



**Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the  
Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3)  
Committee Meeting – June 4, 2018**

**PDE+P Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2018**

*Approved at 7-09-18 PDEP meeting*

Members Present:

Catherine Way	CoChair, DC3 City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Frank Cox	CoChair, DC3 Member, OES Auxiliary, OES trainer
Garry Lion	DC3 member, Marin Economic Forum
James Wickham	PG&E Safety + Preparedness Specialist, MV City Council
Maggie Lang	CERT Coordinator, Get Ready / Southern Marin
Tom Cromwell	Marin Medical Reserve Corps, etc.

Members Excused or Absent:

Ann Eichhorn	ALTERNATE to Debbie Yee, Red Cross Disaster Manager
David Peery	MMWD Safety & Risk Manager
Keith Kennedy	DC3 Member, Dist. 3
Megan Scott	Sr Program Coordinator H&HS Public Health Preparedness
Peter Mendoza	DC3 / AFN representative

Members of Public Present

Anne Starr	Marin HR / Civic Center Volunteers / <a href="mailto:ASTarr@marincounty.org">ASTarr@marincounty.org</a>
Cindy Swift	CERT, Fairfax <a href="mailto:cindyswift@sbcglobal.net">cindyswift@sbcglobal.net</a>
Henry Warren	Pt San Pedro Disaster Prep Comm / <a href="mailto:hwarren2006@gmail.com">hwarren2006@gmail.com</a>
Jay Hubert	RACES <a href="mailto:j-mhubert@att.net">j-mhubert@att.net</a>
Kerry Burke	CVNL Volunteer services / <a href="mailto:kburke@cvnl.org">kburke@cvnl.org</a>
Lori Schifrin	MMRC, CERT, etc. / <a href="mailto:lori.sch@att.net">lori.sch@att.net</a>
Rob Ireson	RACES <a href="mailto:rob@aqmconsulting.com">rob@aqmconsulting.com</a>
Skip Fedanzo	CERT, Marin Amateur Radio Society <a href="mailto:drferret@comcast.net">drferret@comcast.net</a>
Steve Ziman	Ready Glenwood

Handouts distributed:

- Agenda, PDEP meeting 06/04/2018
- Draft Minutes PDEP\_Minutes 2018-05-07 b.pdf
- Photo of NEN Resilience Conference 'Resilientville Tabletop' exercise 5-16-2018
- OES / DSW New Employee Class Agenda (with useful URLs) 6-7-2018
- Yr 2013 PDEP Community Preparedness Coordinator cost estimates
- Draft PDEP Community Preparedness Coordinator Job description 6/13/2013
- Cal State Compensation Insurance Fund DSW Worker Comp handout\_e13761
- Passed around: ABAG / 2018 Fire Relief pending legislation handout.

**I. Volunteers Part I - Affiliated disaster volunteers**

- Catherine welcomed attendees, and introductions were made.
- Tom moved adoption of the May Minutes. Maggie seconded. Approved.
- Jay Hubert, Chief Radio Officer for the MCSO Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) described how volunteer HAM Radio operators, screened and authorized by the Sheriff's office, are licensed by the FCC to provide backup communications for first responder agencies during emergencies or disasters if deployed by the Sheriff.<sup>1</sup>
- Marin RACES has about 50 active volunteers. Because RACES members have access to confidential / sensitive information, and fire stations, they are thoroughly screened.
- RACES also collaborate with members of the Marin Amateur Radio Society (who, in turn, typically are members of Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS)). Some volunteer

<sup>1</sup> RACES amateur radio guide: <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/plan/slg101.pdf>  
See: <http://www.marinraces.org/wp/> and  
<https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/disaster-communications>



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HAM radio operators are members of both RACES / ACS, and some additionally are active in radio service using low end FRS/GMRS radios as members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERTs) and local Neighborhood Response Teams in Marin.<sup>2</sup>

