



**Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of
the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3)
Committee Meeting – Monday November 9, 2015**

PDE+P Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2015
Approved at PDEP meeting 12-7-15

Attendance:

Members Present:

Bill Tyler	CoChair, DC3 Member, Batt. Chief Novato Fire, Fire Marshal
Frank Cox	CoChair, DC3 Member, OES Auxiliary, OES trainer
Garry Lion	DC3 member, Vice Mayor Mill Valley, Marin Economic Forum
James Wickham	PG&E Safety + Preparedness Specialist
John Bruckbauer	San Rafael Emergency Management Coordinator.
Terry Scussel,	AFN communities: Whistlestop, Marin Ventures, IHSS etc.

Members Excused or absent:

Barbara Coler	MCCMC rep, Mayor of Fairfax, CA.
David Peery	MMWD Safety & Risk Manager
Maggie Lang	CERT Coordinator, Get Ready / Southern Marin
Philippa Lockwood	ARC Disaster Program Specialist / MIDC contact

Members of Public Present

Cindy Swift	Fairfax CERT, etc. cindyswift@sbcglobal.net
Lori Schifrin	MMRC training officer, CERT, etc. / lori.sch@att.net
Ursula Hanks	County OES Emerg.Services Coord, uhanks@marinsheriff.org

Handouts distributed:

- Agenda, PDEP Monday 11-9-2015 version a
- Draft Minutes of PDE+P meeting of October 5, 2015 version a
- Marin IJ article “El Niño’s coming: here’s how to prepare’ 10-30-2015
- Philippa Lockwood Email MIDC / ARC report dated Oct 27, 2015
- GovTech.com article “US must be More Aggressive in Protecting Energy Grid from Cyber Attacks”, Oct 22,2 015
- PG&E Brochure “Dig Safely Around Underground Utilities” (call 811).

I. Welcome, Introductions,

- Bill Tyler called meeting to order at Central Marin Police Community room est 1305 hr.
- A description of the handouts was summarized by Frank.

II. Review Minutes

- M/ Garry & Terry 2nd: Draft Minutes of Oct 5, 2015 version (a) were approved.

III SF Bay Area El Niño 97-98 vs Godzilla El Niño 2015-16

- Ursula Hanks, County OES, spoke from a PowerPoint Presentation she initially gave at the CESA conference in San Francisco Nov. 2nd comparing the historic 1997-98 El Niño ‘Pineapple Express storms’ to current projections for this year’s El Niño event.
- The 1998 storms caused some \$2 Billion in damages, requiring 120,000 persons to evacuate, with some 40 Counties declaring disasters across California.
- Throughout the Country, weather damage including ice storms, high winds, large area floods, and increased tornadoes were experienced these years.
- A monthly chart based on data from the Golden Gate Weather Services (published in the Chronicle) for El Niño years 1982-82 and 1997-98 showed precipitation was low in December, but rapidly peaked during the months of January through March.
- Massive mudslides and landslides including beach erosion, collapsed roads, and more accompanied peak precipitation times.



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- The current Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) adjacent to North and South America show a dramatic increase in ocean temperatures this year. Weather experts claim 95% certainty the El Niño event will be comparable or greater than the 1997-98 events.
- This year, major changes in marine ecology occurred, including movement of tropical species into California waters.
- Ursula pointed out in the past 18 years Emergency Managers have learned many lessons, and have enhanced flood forecasting, improved communications capabilities, coordinated Public Information through Joint Information Systems (JICs), made improvements in EOC level management such as WebEOC, and developed stronger agency partnerships.
- Frank recalled helping staff the EOC PIO function during the 1997-98 storms, wherein major levee breaches in Novato endangered the PG&E electrical substation that supplied power to most of Marin County, flooding over Gness Field, and other flood events.

IV Preparing Marin - Drought vs Drench – who is doing what?

- Garry noted systemic changes including climate warming, ocean rise, and Pacific storms such as Hurricane Patricia suggest we will see more severe weather, more often, now.
- Garry summarized the Nov. 2, 2015 Mill Valley report on preparedness for this year's storm season, prepared by Tom Welch, Fire Chief, Bob Peterson, Interim Director of Public Works, Angel Bernal, Chief of Police, and others.¹
- This detailed report identified coordinated responsibilities, including, in part:
 - Police: Monitor creeks, signs, roads, traffic, and alerts.
 - Fire: weather updates, alerts, City EOC, creeks, staff / damage assessments
 - Public Works: sandbags, opening roadways, clearing creeks, etc.
 - Admin / PIO: public information, advise city council, situational oversight.
- Extensive creek and storm drainage clearance has been accomplished, with near real-time online creek flood stage monitoring. Creek webcams have been set up.
- Training drills, including multiple public agencies, CERTs, and others have been accomplished or are now scheduled.
- Jim Wickham reported that PG&E is very closely monitoring weather reports, and plans to pre-stage staff and equipment some 5 days or so in advance of major storm events.
- PG&E has deployed backup power equipment, and expanded vegetation management efforts in advance of the expected storms. Areas subject to mudslides that might rupture underground gas lines are of particular concern.
- The Lake County fire zones particularly may be subject to flash flooding and mudslides.
- Ursula noted County OES schedule a Marin Flood Tabletop Exercise (TTX) for Thursday, November 12th. Multiple agencies have been invited who will review responses to possible cumulative storm events to develop a common operating picture and coordinate response.²
- John Bruchbauer, San Rafael OES, has been meeting with groups such as Villa Marin Retirement Community to help them prepare for winter storms.

