



## **Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3) Committee Meeting – Monday November 6, 2017**

### **PDE+P Meeting Minutes for November 6, 2017**

*Approved at PDEP meeting 12-4-17*

#### Members Present:

Bill Tyler	CoChair, DC3 Member, Batt. Chief Novato Fire, Fire Marshal
Frank Cox	CoChair, DC3 Member, OES Auxiliary, OES trainer
Catherine Way	Councilmember, City of Larkspur, member, MCCMC
Garry Lion	DC3 member, Marin Economic Forum
James Wickham	PG&E Safety + Preparedness Specialist
Maggie Lang	CERT Coordinator, Get Ready / Southern Marin
Peter Mendoza	DC3 / AFN representative

#### Members Excused or absent:

David Peery	MMWD Safety & Risk Manager
Debbie Yee	Red Cross Disaster Program Manager
Keith Kennedy	DC3 Member, Dist. 3
Megan Scott	Sr Program Coordinator H&HS Public Health Preparedness
Tom Cromwell	Marin Medical Reserve Corps, etc.

#### Members of Public Present

Ann Eichhorn	MMRC, ARC, MV Em Prep Comm <a href="mailto:eichhorn1@sbcglobal.net">eichhorn1@sbcglobal.net</a>
Cindy Swift	Fairfax CERT, etc. <a href="mailto:cindyswift@sbcglobal.net">cindyswift@sbcglobal.net</a>
Henry Warren	San Pedro Road Coalition <a href="mailto:hwarren2006@gmail.com">hwarren2006@gmail.com</a>
Dr. Lisa Santora MD	Deputy Public Health Officer, H&HS <a href="mailto:L.Santora@marincounty.org">L.Santora@marincounty.org</a>
Lori Schifrin	MMRC, CERT, etc. / <a href="mailto:lori.sch@att.net">lori.sch@att.net</a>

#### Handouts distributed:

- Agenda, PDEP meeting 11/06/2017
- Draft Minutes PDEP Monday Oct 2, 2017 version (a)
- Email from Dr. Tom Cromwell 10-31-2017 re MMRC and GReady Tiburon
- Emergency Management article 10-30-17 'CERT Should Be Mandatory'  
<http://www.govtech.com/em/disaster/Fall-2017-EM-CERT-Should-Be-Mandatory.html>
- MCSO OES Webpage: Emergency Alert and Warning Tools  
<https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/emergency-alert-and-warning-tools>
- Emergency Kit Preparedness checklist handouts:
  - Don't Read This (there isn't enough time if you haven't prepared) by F. Cox
  - Checklists downloaded from [www.ReadyMarin.org](http://www.ReadyMarin.org)
- Handout card: Novato Fire District on [www.FireWise.org](http://www.FireWise.org) + AlertMarin + Nixle

#### **I. Welcome, Introductions, Handouts. Review of Minutes**

- Bill welcomed attendees, and introductions were made.
- Maggie moved, and Catherine 2<sup>nd</sup> the Draft minutes of October 2, 2017 were amended and then approved. Edits included:
  - Ann Eichhorn, ARC, MMRC, Mill Valley Em Prep Com. Attended the meeting.

#### **II The Fires - They came to survive: Marin Shelters - first views**

- Dr. Lisa Santora MD, Deputy Public Health Officer, explained that Marin County H&HS is structured to integrate Public Health Services, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and Social Services through multiple divisions.