- In the event of an emergency / disaster, deployed RACES operators would prioritize backup communications directly among first responder agencies, including the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). To do this, RACES depends on hilltop 'repeaters' that carry a range of HAM radio frequencies. The repeaters are owned by and maintained by Marin ACS. RACES operators would use persuasion to discourage non-RACES HAM operators from using critical radio bandwidth during an emergency.
- RACES and other HAMS may also use WinLink, a private service that allows radio to radio transfer of emails and attachments when the internet is inoperable.<sup>3</sup>
- HAMS with disaster volunteer training, including RACES, ACS, CERT and others, sometimes volunteer train together with Neighborhood Response Teams, and are technically capable of carrying local messages - such as a Block Captain's report of major injuries following an earthquake - to first responders.
- However, it can be expected that a major disaster is likely to totally engage all available first responders, including emptying local fire stations (where RACES radios are stored), leading to questions how such local emergency reports could be transmitted to which authorities, how, when, and by whom.
- There is no countywide protocol that would coordinate communication across the multiple affiliated disaster volunteer organizations that exist in Marin, or transmit obviously critical life-saving issues from the volunteer level to first responder levels.<sup>4</sup>
- Further, unaffiliated volunteers, sometimes called 'convergent volunteers' or 'Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers' (SUVs):
  - Arrived by the thousands in the recent Wine Country fires in all the affected counties.
  - Include a mix of highly trained / licensed persons, as well as untrained / unlicensed persons.
  - Sometimes self-deploy for extended periods, but more often than not, short and unpredictable periods.
  - Can be a blessing or curse, by any measure.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Marin CERT, WMDC, and local Neighborhood Response Team radio use varies widely across Marin. See: <https://readymarin.org/2015/02/15/radio-basics-part-1-protocol/> and NRGMarin.org <http://www.nrgmarin.org/communications.html> and <https://www.southernmarinfire.org/attachments/article/53/SM%20CERT%20Communications%20Plan%202013.pdf> and multiple West Marin Disaster Council / local fire agency communications: <https://www.ptreyeslight.com/article/how-west-marin-neighborhoods-certs-and-fire-departments-work-together>

<sup>3</sup> WinLink Radio Email service: <https://winlink.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Some of the affiliated disaster volunteer organizations in Marin include: CERT, MMRC, Red Cross, Neighborhood Response Teams, WMDC, MIDC, RACES, SAR, FireWise, Salvation Army, CVNL, the CNVL EVC, and literally dozens of NGOs who have emerged in past events: Food Bank, Humane Society, Interfaith Council, MCIL, Whistlestop, and far more.

<sup>5</sup> Managing Spontaneous Volunteers in Times of Disaster [https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/resource/hon-cnccs-msvtd\\_participant\\_materials.pdf](https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/resource/hon-cnccs-msvtd_participant_materials.pdf)  
Cal OES: Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program Guidance, Oct 2016:  
<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/PlanningPreparednessSite/Documents/2.%20DSW%20Program%20GUIDA>



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- As unaffiliated persons, are generally not covered by Worker Comp if injured during a disaster, but have some minimal coverage under the ‘Good Samaritan Law’<sup>6</sup>
- Local Bay Area disaster organizations, including Marin County and the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (BAUASI) Regional Emergency Coordination Plan have adopted volunteer management plans.<sup>7</sup>
- It should be noted that the most vulnerable populations, persons with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) may include volunteers from their ranks, as well as beneficiaries of volunteers active in disasters.<sup>8</sup>
- The Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL) has contracted with Marin County to staff an Emergency Volunteer Center (EVC), overseeing volunteers and donations for Napa and Marin Counties in the event of a disaster.<sup>9</sup>
- CVNL is the Emergency Volunteer Center contractor for the County of Marin, tasked with vetting and deploying Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers (SUVs) at the request of County EOC staff. These SUVs are given assignments in EOC-directed response efforts

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[NCE%2010.2016.pdf](#)

THEY WILL COME:Post-Disaster Volunteers and Local Governments

[https://w3.calema.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/PDF/They%20Will%20Come%20Post-Disaster%20Volunteers%20and%20Local%20Government/\\$file/TheyWillCome.pdf](https://w3.calema.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/PDF/They%20Will%20Come%20Post-Disaster%20Volunteers%20and%20Local%20Government/$file/TheyWillCome.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Cal OES Disaster Service Worker Volunteer information / Worker Comp information: <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/planning-preparedness/disaster-service-worker-volunteer-program> “A disaster service worker volunteer is any person registered with an accredited disaster council or the California Emergency Management Agency, or a state agency granted authority to register disaster service worker volunteers, for the purpose of engaging in disaster service pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act without pay or other consideration” Title 19 CCR §2570.2 //