¹ The Mill Valley report is downloadable as **Item_6_Winter_Storm_Prep_Report_151102.pdf** : http://cityofmillvalley.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&event_id=386&meta_id=38506
This detailed report was emailed to PDEP members following this meeting. The City of Mill Valley also maintains a very current website with storm related information, including creek level information, creek cameras, and more - See: <http://www.cityofmillvalley.org/Index.aspx?page=826>

² See Marin Sheriff's OES Winter Preparedness sheet at: <http://marinsheriff.org/uploads/documents/Winter%20Storm%20Information%20Sheet.pdf> and the Marin Watershed Guide: http://www.marinwatersheds.org/flood_preparedness.html



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- San Rafael will conduct a TTX for staff the 2nd week in December, and is deploying approximately 5,500 sandbags and 10 tons of sand to city fire stations
- San Rafael OES has just updated a Year 2015 version of the Winter Weather Preparedness guide³ and a 'one stop' winter preparedness webpage that includes a short video on how to prepare sandbags for flooding.⁴
- Terry mentioned that the high tides, storm surges, heavy rains, flooding, and mudslides all combine to present serious risks to persons with Access and Functional Needs (AFN). See Tide Tables⁵
- Frank participated in the Marin Flood Preparedness Week Fair October 24th, compiling the historic Marin flood powerpoint from over 1,800 photos over the last Century or so. He commented Marin County communities have had much more severe flooding over a larger area than most residents know. Several hundred persons attended the fair that included information from multiple agencies: fire, city and County DPW, weather groups, and neighborhood coalitions.
- Bill Tyler attended a City/County EOC level meeting last week that included many departments, school districts, and others to discuss storm preparedness. Dave Jeffries will organize a Novato TTX to help city and special district staff prepare for the event.
- Jim Wickham added that NWS / NOAA predict the impact of El Niño will be worse in Southern California, but these projections continue to move Northward toward the Bay Area.
- Ursula added King Tides can exceed 7 or more feet over normal tide levels in some areas.⁶

V. Updates from PDEP members

- MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Barbara was unable to attend the meeting, but Cindy reported that the Fairfax City Council had signed off on the updated Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- Catherine Way, Larkspur Vice Mayor, has been appointed as the incoming MCCMC representative on the DC3 Council.⁷

- West Marin

- John Bruchbauer summarized West Marin CERT activities, including the recent Nicasio class of October 3rd + 10th, the Bolinas Fire Safety day on October 18 (with photos passed around), the Pancake breakfast on October 25th, and a horse evacuation seminar held that day.

- Emergency Managers Group, other Public Preparedness

³ SR OES Winter Preparedness: http://docs.cityofsanrafael.org/OES/Winter_Weather_Prep_English.pdf
And also http://docs.cityofsanrafael.org/OES/CERT/Winter_Weather_Prep_Spanish.pdf

⁴ SR OES Sandbag Video and more: <http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/oes-hazards-storm>

⁵ Tides: <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/stationhome.html?id=9414290>

⁶ King Tides or perigean spring tides are expected in the San Francisco Region:
November 24, 25, and 26, 2015
December 22, 23, and 24, 2015
January 21 and 22, 2016
<http://california.kingtides.net/>

⁷ Catherine Way, Vice Mayor Larkspur web page: <http://www.ci.larkspur.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=450>



