



**Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of
the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3)
Committee Meeting – March 4, 2019**

**PDE+P Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2019
Approved at PDEP meeting 5-6-2019**

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
Megan Stevenson	Sr Program Coordinator H&HS Public Health Preparedness
Peter Mendoza	DC3 / AFN representative
Quinn Gardner	SRFD emergency manager
Tom Cromwell	Marin Medical Reserve Corps, etc.
Vincent Valenzuela	San Rafael Red Cross Disaster Manager

Members Excused or Absent:

David Peery	MMWD Safety & Risk Manager (retired 3/1/19)
Keith Kennedy	DC3 Member, Dist. 3 / Sausalito area

Members Public Present

Dan Reese,	BC, Corte Madera Fire, dreese@centralmarinfire.org
Cindy Swift	CERT, Fairfax cindyswift@sbcglobal.net
Jay Hubert	RACES j-mhubert@att.net
Lori Schifrin	MMRC, CERT, etc. / lori.sch@att.net
Mike McDermott	DC3 Dist 2 mjmbug@yahoo.com
Ruben Marin	Central Marin Fire Marshall rmartin@centralmarinfire.org
Sonia Soans	Marin City CSD snssoans@gmail.com
Terrie Green	Marin City CSD terriegreen1@comcast.net
Todd Lando	FireSafe Marin toddlando@firesafemarin.org
Vicki Chase	Co-Chair, VERG vickichase49@gmail.com

Handouts distributed:

- Agenda, PDEP meeting 03/04/2019
- Draft PDEP Minutes 2019-01-07 (c).pdf
- Kate Sears newsletter page on Emergency Preparedness Feb 2019
- Marin IJ article on Firewise 'Aggressive Defense' 2-5-2019
- WMDC agenda 2-21-2019
- ReadyMarin.org article Marin CERTs help in Butte County
- Neighborhood Response Groups Central Marin Newsletter Jan-Feb 2019
- ReadyMarin.org article VERG San Geronimo Valley CERT Drill 2-9-2019
- Marin IJ article on 'Stop the Bleed' MCOE program 2-5-2019
- Firewise NFPA trifold: How to Prepare your Home for Wildfires.
- MMRC First Aid for Disaster Response (FADR) blank evaluation form
- Passed around - Firewise 'Reducing Wildfire Risks' poster

I. Welcome, Introductions, Handouts. Review of Minutes

- Catherine welcomed attendees, and introductions were made.
- David Peery, PDEP MMWD representative, retired 3/1/19. Many thanks to David for his service - and good luck with retirement!
- On review of the January minutes, Maggie and Frank both made minor suggestions. Draft minutes approved with adopted suggestions.



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II. Todd Lando, FIRESafe Marin Coordinator - Marin Neighborhoods

- Todd Lando, FIRESafe Marin Coordinator, was welcomed again to PDEP.
- FIRESafe Marin, now a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was created following the devastating 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Hills "Tunnel" Fire. It is organized to reduce fire risks across the County at many levels.¹
- FIRESafe Marin's initial focus was to identify dangerous pyrophytic plants, encourage use of fire resistant plants and other forms of vegetation management, and to support fire suppression. However, current science supports the reality that fire is a part of the natural environment in many areas of Marin, and is certain to reoccur. In response, FIRESafe Marin has rebranded it's public education effort, entitled '**Living with Fire**', to help residents protect themselves and their homes given the certainty of future wildfires.
- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA™ program² is a national community organizing effort now adopted by FIRESafe Marin that seeks to help residents and communities become resilient to eventual wildfires.
- The first Firewise USA™ site in Marin County was the Marinview Community in Mill Valley³ that achieved Firewise status in 2009. Since then, over 30 Marin Communities have achieved Firewise status, and many more are actively working towards participation with the support of every Fire Department and District in the County.⁴
- A primary focus of Firewise is to encourage property owners to clear any flammable materials that are part of, resting on, or within a 5 foot radius of buildings. Beyond the 5 foot radius there are 30 foot and 100 foot risk reduction efforts recommended.⁵
- The NFPA Firewise USA™ recognition process involves 6 simple steps⁶:
 1. Form a board/committee to organize a site (8 to 2,500 residences)
 2. Draft a localized Wildfire Risk Assessment identifying risks such as dangerously landscaped residences, impaired evacuation routes, and such.⁷
 3. Develop an Action Plan to address the locally identified list of fire risks by proposing projects/investments.⁸
 4. Conduct at least one Public Educational Outreach event per year.⁹

¹ FIRESafe Marin history: <http://firesafemarin.org/about/history>

² NFPA Firewise USA™: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

³ Marinview Community Association: <http://marinview94941.com/>

⁴ FIRESafe Marin list of Firewise USA™ sites: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/firewise>

⁵ FIRESafe Marin advice: hardening your home: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/hardening-your-home>
in order to to avoid home ignition: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/how-homes-ignite>
especially by wildfire embers: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/wildfire-embers>.