TITLE 19 § 2570.2. Definitions (d) **Disaster Council.** “A disaster council is a public agency established by ordinance which is empowered to register and direct the activities of disaster service worker volunteers within the area of the county, city, city and county, or any part thereof....” And **California Good Samaritan Law:** Health & Safety Code §1799.102 (a) “No person who in good faith, and not for compensation, renders emergency medical or nonmedical care at the scene of an emergency shall be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission....”

<sup>7</sup> The Marin Operational Area Spontaneous Volunteer Management Annex <https://www.marinsheriff.org/assets/downloads/Marin-Spon-Vol-Annex-1.06.pdf> and the Bay Area UASI Regional Volunteer Management Plan <http://www.bayareauasi.org/sites/default/files/resources/Regional%20Volunteer%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Marin Op Area Access and Functional Needs Planning Guidance, see: <https://www.marinsheriff.org/assets/downloads/OES/05.05.15-SS-Access-Functional-Needs-Guidance-Approved.pdf> and <https://www.marinsheriff.org/assets/downloads/OES/Access-Functional-Needs-Planning-Guidance-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> CVNL / EVC: <https://cvnl.org/volunteerism/cvnlvc/>



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(such as sandbagging and clearing debris), and are managed by the agencies that request volunteer assistance.

- It must be noted that volunteer organizations, like first responder groups, can become overwhelmed.
- Marin Red Cross volunteers were deployed to East Coast hurricanes and the Napa / Sonoma fire shelters, and thus unable to initially staff Marin Shelters during the Sonoma fires. The Marin Shelters were initially opened by Marin Search and Rescue (SAR) teams. Similarly, Marin CVNL staff were deployed to the Napa shelters, and were unable to respond to assist with Marin volunteers. Finally, the Napa CVNL EVC was staffed by still other volunteers - Napa CERTs.<sup>10</sup> Many volunteers wear many hats.
- At the request of the County of Marin's EOC, Marin Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers opened an evacuation center and shelter. After County Health and Human Services took over shelter management, CVNL was activated to serve as the EVC for the sheltering operation at the Marin Center only. CVNL staffed over 850 volunteer shifts, at the request of HHS, with SUVs from Marin County during the 7-day operation. CVNL concurrently ran the Napa County EVC, deploying over 2000 SUVs over a 10-day operation.
- Frank, Catherine, and Maggie attended the May 16<sup>th</sup> San Francisco Bay Area Regional Community Resilience Summit at the SF City Hall, and took part in the 'Resilientville' exercise simulating neighborhood preparedness and response to a Bay Area quake similar to the HayWired quake studies.<sup>11</sup> Among the many excellent speakers we heard from Dr. Daniel Aldrich, Ph.D., whose studies of the 2011 Japan Quake and Tsunami demonstrated the exceptional value of pre-disaster neighbor to neighbor social networking.<sup>12</sup>
- Kerry Burke noted CVNL placed and helped manage 2,000 volunteers in the Napa fires, and over 800 volunteers in the Marin sheltering operation, including doctors, nurses, and other trained persons at the request of both the Napa and Marin EOC. However, CVNL notes that checking the credentials of licensed volunteers, such as nurses, is the responsibility of the requesting agency. Volunteer position orientation is also the responsibility of the requesting agency.
- Regarding disaster donations, CVNL accepts and disburses financial donations, and manages in-kind donations at the request of the County EOC.
- Kerry Burke noted CVNL helped manage some 2,000 volunteers in the Sonoma fires, including doctors, nurses, and other trained persons. However, CVNL is not set up to credential or 'Vet' volunteers, nor train individuals. Nor is CVNL set up to manage disaster donations.
- However, agencies who are part of CVNL may post information visible to volunteers on the CVNL online portal.
- CVNL has links to some 400 organizations who are supported by about 17,000 volunteers, and can offer some EVC type training to organizations who request it.
- CVNL's EVC function depends on activation by the County. CVNL has a cache of some supplies that would help support an EVC, and is discussing use of CERTs to help staff an EVC should there be a Marin deployment.