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- John attended a recent meeting of the San Pedro Road Coalition attracted about 230 persons, with disaster preparedness and response being a major item on the agenda.⁸
- John advised he has asked members of the Emergency Manager's Group to advise him of information that should be shared with PDEP.
- MIDC and Red Cross Events:
 - Philippa Lockwood, ARC, was unable to attend the meeting, but provided us a detailed report that was distributed to all members, and Frank summarized from the document. It said:
 - **MIDC:** We last met on Tuesday, October 20th. Per our new rotating MIDC-host schedule, this meeting was hosted by Marin County's Health and Human Services Department.
 - As part of the host's responsibilities in this new meeting structure, Kristen Seatavakin, Program Manager for the H&H Services Department, gave an overview of the department's services and resources as they relate to disaster preparation and response.
 - Various members in attendance also discussed their experiences on the Rocky, Butte, and Valley Fires in the context of lessons learned
 - As discussed during last month's PDEP meeting, these include pre-planning donations management, improved communication (both among partners and with the public), and the improved management of spontaneous volunteers.
 - John Bruckbauer gave a brief presentation of wildfire evacuations processes.
 - Our next meeting is scheduled for January 19th from 2 – 4pm and will be hosted by Ursula Hanks and the Sheriffs' Office.
 - **Red Cross:** In partnership with the Petaluma Fire Department, we had a successful Home Fire Preparedness Campaign (HFPC) Event in Petaluma this past Saturday (October 24th) during which we installed 96 smoke alarms and provided fire safety education to 47 homes in a low-income apartment complex.
 - We have begun meeting with representatives from Fairfax Fire Department to plan our next HFPC Event. In light of the coming winter storms, we have collectively decided to postpone the event from January to March, 2016.
 - As planning for this event progresses, we will be looking to partner with other community organizations such as local Lions or Rotary Club Chapters. To this end, I welcome any relevant suggestions or contact information from the PDEP body.
 - We are also actively rolling out the Pillowcase Project in Marin, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties. (The Pillowcase Project provides disaster preparedness education to youth in grades 3 – 5 and is so named because students are given a Disney-branded pillowcase to take home at the end of the presentation).
 - Our first 2 presentations are scheduled for Cinnabar Elementary in Petaluma for early November with other presentations to be scheduled in the coming months.
 - While we only currently have 1 trained Pillowcase Presenter currently in Marin county, we anticipate be able to train more at our November Training Institute.
- Southern Marin / Business Community
 - In addition to Garry's storm preparedness report (supra) Garry attended a Mill Valley Community capital improvement meeting that included a number of mitigation items. Proposals for funding some \$42 Million dollars were made – substantially more than available funding.

⁸ San Pedro Road Coalition Disaster Preparedness, coordinated by Disaster Prep Committee Co-Chairs: Henry Warren and Milton Davis: <http://sprcoalition.org/disaster-prep/disaster-prep/>



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- Red Cross was contacted multiple times in an effort to gain permission to use some of their modules in the Marin Business Emergency Readiness (M'BER) project. They have not responded to these repeated requests. Garry and Maggie will meet again in an effort to distill concepts from multiple sources, including the former ReadyRating website, to possibly modify them for local use.
- Garry will update DC3 on the December 10th agenda on these changes.
- The Marin Economic Forum is considering possibly contributing about \$10K seed money to initiate the M'BER roll out.

- CERT and GReady 5th

- Although Maggie Lang was attending a Disaster Mental Health workshop, she left John Bruchbauer a detailed CERT Get Ready report that he read to us, including:
 - **CERT:** Basic Classes: Sept. class graduated 24; Nicasio : 20 and Mill Valley graduated 18. Have graduated 190 CERTs this year with 3 more classes in Nov. Tam High class 11/14 & 21, instructors & staff. COM & Autodesk class in November; Dominican University in January.
 - Advanced / Additional Training: Communication workshop , Nov. 7th at Twin Cities Police Dept. 9:00 am -12N ; 50 CERTs attending.
 - Marin CERT Groups: San Rafael CERT has had 5 meetings since last Nov., the last was 10/10 with Smart Train, San Rafael Police Officer on traffic/crowd control and evacuation guidelines.
 - Fairfax CERT has updated their database , scheduled an MMRC first aid class and has had their first meeting with 10 CERTs. Get Ready class held with 40 attendees. Will work with San Anselmo & Larkspur CERT groups in fall.
 - Teen CERT- looking at starting foundation in West Marin (Tomales HS) and Tam High. Rotary's Interact Club may be involved.
 - Ready/Marin website: looking at more ways to push info at to residents. Ready Businesses delayed due to change in Ready Rating website but will get basic information up soon. Ready Neighborhoods up next.
 - 1st Advanced CERT training of 2016 at Humane Society 1/30/2016.
 - Year 2016 training dates out soon. See: <http://readymarin.org/calendar/>
 - Promotion: Flyers, brochures, 4x4 banners & IJ ads.
 - Train the Trainer 2/18 in San Rafael.
 - **Get Ready:** Classes around the county; on website if dates provided.
 - Get Ready 5th Grade: starting to teach in Mill Valley.
- John added that an advanced CERT class involving animals in disasters will be scheduled at the Humane Society for January 30th, and a Train the Trainer class is being considered for February 18 2016.

- Access + Functional Needs communities (AFN):

- Terry has recently been appointed to the Golden Gate Regional Center Advisory Committee,⁹ and will be urging additional training and preparedness efforts in residential homes, day care programs, transportation services and other AFN based services.