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- The Public Health division manages federal funds to support countywide public health preparedness efforts, but the Social Services division, that include Care and Shelter services, lack comparable non-County funding.<sup>1</sup>
- Dr. Santora's first week in her County position included deployment to the Lake County 2015 fires, where she assisted Red Cross, Marin Medical Reserve Corps, County shelter workers and others with disaster relief services.
- Prior to the Lake County events, many officials assumed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) reached with Red Cross meant that ARC was staffed and ready to quickly set up and maintain substantial disaster shelters in contracted counties. However, in reality, the responsibility to set up large scale shelters is a government responsibility, often assisted by a wide range of nonprofit and volunteer services.
- On Sunday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, Marin County began experiencing heavy smoke from fires that had begun in Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties, later termed the Nuns, Atlas and Tubbs fires.<sup>2</sup> Miles Julihn, Director of Marin Emergency Medical Services, received a request to deploy some staff, including Marin Medical Reserve Corps staff, to the fires.
- Monday, Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, when Lisa reported to work, it was clear that mass evacuations from the fires would require Marin County to open shelters to assist evacuees fleeing South.<sup>3</sup>
- Initial setup and staffing of the Marin shelters was difficult for multiple reasons, including:
  - Many Marin employees (County & otherwise) lived in the fire zones
  - Red Cross was already deployed in setting up shelters near the fire zones
  - Marin H&HS staff had very few employees available who had shelter training
  - County Search & Rescue (SAR) volunteers, who had not been trained as shelter workers, were tasked to set up and staff the shelter at the Marin Center.
  - SAR staff accessed shelter supplies by breaking into storage compartments, as no organized method of access was otherwise available to them.
  - A wide range of nonprofit and volunteer persons showed up to staff the shelters.
  - County Medical & Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) staff succeeded in setting up a clinical unit in the Marin Center shelter.
- It was helpful Ann Eichhorn had spoken to County H&HS workers about shelter operations earlier in the year - but that orientation was not the same as shelter management training, which is much more complex. It was also helpful that some County employees had taken the OES New Employee DSW class taught by Frank Cox.
- Catherine Way, also a SAR member, noted telephonic and cell communication was extremely difficult in reaching persons in the fire zones. Some persons, such as Debbie Yee, ARC manager, had 'thousands' of voicemails placed on her cellphone. People asked to help with fire services were reached largely by texting rather than email or voicemail.
- Bill Tyler, NFD, reported County and State OES set up helpful EOC level conference calls that included cities and towns. The County did a good job acting as a local coordinator for the shelter response, but had to cope with insufficient staff and materials

<sup>1</sup> Marin County Human Services webpage: <https://www.marinhhhs.org/human-services>

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia short summary of fire events: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017\\_California\\_wildfires](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_California_wildfires)

<sup>3</sup> Marin IJ article on Shelters dated Oct 10, 2017 reported, in part:  
*"The Marin Center took in nearly 700 evacuees on Monday, with 475 people sheltering at the site overnight. Forty-nine people took refuge at Terra Linda High School's gymnasium before classes resumed Tuesday morning. Those who fled their homes had access to medical and veterinary services, mobile showers and sleeping quarters at the evacuee center. They also had their pick from thousands of donated toiletries, bedding and other necessities."* <http://www.marinij.com/article/NO/20171010/NEWS/171019970>



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initially. At the same time, local churches opened ‘unofficial’ shelters. Similarly, shelter capacity and a few active shelters were organized by MCOE at the Walker Creek Ranch facility, West Marin Disaster Council sites, the City of San Rafael Community Center, Tamalpais High School, the Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato, the Fireman’s Fund campus in Novato, Dominican University, and others.<sup>4</sup>

- By Thursday, October 12, the Napa County town of Calistoga was severely threatened, causing a large influx of persons into shelters throughout the region, including Marin County. This resulted in movement of some evacuees to overflow shelters at Terra Linda High school, San Geronimo Valley Community Center, and other sites.
- The County of Marin EOC PIO team issued multiple press releases concerning Marin Shelters and County services available to evacuees.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See Mill Valley and San Rafael Patch stories on Marin Shelters:  
*Second Evacuation Shelter Opens In Marin. BREAKING: Marin Center Exhibit Hall is near capacity now. A new temporary shelter is open at 201 Seminary Drive in Mill Valley.*  
<https://patch.com/california/millvalley/new-evacuation-shelter-open-marin>

*North Bay Wildfire Evacuees Escape to Marin. Thousands of people have evacuated their homes as multiple wildfires continue to tear through Northern California.*

<https://patch.com/california/sanrafael/north-bay-wildfire-evacuees-escape-marin>

<sup>5</sup> See County of Marin EOC Public Information Releases:

