



**Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of
the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3)
Committee Meeting – Oct. 1, 2018**

PDE+P Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2018

Approved at PDEP meeting 11-5-2018

Members Present:

Catherine Way	CoChair, DC3 City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Frank Cox	CoChair, DC3 Member, OES Auxiliary, OES trainer
David Peery	MMWD Safety & Risk Manager
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
Quinn Gardner	SRFD emergency manager Quinn.Gardner@cityofsanrafael.org
Peter Mendoza	DC3 / AFN representative
Tom Cromwell	Marin Medical Reserve Corps, etc.

Members Excused or Absent:

Ann Eichhorn	ALTERNATE to Debbie Yee, Red Cross Disaster Manager
Keith Kennedy	DC3 Member, Dist. 3
Megan Scott	Sr Program Coordinator H&HS Public Health Preparedness

Members of Public Present

Adriana Rabkin	MIDC Coordinator adrianaatcvnl@gmail.com
Brian McCarthy	VERG Disaster Co-Coordinator bmccarthy55555@gmail.com
Cindy Swift	CERT, Fairfax cindyswift@sbcglobal.net
Gil Fleitas	Town of Ross Disaster Council fleitas@mac.com
Jay Hubert	RACES j-mhubert@att.net
Patti Stoliar RN	Age Friendly Corte Madera pati86@gmail.com
Skip Fedanzo	CERT, Marin Amateur Radio Society drferret@comcast.net
Vicki Chase	VERG outreach coordinator vickichase49@gmail.com

Handouts distributed:

- Agenda, PDEP meeting 10/01/2018
- Draft Minutes PDEP_Minutes 2018-09-10 (b).pdf
- Sonoma County Oct 2017 Fires / After Action Report. One page URL link <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2147565460>
- Stone Soup Newsletter Winter 2017-18 key pages on Wildfire Evacuation
- Marin IJ article 9-12-18 West Marin Residents flee frightening wildfire (Irving Fire).
- FireSafe Marin one sheet: Wildfire Evacuation Checklist¹
- FEMA NIMS Alert 25-18 Vance Taylor's Prep Talk (AFN needs in shelters) URL Link: <https://www.fema.gov/preptalks/taylor>
- Natural Disasters widen racial wealth gap article²
- CERT flyer: San Rafael classes Oct 27 and Nov 3, 2018.
- PG&E PowerPoint 4 key pages on CPUC maps High Fire Threat Districts and Public Safety Power Shutoff steps.
- PG&E Handout: Community Wildfire Safety Program Powerpoint PDF
- PG&E Handout: Postcard Wildfire Safety Alerts - how to register contact info
- PG&E Handout: Do you have a plan to stay safe during power outages?

¹ Firesafe Marin Evacuation Checklist: https://www.firesafemarin.org/images/documents/resources/evac/FIRESafe_MARIN_Evacuation_Checklist.pdf

² Natural Disasters Widen Racial Wealth gap Article - Rice University. University of Pittsburgh study also finds FEMA aid increased inequality. https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2018-08/ru-ndw082018.php



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3) Committee Meeting – Oct. 1, 2018

- PG&E Handout: The Wildfire Threat is real. Shutting off power to keep you safe.
- Earthquake Country Alliance booklet: Staying safe when the earth shakes / Bay Area

I. Welcome, Introductions, Handouts. Review of Minutes

- Catherine welcomed attendees, and introductions were made.
- Garry moved adoption of the draft September minutes. Maggie seconded. Approved.