- Utilities + MMWD

- David was unable to attend the October meeting,¹⁰ but provided Frank with a detailed report received shortly after the PDEP meeting.

⁹ Golden Gate Regional Center: <http://www.ggrc.org/about-us/management-a-governance#MAC>

¹⁰ Dave Peery, MMWD was involved in MMWD emergency operations planning on Nov 9th. He advised the MMWD Warehouse Training room has been remodeled to include items (five very large TV monitors, twelve additional telephone outlets, twenty computer outlets, storage for Dam Inundation binders and coax cable for radio base stations. This room will be our new OES room going forward



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- Jim Wickham distributed a PG&E brochure encouraging persons doing any excavation work to first call 811 to avoid digging into underground gas or electric conduits.
 - Jim will speak at a Mill Valley CERT class on avoiding injuries from downed wires and similar risks, and will speak at a Napa Rotary meeting Nov. 10th.
 - Frank mentioned he had just read Ted Koppel's book: **'Lights Out'** detailing the risk of a large cyberattack on the Nation's Electric Grid.¹¹ The book basically advises the Nation is currently experiencing continuing hacking attacks on the Grid. If coordinated and massed against the Grid these attacks, whether from hostile nations, terrorists, or others, could cut the power to large regions of the Country for prolonged periods – many months or more. Without power – millions of people could be without adequate communication, lights, pumps for drinking and waste water, gasoline, heating, elevator access to urban or large buildings, medical devices, and much more. Such an attack would be devastating.
 - Jim advised that following events such as the sophisticated assault on PG&E Corp's Metcalf Transmission Substation located outside of San Jose, California on April 16, 2013, in which gunmen fired on 17 electrical transformers, causing over \$15 million worth of damage, PG&E continues to work closely with DHS and other agencies to reduce the risk of a sophisticated or terrorist assault on the Grid.¹²
 - PG&E is building facilities near Vacaville and Sacramento in part to avoid such risks.
- Fire Services + County at Large Issues:
- Bill reported the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)¹³ public meetings have been held at multiple sites in Marin County that will in coming months result in a Countywide fire mitigation, preparedness, and response plan that will include sophisticated GIS based fire models, public priorities, and more.
 - A CWPP plan is part of the State Fire Plan, and is required before Marin County might become eligible for a \$120K Grant drawn from State Responsibility Area (SRA) fees under the the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA).
 - Grant funds for a variety of projects, such as chipper days, vegetation removal, better maps, and such are managed by the Marin CountyFire Safe Council¹⁴
- OES, Training and other Events:
- Frank outlined the excellent Advanced CERT class on communications held November 7th, attended by perhaps 50 CERTs Countywide.
 - Frank is scheduled to give another new employee EDAPR class December 3rd
 - Frank and Bill plan to meet with County OES officials in the near future to get a current status on the PDEP authored / DC3 approved DSW training for government employees proposals. Particularly, at the September 10th DC3 meeting, Disaster Services Chair

should emergencies happen within the county and within our own organization. The future Emergency Drill for our Bon Tempe Treatment Plant and Phoenix Dam locations will take place on Wednesday, January 27th at the facility. Planning is currently underway which involves Cal Fire, Marin County CUPA, MMWD Safety and Marin County FEMA personnel.

¹¹ See the Emergency Management review of the book, and this concept, at: www.emergencymgmt.com/emergency-blogs/disaster-zone/booklightsoutacyberattackbytedkoppel.html and www.govtech.com/security/US-Must-Be-More-Aggressive-in-Protecting-Energy-Grid-from-Cyberattacks.html

¹² Metcalf Sniper attack on PG&E Substation: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metcalf_sniper_attack

¹³ Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) www.forestsandrangelands.gov/communities/cwpp.shtml

¹⁴ Marin CountyFire Safe Council: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/>



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BOS member / Director of Emergency Services Judy Arnold expressed interest in Frank's proposal that DC3 update DC3's Strategic Goals at our next meeting, including the DSW / EOC staff proposals.

- Frank will be meeting with the Mont Marin / San Rafael Park Board Nov. 10th and the Marinwood CERT group Nov. 11th in an effort to promote CERT in North San Rafael.
- Frank also will participate in the OES Flood TTX scheduled Nov. 12th.

VI. Open Time / Public Comment

2:40 PM end of meeting

- Bill Tyler closed the meeting.

Next Meetings:

PDEP Meetings: 1-3pm Year 2015: (subject to change): 12/07/2015

**Tentative 2016: 1/11/16 (avoid NY weekend), 2/1, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/6, 7/11, 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: 12/10/2015, 3/10/16, 6/9/16, 9/8/16, 12/8/16 – at new EOF.

PDEP_Minutes 2015-11-09b.doc

Approved at PDEP meeting 12-7-15 fcox