⁶ Firewise USA™ recognition process: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/recognition-process>

⁷ The improved Yr 2019 Risk Assessment template is online at FIRESafe Marin here:
http://www.firesafemarin.org/?option=com_fileman&view=file&routed=1&name=FIRESafe_MARIN_Firewise_USA_Assessment_2019.pdf&folder=firewise&container=fileman-files

⁸ Year 2019 FIRESafe Marin Action Plan Template:
www.firesafemarin.org/?option=com_fileman&view=file&routed=1&name=Firewise_Action_Plan_Template_FIRESafe_MARIN.docx&folder=firewise&container=fileman-files

⁹ Public Educational Outreach Events suggested here: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/recognition-process>



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5. Each site must report a Risk Reduction Investment of funds or volunteer work (at the federal Standardized rate of \$24.14 / hour) per year invested within the Firewise USA™ site¹⁰.
 6. Each applicant site must document their efforts using the NFPA Firewise USA™ portal.¹¹ FIRESafe MARIN will help prepare your application, and can manage the application and renewal process for you.¹²
- Questions about the requirement of local investment at a site are often raised. Local sites can report fire reduction improvements to homes (ie fire resistant roofs), fire vegetation management, chipper days (including those supported by grants), goats used to reduce fire risk, volunteer fire-awareness efforts, and more.
 - Some Firewise USA™ benefits include improved risk reduction for individuals, families, and communities, neighbor to neighbor relationship building, access to instructional and grant funded resources, and a growing number of insurance rate / eligibility benefits, currently including USAA policy rate reductions.¹³
 - The costs of a wildfire conflagration can be staggering. The 2018 Camp Fire was the costliest disaster in the world last year, topping out at \$12.5 billion in insured losses as of January according to a report by global reinsurance firm Munich RE¹⁴. The March 2019 estimates of insured losses rose to about \$16.2 billion, and uninsured losses are current estimated at \$25 Billion, and growing. The long term impacts on infrastructure, medical and other human expenses, increased policy rates, and more, will add to the estimates.
 - Todd has consulted with Mill Valley resident, Dr. Steve Quarles, Chief Scientist for Wildfire and Durability at the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), about his studies simulating the risk of wildfire embers blown onto test residences. The testing supported the conclusion that a greatly underestimated cause of home ignitions are wildfire embers landing on flammable surfaces on or around houses, or blowing into typical ¼ inch soffit / eve / and foundation venting.
 - FIRESafe Marin recommends homeowners upgrade to 1/8" to 1/16" metal mesh vents, or newly approved fire-occluding vent products to keep embers from entering interior surfaces of homes.¹⁵ Todd and Vicky Chase related their experience in personally upgrading their residence vents from local suppliers.
 - As the Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP)¹⁶ makes clear, Marin County has large areas of overgrown flammable vegetation subject to high to extreme fire risk. The history of the County includes massive wildfires, such as the 1923 massive fire that

¹⁰ Wildfire Risk Reduction Investment. See for many examples: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Become-a-Firewise-USA-site>

¹¹ Firewise USA™ portal.: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Become-a-Firewise-USA-site/Login-to-Firewise-USA-program-management-portal>

¹² FIRESafe Marin Firewise USA™ assistance: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/recognition-process>

¹³ Benefits of Firewise USA™ <http://www.firesafemarin.org/program-benefits>

¹⁴ Camp Fire Losses: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/fires/article224185765.html>

¹⁵ Home Vent recommendations: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/wildfire-embers> and <http://www.firesafemarin.org/hardening-your-home>

¹⁶ Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2016: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/cwpp>



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burned from Ignacio, through Lucas and Nicasio Valleys, to Woodacre, Lagunitas, and Bolinas Ridge.¹⁷