II. Volunteers Part IV - the Valley Emergency Readiness Group (V.E.R.G.) Shelters

- Vicki Chase, Outreach Coordinator for San Geronimo Valley's Valley Emergency Readiness Group (VERG) outlined the group's history since 1971, evolving from the San Geronimo Disaster Council. The larger area around Woodacre, San Geronimo, Forest Knolls, and Lagunitas has about 5,000 homes with about 15,000 residents.
- VERG assists local residents in preparing for large scale emergencies, incorporates many CERT members, and responds to events supporting disaster shelters, local radio & social media communications, and coordination with MCFD, WMDC, and other groups.
- Last Thursday, 9/27/18, for example offered a preparedness class at Lagunitas School that was attended by about 150 residents.
- VERG is staffed by volunteers - about 10 active, 30 participating, and 100 monitoring. The organization maintains two (2) stocked cargo supplies trailers at SGV Golf Course and St Cecilia's in Lagunitas, and coordinates through 5 iComm portable radios and other privately owned radio units. A comm-check radio test is conducted weekly.
- The historic October 2017 North Bay fires began early in the morning when about 40 families evacuating the fires showed up at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center - simply because they saw a sign along the road it was a community center. VERG members were called and immediately responded.
- VERG co-coordinator Jim Fazackerley, Community Center Director Dave Cort and retired Ross Valley Fire BC Brian McCarthy and others used the Incident Command System (ICS) to set up and then manage incoming volunteers who staffed an emergency shelter at the Center, serving about 40 overnight persons that first night.
- Well over 200 volunteers came to help, often bringing donations in-kind, some of which was needed, some not. Local restaurants brought in excellent meals for all, and bilingual volunteers helped the many Spanish speaking evacuees with their needs. Coordination among other 'pop up' shelters throughout West Marin as well as through the County Emergency Operations Center, developed in part with the help of Supervisor Dennis Rodoni. Nursing volunteers attended to medical needs that were presented.
- Over the next few days, VERG was able to secure portable toilets, a portable shower, about 200 cots and sleeping bags, and more to support evacuees.
- The more recent **Irving Fire**, that started Sept 10th near the edge of Samuel Taylor Park, involved the precautionary evacuation of over 100 homes near Lagunitas and Forest Knolls.
- Brian McCarthy spoke with the MCFD Fire Chief, and once again, VERG provided resources at the Community Center to about 50 persons, including 9 overnight stays, who sought assistance.
- From these experiences, VERG came to value the importance of ICS and other training, coordination among a wide range of responding agencies through conference calls and personal relationships.
- Issues that will continue to need planning include material and funded donations management, 'authorized shelter' authorization and reporting time and expense records to meet FEMA and CalOES reimbursement policies, DSW status for volunteers, and potential security issues when dealing with large numbers of persons.



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3) Committee Meeting – Oct. 1, 2018

- Code enforcement, such as restaurant / health code inspections may not be a priority in the first days following a disaster these issues will emerge during a recovery phase of the event. Further, additional planning to serve persons with Access & Functional Needs (AFN), as well as coordination with MIDC & CVNL³ / EVC functions, should be explored.

III. Updates from PDEP members

- MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine Way advised the MCCMC disaster preparedness committee has now met 4 times and is exploring how cities might use volunteers in disasters. A committee report to MCCMC will be made in January.
- An uncertainty remains whether cities are willing to commit funds for disaster preparedness. MCFD Chief Jason Weber will address MCCMC on Oct 29th to seek support for city contributions to the County Disaster Coordinator position.

- West Marin

- PDEP had not received updates from WMDC since the September meeting.

- MIDC and ARC liaison information

- Adriana Rabkin, the MIDC⁴ Coordinator, explained that MIDC is the Marin County VOAD⁵, seeking to develop disaster preparation and response among its members following the principle of the Four C's of Disaster Partnering: Communication, Cooperation, Coordination and Collaboration.⁶
- MIDC acts as the 'glue' that holds together nonprofit and faith based groups responding in a disaster.
- MIDC will hold its next meeting Oct 30th at 0930 hrs to reflect and respond: reflect upon the fires last year and work collaboratively as a group to identify how best to respond to future disasters (including MIDC protocol for communications, resource sharing, and other).
- As MIDC covers all of Marin County and is the liaison for all organizations across Marin Operational Area, Adriana is planning to develop a current database of organizations and their capabilities.
- Peter Mendoza and Elaine Tokolahi Co-Chair MIDC and MIDC plans to develop active committees, lead workshops, update the website and create a newsletter.

- Southern Marin / Business Community

- Garry and Maggie Lang are discussing a new Disaster Preparedness Initiative for Marin Communities with Essential Disaster Recovery Businesses (DRAFT v 2.1 dated

³ CVNL: Center for Volunteer and NonProfit Leadership: <https://cvnl.org/>

⁴ MIDC: the Marin Interagency Disaster Coalition: <http://www.midcpartners.org/>

⁵ VOAD: Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster: <https://www.nvoad.org/>. California Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaste at <http://www.calvoad.org/>.
See also the National Disaster Interfaiths Network (NDIN) at <http://www.n-din.org/> and Points of Light at: <http://www.pointsoflight.org/handsonnetwork>.