<sup>10</sup> See the approved PDEP minutes of January 8, 2018 "Some first impressions - the Wine Country Fires, by Elaine Tokolahi CVNL" and the approved PDEP minutes Nov. 6, 2017 "The Fires - They came to survive: Marin Shelters - first views Dr. Lisa Santora MD, Deputy Public Health Officer"

<sup>11</sup> HayWired Quake Studies / video and advice: <https://outsmartdisaster.com/>

<sup>12</sup> SF Resilience Summit. The Neighborhood Empowerment Network: <http://www.empowersf.org/> and <http://www.empowersf.org/summit/>



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- Maggie commented Marin CERTs were willing to assist CVNL in the Wine Country fires, but there was no contact person or procedure to allow them to do this.
- Tom asked if some of the qualified CVNL 17,000 volunteers might be encouraged to become part of MMRC or other disaster affiliated organizations. This, too, is an unanswered question, as the confidentiality of volunteers may become an issue.
- Anne Starr advised the Civic Center Volunteers (CCV) are 'vetted' by County Departments for departmental missions. Anne was asked, and will check further, to find out more about the County's searchable database on CCV Volunteers.<sup>13</sup>
- Local 'Neighborhood Response Teams' have a wide range of skilled and unskilled participants, so deploying them to disaster response tasks is difficult. Additional discussion on unaffiliated disaster volunteers will be held by PDEP in July.

### II PDEP to report at DC3 on Thurs 6/4/18 discussion

- Frank agreed to present the PDEP Committee report at the next DC3 meeting.

### III. Updates from PDEP members

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

- Catherine Way and Sasha McEntee attended a recent ABAG resilience conference.
- Catherine passed around an ABAG / 2018 Fire Relief pending legislation handout she received at the conference.

#### - West Marin

- Maggie attended the May 24, 2018 WMDC meeting and briefly outlined high points.

#### - MIDC and ARC liaison information

- Ann Eichhorn was unable to attend the meeting, so this agenda item was moved to July.

#### - Southern Marin / Business Community

- Garry advised the Marin Economic Forum is actively reviewing the business impact created by the Sonoma Fires, and is applying for a grant through PG&E that may initiate parts of the 'Marin Business Emergency Resilience (M'BER)' proposals.
- Garry requests that an update on the M'BER efforts be on the July PDEP agenda.
- Keith Kennedy was excused from the meeting today.
- Maggie advised there have been about 8 public meetings in Southern Marin since the October 2017 fires to discuss lessons learned and prevention efforts.
- Jim Wickham reported that Chris Reilly addressed the Mill Valley City Council on Alert Marin and other alert methods available in Marin.

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

- Maggie reported that CERT has graduated about 170 persons this year, and that classes are filling rapidly.
- The 5/19/18 CERT Advance Training in Mill Valley was well attended and a success.
- Marin CERT hopes to participate in the 9/6/2018 Urban Shield / Green Command exercises for Bay Area CERTs.
- The Bay Area CERT Coalition met a few weeks ago. Many of the issues under discussion in Marin, such as who to swear in as a Disaster Service Worker, and common in the area.
- Maggie will attend the National CERT Conference in Florida August 23-25, 2018.
- Sonoma County is considering reinstating CERT in that County.

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<sup>13</sup> Following up on questions, Anne Starr advised the CCV database can be searched by County staff for individuals with an interest in Disaster Preparedness/Response. It may also be searched for people with these skills: damage assessment, disaster first aid, disaster psychology, emergency communication, fire suppression, and search and rescue. The database includes current and former volunteers as well as applicants not yet assigned to a role. Also, CCV staff can conduct surveys of County volunteers.



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- A renewal of Get Ready in our area will require a promotional effort and training new instructors. GR 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will be completed until Fall with one more scheduled class. MCOE will support GR 5<sup>th</sup> grade next year.
- Maggie thought the May 16<sup>th</sup> SF Resilience speakers, Daniel Aldrich, Daniel Homsey, and others confirmed key lessons for CERTs and volunteers - building local neighbor to neighbor ties is critical for resilience, and people must be encouraged to respond quickly to all evacuation warnings and orders.