### Oct 12, 1017:

‘County Strengthens Wildfire Relief Coordination - Marin Exhibit Hall Center shelter remains open; donations still not needed’  
“San Rafael, CA (2:45 PM)– The Marin County Office of Emergency Services and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) continue to operate a temporary shelter for North Bay wildfire evacuees at Marin Center Exhibit Hall at 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael. On the night of October 11, the center housed 487 individuals. Other known community-operated pop-up shelters across the county, including in Novato and West Marin, housed an additional 191 evacuees. Several county employees sign in at a registration table at the wildfire evacuation shelter. County employees check in at the registration desk at the Marin Center wildfire evacuation shelter. In addition to meals and basic shelter, County of Marin officials have worked to meet basic needs while providing additional resources to evacuees at the Exhibit Hall shelter. Medical personnel and social workers are on hand to evaluate the medical and resource needs of each individual and/or family as they make plans to return home when officials deem it’s safe.”  
<https://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2017/so-wildfiresday4-101217?p=1>

### October 14, 2017

‘New Evacuation Shelter Open In Marin Seminary site ready to welcome Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co. Evacuees’ “San Rafael, CA (11:40 AM)– In response to recent evacuation orders in Sonoma County and specific parts of Santa Rosa, the Marin County Office of Emergency Services – in coordination with American Red Cross-- has opened a temporary evacuation shelter at The Seminary at Strawberry (201 Seminary Drive in Mill Valley). This replaces the previously announced staging site of the former Fireman’s Fund in Novato.”

<https://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2017/so-wildfiresday7-101517?p=1>



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- Both the County managed shelters and ‘pop up’ shelters demonstrated that Marin County residents are exceptionally generous. Thousands of persons volunteered time, physical shelter resources, and funds to such an extent management of these items became a severe logistical problem.
- Maggie Lang reported that a great many members of the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in the County offered to help, but were largely turned away during shelter operations, although they assisted with cleanup of cots at a later point.
- Some particularly helpful volunteers, such as bilingual persons from the Canal Community Alliance, simply showed up and assisted others with shelter duties.
- The massive amounts of donated materials, and large numbers of persons both in and around the shelters, required staffing the Marin Center with security guards retained from the San Rafael firm, Barbier Security Group.
- Some shelter staff accepted ad hoc donations of food, clothing, and other goods from friends and others who simply brought items to the sites. When traffic control limited public vehicle access to the sites, some people simply dumped large quantities of goods near the shelters – creating even more logistics problems. Still other shelter staff tried to limit all resources coming into the shelters to items purchased by governmental or donated funds, rather than donations in kind.
- Lisa recalled in a shelter operation last year in Alameda County there were severe medical problems resulting from poorly prepared volunteered food, and the spread of norovirus in shelters. County Environmental Health assisted in limiting these issues at Marin shelters.

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### Oct 15, 2017

‘Wildfire Evacuation Shelter Continues in Marin Shift in shelter management and locations will aid evacuee transition home’

*“San Rafael, CA (9:45AM) – After a week of providing hundreds of evacuees’ refuge from the series of wildfires in Sonoma and Napa Counties, the County of Marin is working with American Red Cross to give those displaced continued access to a safe place to stay while mandatory evacuation orders remain in place. Yesterday, October 14, Red Cross opened a second shelter at The Seminary at Strawberry (201 Seminary Drive, Mill Valley, CA).”*

<https://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2017/so-wildfiresday-7-101517>

And

County of Marin website North Bay Wildfires October 2017 page:

*“Our County employees sprang into action and opened a temporary evacuation shelter at Marin Center the afternoon of October 9 and continued to manage the temporary shelter for a week until the American Red Cross stepped into assume management of shelter operations at a different location. The response effort was led by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Sheriff’s Office, but employees from many other departments stepped out of their normal job roles and stepped in to contribute to the effort. All days combined, an estimated 700 evacuees were served at the Marin Center temporary evacuation shelter. In addition, approximately 40 animals called the Marin Center home, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Marin Humane, ensuring pet supplies were replenished and that every single animal in the shelter had a designated representative to care for their well-being.”* <https://www.marincounty.org/main/northbayfires?p=1>