- As the 2017 North Bay Fire and 2018 Butte County fires have shown, the greatest risk of uncontrolled conflagrations like this occur when there is a hot dry 'Diablo or Santa Ana wind'¹⁸ typically blowing from the North East that may start in the North East quadrant of the fire zone, such as parts of Novato, and rapidly consumes vegetation and buildings along historic fire paths. Potentially, much of Marin County could be caught in a fire of this magnitude, as the fire seasons are now much longer, and fuel is abundant.
- Evacuations of residents in the face of such massive fires would be very difficult. The Marin Fire Chiefs strongly urge everyone to sign up for alerts, including AlertMarin¹⁹ and to follow the READY / SET / GO²⁰ recommendations. After preparing yourself, family, and community, residents should be set to evacuate early when Red Flag or local emergencies arise.²¹
- In worst case scenarios, evacuees fleeing fires in their cars should stay inside the cars if possible, as they do provide some protection. During the Tubbs fire, 150,000 people evacuated and nobody died in their cars. One person died while evacuating after they got out of their car. During the Camp fire, 88 people died - five died in or near their cars in one interception after being involved in an accident. Nobody else died in their cars. Most fatalities were the result of people not evacuating. Photos of burned out car derelicts along the road typically show vehicles left when evacuees fled in other person's vehicles, or their cars were abandoned or inoperable.

III. Review and Recommendations for DC3 mtg 03-14-2019

- PDEP members inquired if the DC3 council might be able to propose priorities to the SHSGP grants committee, now consisting of law, fire, DPW, health, and OES members. An open discussion of unmet needs and suggested efforts may be helpful in providing the most productive policies that DC3 members are expected to approve one a year.
- At the very least, DC3 members should be invited to comment on issues that affect their constituents or other recent events at the end of each DC3 meeting.
- The recent major storms and flooding events would be an appropriate agenda item to cover at the DC3 meeting.
- A discussion of the best forum for planning overall County Preparedness - whether it be the Fire Chiefs, OES, or others would be helpful.
- A discussion of the Haywired Earthquake projections²² may help DC3 consider the Marin planning for a Bay Area regional disaster that some predict would be far more serious than the Tubbs Fires, Camp Fires, and other recent events combined.

¹⁷ Massive 1923 Marin fire: <https://www.marinfirehistory.org/1923-wildfires-including-ignacio-to-bolinas-ridge-fairfax.html>

¹⁸ Diablo or Santa Ana wind' see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diablo_wind

¹⁹ Alert Marin: <https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/alert-marin>

²⁰ Ready Set Go: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/preparedness/ready>

²¹ Evacuation guides and more: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/preparedness/go>

²² Haywired Earthquake projections: USGS at <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20175013>.
See also the Haywired Scenario Animations at https://www.usgs.gov/natural-hazards/science-application-risk-reduction/science/haywired-scenario?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects



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IV. Updates from PDEP members

- MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine reported on the MCCMC Disaster Preparedness Committee²³ to supports passage of consistent building and safety ordinances across all of Marin, and to develop a culture of preparedness with the help of city practices and residents.
- Board of Supervisor member Katie Rice is working diligently to bring together various fire, flood, and other first responder and preparedness efforts across the county.²⁴ Katie is coordinating the effort, now referred to as “**Marin Ready Together**” with County Fire Chiefs, FIRESafe Marin, and other key stakeholders. The effort envisions two qualified city personnel from each city to participate in the coordinated planning.

- West Marin

- Frank received emails from former WMDC Coordinator Anne Sands that Steve Marcotte, Assistant Fire Chief at Bolinas Fire Protection District, is the newly appointed WMDC Coordinator. PDEP congratulations Steve on this appointment, and pledges to continue to collaborate with WMDC in the future.
- WMDC will hold a Tsunami Evacuation Drill in Bolinas March 30th.

- Red Cross

- Vincent Valenzuela, Disaster Program Manager Solano / Marin Counties, reported that Marin Red Cross volunteers responded to recent flooding along the Russian River. Shelters had been set up at the Sebastopol Arts Center, Grace Pavillion and Cloverdate Citrus fairgrounds.
- The later shelter was intended to assist persons who were previously homeless, but the site became a mixed shelter for homeless and residence evacuees.
- ARC coordinated with Salvation Army, who provided meals at these sites. Points of Distribution (PODs) provided the public with cleanup tools, such as bleach, using the Multi-Agency Distribution of Emergency Supplies (DES) Plan Template²⁵
- The Guerneville area evacuation order was lifted March 1st and a Local Assistance Center (LAC) was set up at the old Bank of American Building 16390 Main St. in Guerneville.

- Southern Marin / Business Community

- Garry has met with Mill Valley Council representative / LAFCO director Sashi McEntee and Mill Valley fire Chief Tom Welch to further development of the Marin Business Emergency Readiness (M'BER)²⁶ Program in that city. Other cities will hopefully follow Mill Valley's experience.
- The newly appointed Director of the Marin Economic Forum²⁷ is currently focused on workforce and housing issues. As time permits, Garry will continue to urge their support in the M'BER program.

