be in disaster preparedness and response.

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<sup>8</sup> MIDC webpage: <http://www.midcpartners.org/>

<sup>9</sup> Marin Interfaith Council: <https://www.marinifc.org/>



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- MIDC will meet at the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL)<sup>10</sup> next month.
  - CVNL is reviewing the possibility of handling 'in kind donations' (food, clothing, etc.) in event of a local disaster, in addition to their existing Emergency Volunteer Center (EVC) function. However, no agency in Marin has offered to manage event-wide disaster financial donations.
- Southern Marin / Business Community
- Garry reported that the Marin Economic Forum is currently undergoing some structural changes, but he continues to believe the Forum will actively support the Marin Business Emergency Readiness (M'BER) business resilience and preparedness program.
  - Maggie noted that she expects M'BER materials will be posted on [www.ReadyMarin.org](http://www.ReadyMarin.org) website soon.

### - CERT and Get Ready 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Reports by Maggie Lang:

#### Marin County CERT

- The CERT class held in Marin City recently graduated about 20 persons, and the July Novato CERT class is already filled with registrants.
- The February Train the Trainer CERT class produced valuable instructors who are now helping teach these classes.
- The 30th Anniversary National CERT Conference will be held September 8-10<sup>th</sup> at the NBC Universal Studios in Universal City, CA.<sup>11</sup> Maggie hopes to be able to represent Marin County in that conference.
- Maggie's position as County CERT Coordinator will become unfunded December 31, 2016. She has spoken with Marin Fire Chiefs Association and others about continued funding, perhaps by structuring County CERT as a 501(3)(c) local municipality / nonprofit organization.<sup>12</sup> Maggie will be speaking with County officials soon about continuing this critical service.
- A Marin County CERT Task Force, including John + Lee Howard of Mariner Cove, has met several times to highlight essential steps in organizing neighborhoods. Basic Neighborhood Preparedness materials will be posted on the [www.ReadyMarin.org](http://www.ReadyMarin.org) under a title of 'Ready Neighborhoods'.

#### Get Ready & GR 5th:

- The Get Ready 5<sup>th</sup> program has proven to be one of the best ways to reach families with young children about disaster preparedness. The one hour class, available free to schools throughout the County, sends kids home with simple preparedness assignments that engage the family as a whole.
- PDEP hopes additional GR5th teachers can be found, and that more classes are reached. Maggie has discussed the value of the program with many persons, including MCOE Director Mike Grant.
- Garry suggested a MCCMC support letter to local schools might help publicize this valuable program.
- Get Ready classes continue to be available around the county; some are scheduled & posted locally and others are available upon request at the local fire departments. Classes will be posted on the ReadyMarin website; contact Maggie with dates.

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<sup>10</sup> CVNL: <http://cvnl.org/>

<sup>11</sup> National CERT conference: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/30th-anniversary-national-cert-conference-tickets-25826086520> See also: <http://www.californiavolunteers.org/index.php/CERT/>

<sup>12</sup> 501(c)(3) Organizations: <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p557/ch03.html>



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- Access + Functional Needs communities (AFN):

- Terry Scussel informed us that the State of California has approved a 2016/17 rate increase for Direct Staff Wages, Transportation and to a lesser extent Administration for the various programs and services funded under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Act as provided by Golden Gate Regional Center in Marin County. This is great news as there has not been a funding increase in 10 years.
- Tom Roberts, Whistlestop, was unable to attend the July meeting. His portion of the agenda will be continued to our next meeting.

- Utilities + MMWD

- Dave Peery attended the July meeting almost to the end of the update section, but was called away before he was able to report on MMWD activities. Jim Wickham was unable to attend the meeting. This portion of the agenda will be moved to next meeting.

- Fire Services + County at Large Issues:

- Bill Tyler reported on several major Statewide Fires, including those continually reported on the CalFire Incident Information page.<sup>13</sup>

- OES, Training and other Events:

- Frank outlined a few upcoming training and neighborhood organization events, including:
- Frank continues to attempt to organize a Mont Marin San Rafael Park Neighborhood Response Group, and most recently had John and Lee Howard give us an overview of the efforts in Mariner Cove and Corte Madera / Larkspur communities. Joshua Szarek was able to join us at that meeting. The next meeting is scheduled July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Frank also has been in contact with Lucas Valley HOA and Marinwood CERT on several levels, including a proposed field test of ZELLO 'walkie talkie app'<sup>14</sup> across adjacent neighborhood response groups.
- Marin County participated in the FEMA supported Virtual Table Top Exercise (VTTX) on Earthquakes held June 7<sup>th</sup>. Marin County had more participants in this exercise than any other jurisdiction in the country.<sup>15</sup>
- Multiple additional VTTX programs will be offered, and Frank believes these three issues should get strong support from City, County, and associated agencies:
  - 9/01/2016 VTTX: City without water scenario.
  - 9/13/2016 VTTX: Disaster stress management
  - 9/20/2016 VTTX: Earthquake (repeat).
- On 9/8-12/16 the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) will host its annual Urban Shield regional terrorist exercise.<sup>16</sup> Marin County will participate at several levels, including an EOC 'Yellow Command' PIO and EOC command interaction with other counties.

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<sup>13</sup> CalFire Incident Information page: <http://calfireinformation.weebly.com/>

<sup>14</sup> Zello is a free push-to-talk application for smartphones, tablets, and PCs that simulates a handheld radio function. It allows communication one to one or few, one or few to many, and many to many on a dedicated invitational VOIP channel. It is in use with 65 million users, and may be of value in disaster preparedness and (with some limitations) disaster response. See: <https://zello.com/app>

<sup>15</sup> The four persons attending the VTTX included: Woody Baker Cohn (OES), Frank Cox, Mike McKinley (Sausalito), and Laurie Gordon (Tiburon / Belvedere).

<sup>16</sup> Urban Shield: <http://www.urbanshield.org/index.php/about/bay-area-uasi>



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- The annual Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill is scheduled October 20<sup>th</sup>.<sup>17</sup>
- The Marin County annual EOC level functional exercise will be held November 17<sup>th</sup>, based upon a flood scenario in Ross Valley communities.

**VII. Open Time / Public Comment**

**2:58 PM end of meeting**

- Bill Tyler closed the meeting.

**Next Meetings:**

**PDEP Meetings: 1-3pm Year 2016: (subject to change):**

**8/8, 9/12, 10/3, 11/7, 12/5/2016.**

**Dates to be confirmed**

**Site: PDEP unless otherwise posted: Central Marin Police Community Rm.**

**DC3 Meetings: 3-5pm: 9/8/16, 12/8/16 – usually at new EOF.**

***PDEP\_Minutes 2016-07-11d.docx***

*Approved at 8-8-16 PDEP meeting rev 8-9-16 1530 hr. fcox*

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<sup>17</sup> Great Shakeout: <http://www.shakeout.org/california/>