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- The Center for Volunteer & NonProfit Leadership (CVNL) set up Emergency Volunteer Centers (EVCs) and conducted volunteer and donations management in several sites.<sup>6</sup> However, CVNL was unable to answer or process a great many telephone calls, emails, website entries and similar efforts by the public to help.
- While Red Cross has a structured protocol for how shelters are to be staffed and managed, many of the Marin facilities were more flexible and variable in their management, including allowing residents close proximity to pets and livestock such as horses.
- Some of the shelters, such as the Strawberry shelter and the Tam High shelter, were staffed on the fly, as there was little protocol for the setup and management of these sites. For example, some City of Mill Valley employees showed up at Tam High to volunteer, but some expected to stay only a few hours, leaving the work at their usual daily schedules. The duties of 'Government Disaster Workers' who might be assigned extended duties beyond their regular assignments was largely unknown to many County and City workers.
- Many of the persons evacuated were persons with Access and Functional Needs (AFN), including medical, age related, language, physical disability, and other issues. Laney Morgado, Disability Access Consultant, Eli Gelardin, Director of Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL) and many other persons who assist persons with AFN issues volunteered to help evacuees.
- After several days, Marin Shelters created an online registration and tracking tool using Google Docs and Spreadsheets that assisted evacuees in both English and Spanish, identifying places of residence, access to cars or housing, unmet needs, and coordination with fire and social service agencies.
- PG&E assisted greatly in providing computers and information management tools used at shelters. However, the computers available at the shelters to manage online resources were largely used by children at the sites – perhaps because about 80% of the evacuees were monolingual Spanish speaking persons.
- About 90% of those evacuated did not suffer loss of their homes, and were primarily interested in when they might return to their homes in the fire regions. Some of those in shelters were persons who evacuated from homeless camps.
- On Friday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, Lisa made an announcement at the Marin Center that some areas of Sonoma County and other fire regions were allowing residents to return to their homes. The County of Marin offered evacuees the option to move to a Red Cross managed shelter at the former Baptist Seminary in Strawberry. About 80 people left to return to their homes immediately, leaving about 100 sheltering overnight Saturday. By Noon Sunday, only about 30 persons remained sheltered, most of those who remained tended to have complex medical or social issues. However, no significant injuries or deaths occurred at any of the Marin shelters.
- Marin Medical Reserve Corps volunteers were fully deployed and effective in the shelters, but did not have the bench strength to staff around the clock clinic shifts. Medical reserves from the San Francisco Marin Medical Society volunteered to supplement clinic staffing.. Of note, the clinical services offered at the Marin Center Shelter exceed Red Cross shelter clinic services.

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<sup>6</sup> CVNL website:

*"Our role as an Emergency Volunteer Center is to be a go-to for volunteering when a disaster is declared in Marin and/or Napa Counties. CVNL EVCs, along with the Red Cross, Food Bank, Salvation Army, County of Marin, County of Napa, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and other partners in Marin and Napa, collaborate to respond to the most urgent needs."*

