PDE+P Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2019

Final approved at PDEP meeting of 3/4/19

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
Peter Mendoza  DC3 / AFN representative
Quinn Gardner  SRFD emergency manager
Tom Cromwell  Marin Medical Reserve Corps, etc.

Members Excused or Absent:
David Peery  MMWD Safety & Risk Manager
Keith Kennedy  DC3 Member, Dist. 3
Megan Stevenson  Sr Program Coordinator H&HS Public Health Preparedness
Vincent Valenzuela  San Rafael Red Cross Disaster Manager

Handouts distributed:
- Agenda, PDEP meeting 01/07/2019
- Draft PDEP Minutes 2018-11-05 (c).pdf
- KQED Lowdown Lesson Plan When Disaster Strikes
- 2019 01 07 Ideas for PDEP discussion, 2 pages
- SHSGP 2018 Application, MCFD, Fire Chief’s Association to fund Get Ready Pgm.
- Bay Area Wildland Urban Interface White Paper, ABAG & MTC.
- BOS Resolution commending Anne Sands, WMDC, 12-18-2018
- WMDC minutes of Nov 15, 2018
- PDEP member contact list updated as of 12-31-2018

I. Welcome, Introductions, Handouts. Review of Minutes
- Catherine welcomed attendees, and introductions were made.
- Peter moved adoption of the draft minutes. Maggie seconded. Approved.

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2 Bay Area Wildland Urban Interface White Paper
http://resilience.abag.ca.gov/projects/wildfire-white-paper/
II. CERT transition - a short review, and the long view for next year

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

- Maggie reported this last year, CERT conducted 14 class events training 336 graduates, a 35% increase over last year.

- Specialized CERT classes were offered for the Golden Gate Bridge District, Marin City, Boy Scouts + parents.

- CERTs are required to re-certify every 4 years, and participate in one safety-related course/event or complete an online course with a safety focus every year. Lapsed CERTs may not be assigned CERT responsibilities without being re-sworn and that depends on the availability of a deputized agent to swear them in at the time. Maintaining current DSW status covers CERTs for Workers Compensation if they are injured in a declared emergency or a training.

- A tiered qualifications system, previously used in Mill Valley, distinguishing those CERTs who have had specialized and advanced training, is under consideration.

- The SIGMA Time/credentialing software that allows both CERT and individual members to track trainings, certifications, and deployments held a successful pilot in November. We will continue to look at using this phone app credentialing program.

- The CERT 2019 class schedule is on the www.ReadyMarin.org website. The Feb. & March classes are full. CERT class will be held at Tam High in February.

- The CERT steering committee elected to add an additional 2 hrs. to basic class, for a total of 20 hrs per class. That will include an extra class one evening before 1st Sat. to cover administration and & Unit 1.

- CERTs were deployed to Butte County to assist with survivors of the Paradise, CA fire. 11 volunteers covered 44 shifts. To date, there have been no negative issues. An additional 9 CERTs scheduled to work in next 2-3 weeks.

- Marin CERTs were requested by Butte County, through Cal OES, and worked as volunteers under Fire Services supervision. They were housed in base camp tents near the Oroville airport, where food / sanitation and security services were available. Volunteers from other groups, such as Americorps, were also housed in these tents.

- CERTs and other volunteers who are assigned to work in shelters, and especially with children or other vulnerable populations, should be ‘background checked’ for safety. The Red Cross requires volunteers assigned to shelters pass basic ‘background checks’ - but different agencies and different deployments may require substantially different levels of ‘background checks’.

- Most of the CERTs assigned to Butte County were assigned to work in donated supplies and data management, rather than shelter work.

- Peter mentioned that many AFN residents, including himself, have privately retained attendants and other support. If a disaster were to occur, and he might evacuate to a shelter, his attendant if available might assist him, but not be ‘background checked’ to assist others. Questions of access to ARC shelters or similar sites may be raised. The whole question of background checks for private service providers, contractors, NGO and other types of volunteers is very complex. PDEP members commented that the subject of ‘background checks’ and credentialing is complex, and worth additional planning and standardization.