-- Access + Functional Needs communities (AFN):

- Peter Mendoza was unable to attend the meeting. This agenda item will be heard in July.

- Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Megan Scott, Sr. Program Coordinator for H&HS Public Health Preparedness, will be on maternity leave until mid year.

• - Utilities including MMWD and PG&E

- Jim Wickham advised the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued Fire Threat Utility Maps for California that put most of Marin County in a 'Tier III' (Extreme Fire Risk) category <http://cpuc.ca.gov/firethreatmaps/><sup>14</sup>
- PG&E is responding to years of drought, extreme heat and 129 million dead trees recognizing a "new normal" for our state and has adapted to meet these challenges.
- PG&E has opened its new Wildfire Safety Operations Center in San Francisco. The center, which will be staffed 24/7, will monitor wildfire risks in real time and coordinate prevention and response efforts with public safety officials to respond to any emerging threats and help keep community's safe.<sup>15</sup>
- If a given area is identified as an extreme weather threat in the Tier 3 area for wildfire, using factors such as weather forecast, such as a 'Red Flag warning'<sup>16</sup>, fuel conditions, observations by on-the-ground crews and reaching out to Cal Fire, Cal OES and local agencies. It may be necessary for PG&E to temporarily turn off power to their neighborhood or community for safety. Once the extreme fire danger conditions have passed turning the power back 'on' would require both electronic and eye-view examinations of power lines for safety inspections which could take 24 to 72 hours.
- During the fire season disabling automatic reclosing of circuit breakers and reclosers will occur. This will delay power coming on sooner as it will require a service call in the area to locate the power outage and reset the system.
- Finally, extreme weather threats can change quickly. When and where possible, PG&E would provide notice between one hour to 24 hours in advance through automated phone calls, texts and emails. PG&E has begun conducting direct outreach to medical baseline/life support customers.
- PG&E recommends customers to visit <https://www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts> and update their information for timely alerts.
- The issue of power interruption is complex, as shutting down power in a given area may interrupt VOIP telecomm used for warnings, essential medical devices, cooling center A.C., and many other critical uses.

- Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC), etc.

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<sup>14</sup> CPUC Fire Threat Maps: [http://cpuc\\_firemap2.sig-gis.com/](http://cpuc_firemap2.sig-gis.com/) and <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/firethreatmaps/>

<sup>15</sup> PG&E Operations Center: <http://investor.pgecorp.com/news-events/press-releases/press-release-details/2018/PGE-Opens-New-Wildfire-Safety-Operations-Center-Marks-California-Wildfire-Awareness-Week-with-2-Million-for-Fire-Safe-Councils/default.aspx>

<sup>16</sup> Red Flag warning: [http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_firesafety\\_redflagwarning](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning)



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- Dr. Tom Cromwell advised that County H&HS nurse Marsha Grant RN is working under the supervision of Dr. Lisa Santora, Deputy Public Health Officer, to coordinate MMRC efforts until a more permanent supervisor is appointed.
  - There is discussion whether MMRC teams, like NDMS Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), might be available for deployment out of our area. Federal DMAT teams have not been officially deployed since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.
- OES, Training and other Events:
- Frank reported the the 'Shaking Marin' Exercise May 23<sup>rd</sup> went well, and he will be presenting the next New Employee Disaster Service Worker class on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. Open Time / Public Comment**

- The initial July PDEP date of 7/2/18 may create problems for members who wish to take a long 'July 4th' weekend. Hence the next meeting is moved to Monday July 9th.

**3:00 PM end of meeting**

- Catherine closed the meeting.

**Next Meetings:**

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

**7/9 (moved Holiday weekend), (NO AUGUST meeting), 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: at Marin Board of Supervisors Hearing Room:**

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

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

*PDEP\_Minutes 2018-06-04 c.docx*

*Approved at 7-09-18 PDEP meeting rev 7-11-2018 1700 hr fcox*