<https://cvnl.org/volunteerism/cvnlevc/>



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- Ann Eichhorn, the current disaster chair of Red Cross Marin County chapter, and a MMRC member, advised neither she nor other Red Cross shelter managers were contacted prior to the opening of the County shelter.
- Ann reported to the Red Cross Shelter opening at the Veteran's Center across from the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds.<sup>7</sup> Ann and two other Red Cross volunteers initially staffed the shelter. She found a great number of evacuees had medical needs, including many adults taken from evacuated assisted living facilities who were simply dropped off at the shelter. When patients from Kaiser and Sutter hospitals in Santa Rosa were evacuated,<sup>8</sup> many came to the Red Cross shelter. Fortunately, doctors and nurses from the hospitals accompanied the patients, and were of great help in the shelter.
- In Marin, as ARC shelter managers were not contacted, shelter workers knocked locks off ARC response vehicles to deploy about 400 cots stored therein.
- Telephone and cell signal was severely degraded in the fire zone, but texting messages were partially available. The first day passed with almost no contact with outside sources as the shelters were 'over run' by evacuees. From the second day on, shelters were 'over run' by volunteers, most of whom were untrained and unvetted.
- Public Health, including nurses, doctors, mental health counselors, social services, spiritual leaders and other professionals responded generously, although some of them had lost their own homes to the fires. Similarly, fire personnel, including Mill Valley Fire Chief Tom Welsh, acted heroically. Chief Welsh, for example, burned his hands while physically extricating neighbors from their bedrooms as his own home burned.
- Among the many evacuees with medical problems were 26 persons strapped to wheelchairs brought from nursing homes, a quadriplegic, a man recovering from a tracheotomy, patients on hospice terminal care, patients on supplemental oxygen, and others. There were no patients on 'critical care' and no persons died in the shelters.
- As a result of these fires, some 500 persons have registered as new Red Cross volunteers, and most have passed the required background checks.
- Ann noted there was inadequate planning for the urgent pharmacy needs evacuees experienced. For example, there were seizures in 'every room in our shelter' for some days until medications could be obtained. One generous pharmacist distributed about \$10K worth of meds without payment, while other pharmacies withheld critical meds until the doctors could arrange medical insurance copayment authorizations.
- Lisa commented that Kaiser patients were successfully transferred from Sonoma to Marin and other facilities. The county's healthcare preparedness program (HPP) works with the three local hospitals to plan and coordinate patient transfers. If necessary, the hospitals would contact the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) if resources to support patient transfers are necessary..

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<sup>7</sup> Oct 10, 2017 – Initial Red Cross Shelters in Sonoma County listed:

*"The Red Cross has personnel at the evacuation shelters at Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, Twin Pine Casino in Middletown, Napa County Fairgrounds in Calistoga, Crosswalk Community Church in Napa, Ukiah High School and Willits Community Center. About 300 large animals, mostly horses, have arrived at the Santa Rosa fairgrounds and the facility has "plenty of room to take more in," said Becky Bartling, CEO of the fair. The fairgrounds has about 800 stalls available for evacuated animals, she said. There are also 500 people at the fairgrounds, where they will be fed. "We are doing our best to make them comfortable," Bartling said. About 1,000 people were at the veterans building across the street from the fairgrounds, she said."* <http://www.petaluma360.com/news/7511468-181/emergency-shelters-centers-open-across?artslide=0>

<sup>8</sup> Oct 9, 2017 – CNN reports Hospitals evacuated and many injured as wildfires ravage Northern California. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/09/health/california-wildfires-hospitals-evacuation/index.html>



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- Overall, these massive fires underscore a great need for additional disaster planning and training in Marin County.

### **III The Fires - They came to help: Volunteers & Donations - first views**

- Elaine Tokolahi, Director, Volunteer Services at the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL) was scheduled to report to us on volunteer management and donations incident to the fires, but was unable to attend our meeting, as she was involved in Napa County recovery efforts this day. We look forward to hearing from her another day.

### **IV. Updates from PDEP members**

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

- Catherine reported that MCCMC approved the creation of a disaster preparedness committee at the regular Oct 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Participating city officials will be exploring additional disaster preparedness efforts, including expanding training of city disaster service workers (DSWs).
- Catherine is also a member of the Twin Cities Disaster Preparedness Committee scheduled to meet November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- She also attended a Fleet Week Senior Leadership Seminar on Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs)<sup>9</sup> that was well presented.

#### **- West Marin**

- Maggie reported that WMDC has scheduled its next meeting at the Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters Red Barn Classroom for 11/16/2017.

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

- See reports from Ann Eichhorn, above, as part of the fire response reports.

#### **- Southern Marin / Business Community**

- Garry reported building labor and material firms in Southern Marin are largely unavailable for local residents, as these firms are engaged in recovery efforts in fire zone recovery jobs.
- The recovery effort underscores the need for business preparedness and resilience, as identified in the M'BER Marin Business Emergency Readiness planning.
- Maggie found that Mill Valley records included obsolete MOUs with local pharmacies in case of disasters that needed to be updated.