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3 The SIGMA time / credentialing software, offered as a free trial to CERTs. See https://try.sig.ma/
• Similarly, volunteers must be trained to meet basic Human Resources and non-discrimination standards, including what can be asked, and what should not be asked, in working with the public.

• CERT Advanced trainings in early 2019:
  • Planned advanced training is scheduled for 2019, including CERT Communications on Jan. 26, Leadership Feb. 28, Humane Society in March 2, and the Annual Simulation in May 2019.
  • There are local CERT Steering Committees now organized in most communities including Central Marin, Southern Marin, West Marin and San Rafael.
  • The CERT curriculum is being updated, including improved modules & updating power point slide decks. The Bay Area CERT Coalition will meet again in late January.

• Get Ready / Other:
  • Funding to update the program was approved through State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) to include Get Ready 5th Grade (GR5).
  • Get Ready 5th Grade (GR5) presentations are now available anywhere in the county. Marin County Office of Education will have big push for GR5.
  • County EPC meeting with Mike Grant discussed this & Red Cross’ Pillowcase Project for 3-4th graders.

III. The school continuum - students & staff reaching out to families
• Mike Grant, Director at the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE), and a member of DC3, was welcomed by PDEP.
• Mike outlined some of the ongoing elements of the DC3 strategic priority, called ‘School Based Continuum’ supported by MCOE, including the Red Cross pillowcase project⁴, Get Ready 5th Grade⁵, mandated compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with encouraged Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) instruction as a requirement for high school graduation⁶.
• In addition to these efforts, California schools are required to participate in mandated fire drills and earthquake drills⁷, and a renewed focus by the California Department of Education on specific requirements of the mandated Comprehensive School Safety Plan⁸.
• MCOE advises and supports the 18 Marin School Districts, and multiple private and parochial schools in the County, to help them individually create local school plans that may include but are not limited to risks including

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⁵ Get Ready 5th Grade: https://readymarin.org/get-ready/get-ready-5th-grade/

⁶ Mandated CPR high school education: Assembly Bill No. 1719, §51225.6 to the Education Code. See: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1719

⁷ Fire Drills - EDC § 32001 See: https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/education-code/edc-sect-32001.html

• Fire
• Relocation/Evacuation
• Bomb Threat
• Bioterrorism/Hazardous Materials
• Earthquake
• Flood
• Power Failure / Blackout
• Intruders / Solicitors
• Weapons / Assault / Hostage
• Explosion
• Gas/Fumes
• Child Abuse
• Disaster preparedness for AFN persons
• Building access and evacuations, shelter, mass care planning,
• Dangerous pupil / bullying / dress codes, etc.

New legislation effective January 1, 2019, AB 1747 requires that schools consult with a local fire department and other first responder entities in the writing and development of Comprehensive School Safety Plans. MCOE conducted a pilot wildfire risk assessment walkthrough of all of their campuses in the Spring of 2018 with a local fire official, a risk manager, a site administrator and district administrator that can serve as a model for other schools. The walkthroughs included review of fire lanes, defensible space, fuel reduction and evacuation plans and procedures.

Retired Marinwood Fire Chief Tom Roach, for example, helped assess evacuation needs at Magnolia Park School (for Special Education students) located near Juvenile Hall, including transportation for wheelchair bound students.

Marin County EMS is spearheading an effort in partnership with MCOE to place a wall mounted STOP THE BLEED trauma / first aid Kit in every Marin County High School Classroom, and to encourage Stop the Bleed training to be incorporated into required compression only CPR training.

MCOE maintains a website with some of the local preparedness information and local news / school condition information posted.