⁶ The Four C's of Disaster Partnering - See: <https://convergenceclabs.com/blog/2018/01/the-four-cs-communication-coordination-cooperation-and-collaboration/> and the Academy of Management Annual Meeting Proceedings 2014(1):13532-13532 · October 2014 - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276892427_The_Four_Cs_of_Disaster_Partnering_Communication_Coordination_and_Collaboration and also <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26749291>



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3) Committee Meeting – Oct. 1, 2018

9/31/2018) to invite Marin County cities, towns and unincorporated neighborhoods to better utilize the existing Marin Business Emergency Readiness (M'BER) planning tool.

- This new initiative, identified as 'Get Ready Business'⁷ is sponsored by a grant from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and is being organized by the Marin Economic Forum (MEF), with the support of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council (DC3) and the PDEP Committee.
- A business community's participation would typically include these steps:
 - 1) Build community consensus to join the initiative;
 - 2) Appoint a Local Coordinator (ie fire marshal or volunteer) for the community;
 - 3) Send Local Coordinator to the 2-4 hour training course;
 - 4) Solicit participation of key disaster recovery businesses;
 - 5) Conduct orientations for businesses preparing M'BER Emergency Plans;
 - 6) Answer questions and support the business representatives as necessary;
 - 7) Critique Emergency Plans prepared; and
 - 8) Participate in lessons learned meetings to improve the initiative going forward
- Everyone benefits from key business recovery following disasters: the residents, the businesses, the fire jurisdiction & the local government.

- CERT, Get Ready and Get Ready 5th:

- Maggie advised 31 new CERTs just graduated from the San Rafael class. The Pt. Reyes class is full, and a new San Rafael class has been added for Oct 27 & Nov 3.⁸
- Jim Tomlinson and Elaine Tokolahi of CVNL taught a great class on CERT staffing of Emergency Volunteer Centers (EVCs) in Mill Valley 9/29 with 38 attendees
- CVNL also conducted Local Assistance Center (LAC) training last week.
- Red Cross will help instruct CERTs in shelter work in November.
- The Urban Shield (Green Command) exercise for CERTs Sept. 8th had about 150 CERTs from all over the Bay Area involved in with 4 scenarios: damage assessment, obstacle course, SAR, and mass casualty with realistic moulaged first aid training, and more.
- Quinn had heard that next year's Green Command will include tabletop training.
- The Bay Area CERT Coalition has had 2 meetings in SF with representatives of 14-15 CERT groups from around the Bay Area attending. Last meeting in Concord. Discussed National Conference and Sigma (credentialing program to track CERT events, classes, online courses, etc.). The Coalition discussed a wide range of how classes are taught, who teaches, how much they cost, how many, etc.. Next meeting will be in November.
- September is National Preparedness Month- weekly messaging up on www.Readymarin.org.
- Get Ready: funding to update program was approved through State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) to include Get Ready 5th Grade (GR5). Will reach out for Get Ready 5th Grade (GR5) in next month.
- Marin County Office of Education Marin Schools Emergency Preparedness Council (MSEPC)⁹ will have big push in the fall for GR5. MCOE Director Mike Grant discussed this & Red Cross' Pillowcase Project for 3-4th graders.
- Maggie has met with the Tamalpais High vice principal three times, and is developing a TEEN CERT training that could become part of the school's emergency plan. A plan is

⁷ Get Ready Business: <https://readymarin.org/get-ready/ready-business/>

⁸ See online CERT Class schedules and registration: <https://readymarin.org/calendar/>

⁹ Marin Schools Emergency Preparedness Council (MSEPC)
<http://www.marinschools.org/SafeSchools/Pages/Emergency-Services.aspx>



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3) Committee Meeting – Oct. 1, 2018

being developed to introduce the training at a student 'Club Day' in February 2019 with a drama presentation by students.

- All of us are encouraged to participate in the Great California Shakeout¹⁰ on October 18th at 1018 hrs by practicing the Drop, Cover, Hold On Quake protective actions.