#### **- CERT, Get Ready and Get Ready 5th:**

- CERT graduated 24 new members in Mill Valley and 23 new members in San Rafael. The College of Marin CERT class is full, and the Mill Valley has a class beginning December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Nicasio class was cancelled.
- Multiple CERTs helped clean Red Cross cots at the Marin Center shelter November 1<sup>st</sup>. CERTs also helped provide firefighter respite at Dominican and the Seminary shelter, but only as convergent volunteers, as there is no CERT mutual aid system in place for cities to deploy CERTs officially in other parts of the county. Many CERTs who wanted to volunteer further could not be deployed.
- About 50 CERTs participated in a Radio Communications workshop on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and the CERT Annual Exercise is scheduled for Saturday Nov 11<sup>th</sup> at Point Reyes Seashore.
- A Train the Trainer class is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Maggie and others attended the DC3 Ad Hoc Survey review committee chaired by MCFD Chief Jason Weber on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, and reported we hope to complete review of

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<sup>9</sup> Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) see <https://www.nvoad.org/>



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recommendations expanding Get Ready, School preparedness, and DSW related training in advance of the December 14<sup>th</sup> DC3 meeting.

### - Access + Functional Needs communities (AFN):

- Peter recalled both he and Eli Gelardin, Director of Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL) received notice at 5:30am the first morning of the fires that shelters in Sonoma and Napa needed assistance with evacuated persons with AFN issues.
- They directly provided durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, from MCIL stores, and coordinated efforts from the Cal OES Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) that supports the California Community Network<sup>10</sup> to locate additional materials and volunteers to assist in shelters. For example, Easy Does It emergency services of Berkeley, an AFN support service, provided wheelchair repair for shelter residents.
- Persons who were housebound were particularly worried they would not be notified if fires approached their homes. MCIL provided one such person with a cellphone for this purpose.
- Peter has attended several UASI sponsored medical shelter conferences in Dublin, CA., has taken Red Cross shelter management classes, and will re-take some classes.
- Overall, Peter reported a favorable impression of the way the Marin Shelter was managed.

### - Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Megan Scott, Sr. Program Coordinator for H&HS Public Health Preparedness, was unable to attend the meeting. This part of the agenda will be passed to the next meeting.
- - Utilities including MMWD and PG&E

- Jim Wickham, PG&E safety consultant and Mill Valley Councilmember, reported to the Sonoma County EOC as the fires were first reported, and then met with Cal Fire officials at the Command Center in Santa Rosa. That first week, he estimates he worked about 120 hours over a wide range of fire related zones.
- PG&E brought thousands of workers to respond to the scene, in support of the approximate 11K firefighters, thousands of law enforcement officers, the National Guard, and multiple other agencies. When communication failed, AT&T and Verizon brought in mobile cell towers to supplement communications that were largely based on satellite telephones at first.
- Dave Peery, MMWD, was unable to attend this meeting.

### - Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC), etc.

- Dr. Tom Cromwell was unable to attend the meeting, but provided a detailed written report that the Get Ready classes in Tiburon peninsula and MMRC have seen a sharp increase in public support since the first with new Get Ready, radio, and First Aid for Disaster Response (FADR) classes scheduled soon.
- MMRC was activated October 9<sup>th</sup> and set up a clinic in the shelter that was staffed until the shelter closed Sunday Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. Most of the serious injuries, such as burns, were treated at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, so the clinic responded to outpatient issues of about 241 patients. MMRC has, in turn, received 140 new volunteer applications.
- - Fire Services + County at Large Issues:
- Bill noted 'this was a career fire that none of us wanted to see'. When red flag conditions over the highly vulnerable topography in the North Bay were announced, Marin fire agencies began assembling strike teams even before deployment orders were received.