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10 Marin County Fire Prevention Resources: https://www.marincounty.org/depts/fr/divisions/fire-prevention-investigation/prevention-documents

11 Stop the Bleed - a DHS supported effort to encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. See: https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed and the Stop the Bleeding Coalition: https://stopthebleedingcoalition.org/ PDEP member Dr. Tom Cromwell, MMRC, commented an adequate Stop the Bleed class should take 3-4 hours hands on instruction.

- MCOE, through their School to Career Partnership program, is looking at the possibility of bringing back a Teen CERT training program as part of a First Responder Career pathway program for high school students. Ideally this would include potential internships with local fire departments, and the opportunity for Teen CERT team members to teach GR5th Grade.

- MCOE maintains a staff of about 300 employees, and the 18 school districts manage thousands more. Frank asked if all these public employees, who may be required to serve as Disaster Service Workers (DSWs), are given DSW training.

- Mike advised MCOE staff are given a disaster kit on entry, and may be required to serve as DSWs depending on their personal (typically family) circumstances as Level one, two or three contingency release protocols. While there is some DSW training available, more is needed throughout the various school systems.

- Some school efforts, such as the Pillowcase Project and GR5th, encourage students to engage family members in preparedness efforts. Frank pointed to KQED’s online post-fire classroom discussion site such as their ‘When Disaster Strikes’ PDF may be helpful.

- The proposed Countywide Disaster Preparedness Coordinator supported by DC3 may, when funded, hired, and resourced, be of help to schools and all in Marin County.

IV. Strategic Planning for PDEP. What are our priorities now?

- Frank distributed a 1.5 page handout that PDEP might consider to discuss priorities for year 2019. A major concern was the status of the Years 2013+2017 DC3 strategic goals approved at the December 14, 2018 DC3 meeting: Reinvigorating the Get Ready Program, including a Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, the enhanced School Based Continuum, and county wide training for Disaster Service Workers (DSWs).

- The Year 2018 SHSGP14 application, also distributed, was approved, and identifies disaster preparedness as one of the highest priorities facing the Council. It provided $76K funding for 24 ‘Get Ready courses taught by local fire services the first year, printing of instructional and marketing materials, and a GR5th instructor contractor. The County has set aside partial funding for a Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, but contributions from Marin Cities in dollars and time are still under discussion. Similarly, the funding and continuation of the CERT Coordinator position15 is under discussion.

- At the December 13, 2018 DC3 meeting, it was reported that local funding for the full program may be deferred to the FY 2019-20 budget cycle. Hence, status of these strategic goals is being developed by MCFD and others, but not yet clear. PDEP believes these core strategic goals continue as a high priority for us in 2019.

- Vicky noted that the San Geronimo Valley Readiness Group (VERG)16 is planning on hosting a public firewise preparedness event incident to this year’s National Fire


14 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) - https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/grants-management/homeland-security-prop-1b-grant-programs

15 Maggie Lang, CERT Coordinator, is expected to retire in mid-February 2019.

16 VERG: https://www.sgvcc.org/verg/
Having local organizations build on Statewide and National efforts may help build enthusiasm for our local efforts.

- Similarly, vegetation management ‘Chipper Days’ can collaborate with groups such as the West Marin ‘Green Waste Days’, a collaboration between MCFD, Lunny Grading and Paving, Inc. and Lafranchi Dairy in Nicasio.

- Collaborative efforts, including the ‘Fire in Marin’ classes and the Marin Local Disaster Councils meetings could inform people of these available services.

- The recent major California fires have underscored the importance of effective public alert systems, including clear messages advising the public to shelter in place, or seek an identified nearby safety site (such as a football field), or to evacuate the area. These issues are complex, and under discussion by first responder agencies. Sashi McEntee pointed to excellent reporting on the Butte County / Paradise fires by the Los Angeles Times that reported how inadequate planning, alerting, and evacuation efforts contributed to the worst fire event in recent California history.

- Frank commented that in the event a major Marin disaster, whether fire, quake, or similar, Highway 101 on our East and Highway One to the West would likely become quickly impassible. However, Quinn noted a public education effort that helped residents plan for local retreat from residence to a nearby place of safety, such as green parks unlikely to burn in a wildland fire, might save lives.