- Access + Functional Needs communities (AFN):

- Peter and Frank attended the PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program and Public Safety Power Shutoff meeting Wednesday, September 26, and found the presentation valuable. Jim Wickham was one of the representatives present from PG&E.
- Following a fire risk map prepared by CPUC, PG&E advised that if there developed an extreme fire risk in vulnerable areas, typically involving high winds, low humidity, high temperatures and such, PG&E would cut the power to these areas. Every effort would be made to coordinate with public agencies, and to communicate well with the public, with special concerns for AFN populations. (see Jim Wickham comments, below).
- At the meeting, Frank suggested PG&E might collaborate with groups such as CVNL or fire agencies who could deploy CERTs to do door to door safety checks in neighborhoods to make sure elderly or AFN residents were identified and assisted.
- Peter noted many AFN persons lack substantial financial resources, or family support, and are particularly vulnerable in Government sponsored Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities¹¹ that typically lack qualified personal assistance staff, generators, mobility aids, air conditioning, and such.
- Peter outlined 9 recommendations representatives from the AFN communities offered to PG&E concerning the de-energizing program.¹²

¹⁰ The Great California Shakeout Drill: <https://www.shakeout.org/> See also organizational resources: <https://www.shakeout.org/california/resources/>

¹¹ HUD Section 811 of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-625) Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/mfh/progdesc/disab811

¹² Below is a list of recommendations developed by Ana Acton, Executive Director, FREED (The Foundation of Resources for Equality and Employment for the Disabled) Center for Independent Living; Barry Atwood; L. Vance Taylor, Chief of Access and Functional Needs of CA Office of Emergency Services, OES; and Richard Skaff, Executive Director, Designing Accessible Communities.

I. Establish a “loan closet” program for individuals with disabilities to borrow generators in advance of power outages. Safety training would need to be incorporated as part of the program and provisions to address the installation of transfer switches when using a generator, so those using generators won't accidentally re-energize the utility power lines, will need to be developed. This program should also include the provision of multiple power units (generators or whole house battery systems like the Tesla home battery system) to local fire stations, so the first-responders can take a unit to individuals who have not been identified.

II. Continue working in partnership with disability stakeholders to present at conferences, meetings, and events to inform the community about the de-energization program and the options the utilities will make available to people with disabilities. That interaction should also take place during the utility active de-energization events.

III. Establish a mechanism to inform customers with disabilities, who require climate control, where local cooling and warming centers are located. If such centers do not exist, PG&E should open them. PG&E should also contract with local paratransit companies to provide immediate transportation for customers with disabilities with free shuttle service to/from climate control centers on very short notice from the time power is turned off.



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3) Committee Meeting – Oct. 1, 2018

- Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Megan Stevenson (nee Scott), Sr. Program Coordinator for H&HS Public Health Preparedness, has resumed work following maternity leave, and anticipates attending future PDEP meetings.

- Utilities including MMWD and PG&E

- **Jim Wickham, PG&E** / MV City Council, distributed a detailed PG&E powerpoint PDF and other materials that outlined the Community Wildfire Safety Program.
- California is coping with years of drought, extreme heat, strong wind gusts¹³ and 129 million dead trees that have resulted in large areas of the State identified as Tier 2 Elevated or Tier 3 Extreme fire risks.¹⁴ Basically, almost all of Marin County falls within these risk zones.
- PG&E is committed to protect the public as much as possible from wildfire risks, particularly those that might be started by downed power lines, by setting up a Wildfire Safety Operations Center in San Francisco that is staffed 24/7 by highly qualified persons assigned to monitor current risks, determine and inform agencies and customers of prospective power shut offs, and then inspect / restore power as needed.
- The company hopes to alert the community 24+ hours prior to a public safety power shutoff. However, in the event of a high risk of wildfire and power related emergencies, PG&E must focus on their core services, and not duplicate other public and private

IV. Provide all individuals who are eligible for the reduced cost power program with a medic alert membership and a plug-in alarm that sounds when the power goes off and calls the medic alert program.

V. Identify high-risk customers, especially in the urban wild land interface areas, and put them on an emergency follow-up list. During power outages and/or evacuations, first responders and volunteer disaster workers (local CERT volunteers-statewide) should coordinate with PG&E to contact those individuals to confirm they are safe.

VI. Provide eligible disabled customers with emergency planning information and assistance with a needs assessment and emergency plan. Plan preparation includes technical assistance with the plan and power-related equipment needed to implement it.

VII. Establish a grant program to provide eligible customers with disabilities with backup batteries, and other emergency-related items to prepare for power outages.