<sup>10</sup> Cal OES California Community Network – <http://wildfirerecovery.org/incident-overview-and-news/> and <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/access-functional-needs/california-community-network>



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- Marin sent 154 fire fighters to the multiple North Bay fires, leaving Marin agencies to minimal staffing until mutual aid could replace Marin crews. Fire services were so over extended that a responding Battalion Chief was the first to report a 2 acre fire across the Petaluma river near Highway 37. Crews were sent to the fire to protect homes in the Black Point area.
  - Evacuation efforts for several of the fires were so urgent and so massive some firefighters worked 3-4 days without a break. Novato FD opened a staging area to assist these firefighters and help deploy new crews as they became available. He noted there are 'dozens of stories' of extraordinary service given by many firefighters rescuing people although their own homes were sometimes lost.
  - Bill strongly encouraged PDEP members to visit the fire scene, particularly at Coffey Park area, where the fire winds were so brutal they ripped a garage door and flung it into a tall tree, and pushed burning cars a city block from their origin. All buildings were leveled as far as the eye could see, with sustained winds from 40 to 60 mph, with gusts about 100 mph. Even fire officials were astonished at the near total devastation in some areas of this fire.
  - In Hanley fire in 1964 burned much of the same fire 'footprint' as the 2017 Santa Rosa fires. However, the Hanley fire took about 4 days, while the 2017 fires burned the same area in a matter of hours.<sup>11</sup> The following year, about 140 fires occurred near the Hanley fire site, demonstrating that we must learn from prior fires – the same conditions will repeat fire events over the years.
  - Bill believes fires of this magnitude could easily happen in Marin County. We, too, have a long history of major fires – and decades of fire suppression throughout Marin have left large areas of Marin County overgrown with dense fuels that could support explosive fire behavior.
  - The Oakland firestorm of 1991 was much smaller in scope, but from that fire California adopted the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), and fire councils such as FireSafe Marin were organized. The 1996 Vision Fire in Pt. Reyes demonstrated the effectiveness of Type III fire engines, and they were purchased in number following that fire. The massive 2003 Cedar Fire in San Diego County was the occasion of a Blue Ribbon Commission that recommended many improvements, including improved fire mapping, vegetation management, and fire resistant building ordinances.
  - Now, with the 2017 fires, we must act to implement recommendations from the Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan of 2016<sup>12</sup>, support efforts such as FireWise communities, and more.
  - Bill distributed handout cards prepared by the Novato Fire District encouraging all to sign up for alerts via AlertMarin + Nixle and prepare their neighborhoods based on the five recommendations listed on [www.FireWise.org](http://www.FireWise.org).
- OES, Training and other Events:
- Frank recalled helping staff the May 7, 2015 Marin OES annual exercise, 'Burning Marin', that involved fire modelling projections of a fire that could start North of Pacheco Valley, and if variables such as wind, topography, vegetation, and humidity were all unfavorable, such a fire could burn through Pacheco Valley and reach Marinwood area – possibly beyond.

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<sup>11</sup> Hanley Fire compared to 2017 Sonoma County fires:

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/thetake/article/Wine-Country-fire-of-1964-Eerie-similarities-to-12267643.php>

<sup>12</sup> Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2016 - <http://www.firesafemarin.org/cwpp> and FireWise communities: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/firewise>



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- Frank taught a Get Ready class November 1<sup>st</sup> for Marinwood / Lucas Valley / Mont Marin areas that alerted residents of this risk, and encouraged all to comply with vegetation management rules, and consider creating a FireWise community.
- Hopefully, the December 14<sup>th</sup> DC3 agenda will report on first lessons learned from these massive fires.

### **IV. Open Time / Public Comment**

**3:05 PM end of meeting**

- Bill closed the meeting.

#### **Next Meetings:**

**PDEP Meetings: 1-3pm Year 2017: 12/4/2017**

**PDEP Meetings: 1-3pm Year 2018: draft dates to be discussed:**

**Jan 8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/9, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, 8/6, 9/10, 10/1, 11/5, 12/3/2018**

**Dates may be flexible as circumstances require.**

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

**DC3 Meetings: 3-5pm: 12/14/2017 – site to be determined:**

**Year 2018: 3/8/2018, 6/14/2018, 9/13/2018, 12/13/2018**

**Dates may be flexible as circumstances require.**

*PDEP\_Minutes 2017-11-06 b.docx*

*Approved as of 12-04-2017 PDEP meeting. fcox*