- Clearly, evacuation plans are locally complex, and will require clear planning and public education to save lives.

- Tom noted that almost all communication systems will be one of the first casualties in a major disaster. Evacuation drills and informational fairs may help the public prepare for major events of this type.

- Frank commented we need to define the problem first. Marin is sandwiched between two massive fault zones, and a massive earthquake will occur - likely in most of our lifetimes.

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19 Fire in Marin: [https://www.firesafemarin.org/about/news/entry/fire-in-marin-free-2-hour-seminar](https://www.firesafemarin.org/about/news/entry/fire-in-marin-free-2-hour-seminar)


> “Failing to prepare for the larger disaster is hardly unique to Paradise, said former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. Flaws in such planning are so common that Fugate describes them as the "deadly sins" of emergency management: Practicing drills that guarantee success; assuming that plans can be scaled up when a massive disaster strikes; relying on government systems to work under pressure; failing to plan how to protect vulnerable populations, such as the elderly; and mistrusting the public, which often leads to not warning the public early enough.

> ‘We plan for what we're capable of, and we hope it isn't any worse,’ he said”

See also ‘They thought they’d die trapped in a parking lot - How 150 survivors of California's deadliest fire made it out alive’ Dec 02, 2018 [https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-paradise-survivors-20181202-htmlstory.html](https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-paradise-survivors-20181202-htmlstory.html)
One study, the Haywired study\textsuperscript{21}, projects 450 large fires near the epicenter (est 80,000 residences), many hundreds of deaths, perhaps 18,000 injured, and cumulative economic losses well beyond $100 Billion.\textsuperscript{22} As Frank has repeatedly noted during DC3 meetings, DC3 really needs to put this subject on the DC3 agenda, discuss it, and discern how best to mitigate / prepare for this event.

- If anything, Marin County may be committing one of the ‘deadly sins’ of emergency management described by former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate:
  
  ‘\textit{We plan for what we’re capable of, and we hope it isn’t any worse}’\textsuperscript{23}

- Additional priorities for 2019 remain, but will be discussed at future PDEP meetings.

V. Updates from PDEP members

- MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers
  
  - Catherine and Sashi reported on the recent efforts of the MCCMC Disaster Preparedness Committee\textsuperscript{24} to pass consistent building and safety ordinances across all of Marin, and to develop a culture of preparedness with the help of city practices and residents.
  
  - Sashi is also the Chair of the Marin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) responsible for administering the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH). This includes regulating and planning the orderly formation and expansion of local government agencies and their municipal service areas.\textsuperscript{25} LAFCO, too, is interested in further developing preparedness efforts.

- West Marin
  
  - The WMDC minutes of Nov 15, 2018 were distributed, and the next meeting is scheduled Feb. 21, 2019 in Red Barn Classroom, Point Reyes.
  
  - Anne Sands has retired as WMDC Coordinator, and PDEP joins a great many, including the County Board of Supervisors, in thanking her for her excellent service.

- Red Cross
  
  - Vincent Valenzuela, Disaster Program Manager Solano / Marin Counties, was out of the County in meetings on January 7\textsuperscript{26}. We look forward to his joining us next month.

\textsuperscript{21} Haywired Quake Study: USGS at \url{https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20175013}. See also the Haywired Scenario Animations at \url{https://www.usgs.gov/natural-hazards/science-application-risk-reduction/science/haywired-scenario?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects}

\textsuperscript{22} Haywired Quake / Outsmart Disaster site: \url{https://outsmartdisaster.com/}

\textsuperscript{23} Failing to prepare for the larger disaster is hardly unique to Paradise, said former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. Flaws in such planning are so common that Fugate describes them as the "deadly sins" of emergency management:

  - Practicing drills that guarantee success; assuming that plans can be scaled up when a massive disaster strikes;
  
  - relying on government systems to work under pressure;
  
  - failing to plan how to protect vulnerable populations, such as the elderly; and
  
  - mistrusting the public, which often leads to not warning the public early enough.