²³ MCCMC Disaster Preparedness: <http://mccmc.org/committees/disasterprep/>

²⁴ Katie Rice District Two disaster efforts: <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/district-2/current-issues>

²⁵ Multi-Agency Distribution of Emergency Supplies (DES) Plan Template
<http://www.nationalmasscarestrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Multi-Agency-Distribution-of-Emergency-Supplies-Plan-Template-2015.pdf>

²⁶ M'BER Get Ready Business: <https://readymarin.org/get-ready/ready-business/>

²⁷ Marin Economic Forum / Mike Blakeley/Chief Executive Officer: <http://www.marineconomicforum.org/>



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- CERT, Get Ready and Get Ready 5th:

- Maggie reported on
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):
 - The February CERT class was a success, and the March CERT class is already full. In April, CERT training will be offered at Tamalpais High school. The April class will be the first to schedule a 20 hour curriculum, in part with an evening class component.
 - 17 Marin CERTs provided over 500 hours of volunteer service at the Butte County (Camp) fire recovery areas. This was the first deployment of Marin CERTs out of the County. Statewide, over 70 CERTs responded to the event, supporting the disaster recovery center, animal and people shelters, and other duties.
 - Marin CERTs found the experience rewarding. Stress debriefing was offered to CERTs by psychologist Nancy Hogan - a valuable service, as national studies suggest about a third of disaster volunteers experience significant stress when working at disaster sites.
 - Advanced CERT trainings have been scheduled in 2019:
 - 1. Communications held January 26th with 47 attending.
 - 2. Leadership was held February 28th with 37 attending.
 - 3. Humane Society was held March 2nd with 68 attending.
 - 4. The Annual CERT Simulation is scheduled May 4th. It will involve a mass casualty simulation, and will be held at the Hall Middle School in Larkspur.
 - The new Disaster Coordinator Position will be approved. Maggie will meet with the Fire Chief's subcommittee in two weeks to discuss a transition plan covering existing and potential CERT classes.
 - The SIGMA Time/credentialing²⁸ software test in November was successful. Marin CERT will continue to evaluate this smartphone app for credentialing.
 - Cindy advised a small Cascade Canyon evacuation drill involved problems with pets - including a resident with snakes, and another with an aviary of birds.
 - The Bay area CERT coalition meeting will be held 4/02/19 in Marin
 - FEMA is updating the National CERT curriculum, as is Marin CERT.
- Get Ready / Other:
 - A grant was obtained through the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) to support Get Ready 5th Grade (GR5).
 - Get Ready 5th (GR5th) grade is available for schools who request it. New GR5th instructors asked to first observe the class taught, then to co-teach it, and finally be assigned to teach a GR5th curriculum.
 - It is hoped CERTs might be trained as Get Ready instructors.
- Maggie will retire from her position as CERT Coordinator this June.

- Access + Functional Needs communities (AFN) and MIDC:

- Peter, representing Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL)²⁹ met with representatives from Marin Transit / Marin Access³⁰ on March 4th.

²⁸ The SIGMA time / credentialing software, offered as a free trial to CERTs. See <https://try.sig.ma/>

²⁹ Marin Center for Independent Living: <http://marincil.org/>

³⁰ Marin Transit / Marin Access: <https://marintransit.org/marin-access>



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- Topics under discussion included the Marin Emergency Plan, including call back procedures during an emergency to provide transit for persons with Access and Functional Needs (AFN.)
- Ms. Laney Morgado Disability Access Manager, ADA Coordinator for the County of Marin was present, and outlined the County's plans to offer training for staff at facilities that house AFN populations. MCIL will participate in the training later this year.
- Peter is also vice-Chair of the Marin Interagency Disaster Council (MIDC), along with SFRD Emergency Services Manager Quinn Gardner and Terrie Green, Marin City CSD. He reported MIDC will schedule a workshop or exercise every other meeting.
- MIDC has organized two tiers of membership:
 - Organizations involved in disaster services who attend 8 meetings per year and pay \$25/yr fees will have voting rights as MIDC members.
 - Individuals may attend trainings, not as members, and will be expected to pay fees for training.
- MIDC hopes to tour the County EOC in April, and set their annual meeting in May.
- Quinn added that it is critical that facilities serving AFN populations have local disaster plans. The County H&HS website has resources that will help these facilities.

- Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Megan confirmed Peter's report that Laney Morgado, County Disability ADA coordinator, is working with the Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) Coalition to host a workshop April 5th to address AFN and vulnerable population considerations disaster planning for long term care and hospitals.
- Additional activities include psychological first aid training for health care workers responding to emergencies, mass prophylaxis training, and coordination with OES in Yellow Command and Statewide Medical Health Exercise activities this Fall.
- Dr. Cromwell asked about availability of NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray³¹ availability for opioid emergencies. Some but not all Marin Pharmacies stock this product, and prices vary substantially - up to \$150 per two dose unit. It was advised NARCAN® is already carried by first responders, including fire, law, and EMT services. These is discussion whether the product & training should be available in libraries.
- Dr. Cromwell would like to see NARCAN® provided to MMRC for urgent use, and will speak with Dr. Matt Willis, County Public Health Officer.
- Vincent reported he heard some opioid users were able to purchase NARCAN® with health insurance. Others were denied the insurance funding.

- Public Safety / Emergency Management

- Quinn noted there are opportunities among the many special districts, such as the Marin City CSD, to collaborate with the Cities and County EOC in training and disaster response. MIDC as the County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)³² may be an important link from some of these local agencies to the County EOC.
- These issues are complex and will require a great deal of planning. For example, the Marinwood Fire Department, part of the Marinwood CSD, is staffed by the City of San Rafael Fire Department.

³¹ NARCAN® <https://www.narcan.com/>

³² Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD): <https://www.ready.gov/voluntary-organizations-active-disaster>



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- The Draft San Rafael Wildfire Prevention and Protection Action Plan³³ is undergoing edits currently, and may be presented to the City Council soon.
- Quinn will meet with representatives from the Marin Interfaith Council³⁴ to discuss disaster preparedness and response planning.

- Utilities including MMWD and PG&E

- Dave Peery has resigned from his position as MMWD Safety & Risk Manager. PDEP extends best wishes to Dave, and thanks him for his many years of service.
- Jim Wickham, PG&E, deferred to next month's meeting for his report.

- Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC), etc.

- Dr. Tom Cromwell reported 18 persons applied for the open Marin Medical Reserve Corp (MMRC) Coordinator position. A hiring is likely to be announced soon.
- About 700 persons have completed the First Aid for Disaster Response (FADR) class offered by MMRC, with near uniformly positive evaluations. Key Marin MMRC officials have been asked to present on the FADR program in St. Louis, Mo. this March.
- The Belvedere Block Captain program³⁵ now has about 90 block captains receiving training every month and a half. Retired Novato Fire Captain Adam Brolin is now volunteering to support this effort, including help plan for evacuations.

- OES, Training and other Events:

- Frank outlined a brief email exchange with MCFD Chief Jason Weber, who advised:
 - Chief Weber spoke with the Marin Managers Association, and believes they will help fund the Countywide Disaster Preparedness Coordinator position incident to the FY 2019 budget hearings this Summer.
 - Quinn advised some cities may contribute to the program by providing services in kind, rather than direct funding.
 - The Coordinator will support the Get Ready program, among other duties.
 - Other funds have been set aside by the County and an additional \$100K SHSGP grant (over an earlier \$75K grant, total grant = \$175K primarily to cover expenses of the Get Ready program (mailings / promotionals / etc.). This position will be funded for a 2 year period, and will include benefits.
 - The County and City Disaster Service Worker (DSW) training program is making progress. The County is in final review of a video as part of the program that is under development at the County. When that is approved, it can then include city DSWs as well.
 - The School Continuum is also making progress. It includes CPR training, and there is an effort to include 'Stop the Bleed'³⁶ first aid kits in every classroom.
- Frank reported that the County EOC is offering County EOC staff sectional training, including Operations: 3/11/19, Logistics: 3/12/19, Planning: 3/13/19, Management: 4/10/19, and Finance: TBD April 2019.
- Quinn asked if City EOC staff were invited. Frank advised cities should inquire directly of the County EOC Director.

³³ San Rafael Fire Department's Wildfire Prevention and Protection Action Plan:
<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/wildfire-action-plan/>

³⁴ Marin Interfaith Council <https://www.marinifc.org/>

³⁵ Belvedere Block Captain program: <https://www.cityofbelvedere.org/347/Belvedere-Block-Captains>

³⁶ Stop the Bleed: <https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed> See one page handout:
https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/images/oha/16_1011_stopthebleed_infographic_full.jpg



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- Frank thanked Cindy Swift for an excellent presentation to Mont Marin San Rafael Park on firewise on 3/1/19, and advised Quinn will hold a public Get Ready class on 3/13/19.

V. 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: 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
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>

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