VIII. Create a zero-interest loan program whereby individuals with disabilities can borrow funds to purchase emergency preparedness equipment to increase their overall emergency preparedness posture.

IX. Supply individuals with disabilities with KnoxBox units so if they are unable to mobilize themselves and first responders are sent to the person's home/apartment, fire and paramedic personnel who have the KnoxBox master key (no one else, including family can have a KnoxBox key for security) in their vehicles can easily and quickly get to those individuals. For more info regarding KnoxBox, visit their website <https://www.knoxbox.com/>

¹³ Bay Area Fire Risk Winds: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diablo_wind

¹⁴ CPUC Fire Risk mapping: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/FireThreatMaps/>



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3) Committee Meeting – Oct. 1, 2018

groups that identify persons with AFN limitations, train and equip them for power emergencies, and/or undertake evacuations and rescues if there is a power outage.

- That said, PG&E plans some direct outreach to medical baseline / life support customers.
- PG&E encourages everyone to sign up for wildfire alerts, create personal / family plans, harden their homes, assemble emergency supplies, and more.¹⁵
- In a major wind or fire event, or similar (quake, other) disaster, PG&E will want to visually inspect power lines and facilities for damage before restoring power. Residents may experience, and should plan for, loss of power for up to 2 days or more time.
- The disabling of automatic circuit breakers and reclosures¹⁶ will require staff to manually view and re-energize parts of the electrical grid affected by the emergency.
- To reduce the risk as much as possible, PG&E has increased vegetation management around power lines, expanding existing 4 feet clearance to ~ 15 ft. in some areas. Upgraded infrastructure: replacing poles, stronger coated power lines, installing local fire detection cameras, and more is underway or planned.
- Again, Frank and Maggie thought PG&E could partner with local response groups, such as CERT teams activated by local fire agencies, for some needs during wildfire emergencies.
- **Dave Peery, MWWD** Safety and Risk Manager reported the Water District is working intensively to manage fire prone vegetation and thus reduce fire risks. A new manager, and auxiliary staff, are being recruited.
- Many of the pipelines in the MWWD are over a century old, and are being replaced as staff and funds permit. Priorities and resources will be set by the MMWD Board of Directors.¹⁷

- Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC), etc.

- Dr. Tom Cromwell reported the year-long moratorium set by the County in filling the MMRC coordinator position ends in October.
- Members of MMRC were sent to the Mendocino Complex Fires last month, and are continuing to offer First Aid for Disaster Response (FADR) classes throughout the County.
- The Belvedere Block Captain program will conduct a practice exercise on October 18th, and is offering instruction on the Incident Command System (ICS) to members.

- OES, Training and other Events:

- Catherine mentioned that USGS Scientist Emeritus and Stanford Adjunct Professor of Geophysics Ross Stein will speak about earthquakes on October 17, 2018, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM at the Corte Madera Community Center¹⁸
- Frank mentioned upcoming trainings and events
2018 10 03 Presidential FEMA / EAS WEA alert on cellphones, TV, and radio
2018 10 04 DSW Class (Tom Jordan, OES, will teach this class)
2018 10 12 CERT San Rafael Planning
2018 10 18 Shakeout Quake drill
2018 11 08 Local Councils Mtg #8

¹⁵ PG&E wildfire alerts and supporting information:

https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/community-wildfire-safety.page

¹⁶ PG&E Safety programs: <https://www.pgecommitment.com/community-wildfire-safety-program/>

¹⁷ MWWD Board of Directors: <https://www.marinwater.org/209/Board-of-Directors>

¹⁸ Earthquake talk: <https://www.townofcortemadera.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=235>



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V. Open Time / Public Comment

3:00 PM end of meeting

- Catherine closed the meeting.

Next Meetings:

Dates may be flexible as circumstances require.

PDEP Meetings: 1-3pm Year 2018: 11/5/2018, 12/3/2018

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

DC3 Meetings: 3-5pm: Board Chambers, Civic Center, Dates may be flexible

Year 2018: 12/13/2018 Year 2019: 3/14/2019, 6/13/2019, 9/12/2019, 12/12/2019

Online: <https://www.marinsheriff.org/about-us/field-service-bureau/office-of-emergency-services>

PDEP_Minutes 2018-10-01 b.docx

APPROVED at PDEP meeting of 11-5-2018

revised rev 11-06-2018 1500 hr fcox