  "We plan for what we're capable of, and we hope it isn't any worse," he said. LA Times article: ‘Here's how Paradise ignored warnings and became a deathtrap’ \url{https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-camp-fire-deathtrap-20181230-story.html}

\textsuperscript{24} MCCMC Disaster Preparedness: \url{http://mccmc.org/committees/disasterprep/}

\textsuperscript{25} LAFCO: \url{http://lafco.marin.org/}
- Southern Marin / Business Community
  • Garry reported the Marin Economic Forum meeting had to be postponed as there was a house fire in Mill Valley at the same time.
  • Garry anticipates discussing further development of the Marin Business Emergency Readiness (M'BER)26 Program with local fire marshalls, critical businesses, and additional city officials.

- CERT, Get Ready and Get Ready 5th:
  • See the Agenda Item II: CERT transition - a short review, and the long view for next reported by Maggie Lang, Supra.
  • Maggie will be retiring from the County CERT program on Feb. 15, 2019. It is hoped that the proposed part time Disaster Preparedness Coordinator will be able to assist with this position. PDEP continues to thank Maggie for the excellent job she has done as the County CERT Coordinator.

- Access + Functional Needs communities (AFN) and MIDC:
  • Peter had to leave a bit early, so this portion of the agenda is deferred to next month.

- Public Health Preparedness and related programs
  • Megan Stevenson was unable to attend this meeting. This part of the agenda is deferred to next month.

- Public Safety / Emergency Management
  • Quinn reported that San Rafael Fire is proposing the city council adopt a 37 point prevention goals, including updating the City's vegetation management standards, new ordinances, expanding existing wildfire prevention programs, and implementing new programs and projects. The plan will be released publicly later this month. 27
  • The City of San Rafael is participating in a coordinated emergency shelter program for homeless persons at risk, especially in bad weather. After 10 years of operation, this winter will no longer see the added capacity of 60 emergency shelter beds from November to April through the Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST). REST was a rotating shelter program hosted by faith-based organizations throughout the county. 28

- Utilities including MMWD and PG&E
  • Jim Wickham reported that PG&E has expanded the number of wildfire cameras online in Marin County.29 These cameras offer high definition / infrared images in the SRFD Emergency Command Center in Woodacre where dispatchers have access to the system 24-hours a day.
  • Mill Valley City Council will be hearing a request from the Fire Chief to replace existing emergency sirens with Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) on 1/24/2019. LRAD

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27 Shortly after the PDEP meeting, San Rafael posted this link to allow people to read / download the 37 Point SRFD plan: https://cityofsanrafael.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e38503f00c6f78279099943ec&id=464253c674&c=d94dc613d9. See also: https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/draft-wildfire-prevention-and-protection-action-plan-01-17-2019/

28 City of San Rafael / REST shelter programs: https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/emergency-shelter-in-marin/

devices, in addition to opt-in digital alerts such as AlertMarin and Nixle30 are being explored by fire services in several areas of the County.

- Dave Peery was unable to attend this meeting. His portion of the agenda is moved to next month.
- Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC), etc.
- Tom Cromwell reported the County has now authorized the recruitment and hiring of a Marin Medical Reserve Corp (MMRC) Coordinator. The position has been vacant for approximately one year. We look forward to an update next month on this position.

- OES, Training and other Events:
  - There are no new Disaster Service Worker (DSW) classed scheduled until the County completes an analysis by HR, OES, and other County departments on the management of the DSW program.
  - Frank’s role will be limited for a time given health concerns.

VI. Open Time / Public Comment

3:04 PM end of meeting

- Catherine closed the meeting.

Next Meetings:
Dates may be flexible as circumstances require.

PDEP  Meetings: Year 2019: February 4th, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, 2019
Site: PDEP unless otherwise posted: Central Marin Police Community Rm.

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

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

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