



**Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of
the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3)
Committee Meeting – June 3, 2019**

**PDE+P Meeting Minutes for June 3, 2019
Approved at 7-1-2019 PDEP meeting**

Members Present:

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

Members Excused or Absent:

Catherine Way	CoChair, DC3 City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Keith Kennedy	DC3 Member, Dist. 3 / Sausalito area
Maggie Lang	CERT Coordinator, Get Ready / Southern Marin
Peter Mendoza	DC3 / AFN representative

Members Public Present

Adriana Rabkin	Marin VOAD Coordinator marinvoad@gmail.com
Anna Lane	Red Cross, Community Partnership anna.lane@redcross.org
Jay Hubert	RACES j-mhubert@att.net
Lois Roth	Red Cross, lois.roth@redcross.org
Lynn Axelrod	Pt. Reyes Disaster Council lynnaxelrod@hotmail.com
Lori Schifrin	MMRC, CERT, etc. / lori.sch@att.net

Handouts distributed:

- Agenda, PDEP meeting 06/03/2019
- Draft PDEP Minutes 2019-05-06 (a).pdf
- Public Safety Power Shutoff handout: www.prepareforpowerodwn.com
- Critical services brace for outages. Marin IJ 5-26-2019
- PG&E Marin transmission line map, Word Art issues if there is a Power Shutdown
- PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program (one sheet)
- West Marin Disaster Council minutes 5/21/19
- Draft MCCMC minutes <http://mccmc.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes-3-27-19.pdf>
- PDEP contact sheet as of 5/30/2019
- NFPA Firewise How To Prepare Your Home For Wildfires Brochure
- Passed around -
 - 2019 05 PG&E_Public-Safety-Power-Shutoff-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf ¹
 - Cover: Wildfires & Climate Change, Governor's office 4-12-2019
 - Disaster Citizen's Corps Council Agenda 6/13/2019
 - MIDC Marin VOAD update 5/3/2019 (sent also via email)

I. Welcome, Introductions, Handouts. Review of Minutes

- Frank welcomed attendees, and introductions were made.
- Draft minutes 5/6/19: Dr Cromwell Motion, Garry 2nd, Approved .

¹ 2019 05 PG&E_Public-Safety-Power-Shutoff-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf
https://www.pge.com/pge_global/common/pdfs/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/Public-Safety-Power-Shutoff-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf



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II. Public Safety Power Outages - Large areas / Many Days

- Jim Wickham, the PG&E Public Safety Specialist, showed a brief PowerPoint and outlined the Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) plan² that PG&E may use to cut electric power to areas subject to Red Flag fire risk conditions, under extreme conditions.³ Recent history suggests Marin County may expect about 5 Red Flag events per year. This number may rise given recent droughts that damaged trees, coupled with a wet rainy season that increased annual and ladder fuels, including grasses.
- California utilities have used PSPS locally since 2007 in San Diego County and a few other sites. Statewide, PG&E, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Edison have agreed upon unified PSPS messaging and procedures.
- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has conducted multiple hearings on the PSPS plans, and has generally approved the concept. They have also declared most of the heavily populated sections of Marin County as 'Tier 3 / Extreme fire risk'. Large portions of the remaining county as 'Tier 2 / High fire risk'.⁴
- PG&E has a Wildfire Safety Operations Center at 245 Market Street, San Francisco, that is staffed and equipped 24/7 to analyze live feed from PG&E weather stations, MesoWest Weather sites⁵, PG&E and other video cameras, emergency alert systems, social media, agencies such as CAL FIRE⁶, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), California Highway Patrol (CHP) and local public safety authorities.⁷
- A growing number of live real-time cameras over wildland areas are maintained by PG&E, currently including 13 cameras in Marin County⁸. Hundreds of PG&E weather

² PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff Plan : https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/public-safety-power-shutoff-faq.page

³ PG&E anticipates it's Wildfire Safety Operations Center in San Francisco may choose to terminate power when the following 5 conditions are met:

1. The NWS declares a Red Flag day. <https://www.weather.gov/mqt/redflagtips>
2. The area has low humidity - typically 20% or below
3. Winds are forecast >25 mph with gusts > 45 mph (depending on local site info).
4. Fuel on the ground is dangerously dry
5. On the Ground / Field info to the PG&E Wilfire Ops Center justify the power outage.

See: https://www.pge.com/pge_global/common/pdfs/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/Public-Safety-Power-Shutoff-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf

⁴ CPUC / PSPS webpage: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/deenergization/> CPUC fire Maps: <https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap/>

⁵ MesoWest Weather online data: <https://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/mesomap.cgi?state=CA&rawsflag=3>

⁶ Cal Fire Statewide real time fire maps / incidents: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/general/firemaps>

⁷ The PG&E Operations Center opened in 2018, and offers state of the art technology to monitor weather and related risks to PG&E operations. <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/8306808-181/pge-opens-nerve-center-for>

⁸ Remote Fire Detection Cameras, part of a PG&E fire safety grant: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/remote-fire-detection-cameras> See live feed: <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/fr/fire-detection-cameras>



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stations are shared with fire agencies throughout California. The cameras can distinguish between fog and smoke, and some have night-vision infrared capacity. The cameras are situated on high points throughout Marin County, have backup power supplies, and connect with fire officials via microwave and/or fiber optic lines. PG&E and the County can tilt or zoom cameras as needed.⁹

- The PG&E Op Center monitors and responds to emergencies from the Oregon border to Kern County, some 26 counties, with more than 5 million customers.
- Jim mentioned that PG&E is further working to comply with Federal Court orders affecting ongoing PSPS / fire safety issues, and more.¹⁰
- PG&E's historical mission has been to keep power ON even during weather or other extreme events. Incident to that mission, PG&E had installed automatic 'reclosure devices' that would attempt to restore power to a line that suffered a brief interruption, such as caused by an animal or tree branch hitting the line. In fire season, however, PG&E will disabled these units, and replace them with manual or remote controlled devices.¹¹
- The shift in mission to take greater control over turning the Power OFF in high risk areas, over large or more defined areas, and over short to long times, has raised multiple infrastructure and staffing problems.
- Mitigation efforts, such as cutting down every tree statewide that might touch a transmission line, or 'undergrounding' all power lines, could cost many billions of dollars. A more effective approach, adopted by PG&E, has been to inspect and repair major transmission lines and substations, and to focus tree / vegetation clearance that might directly touch high-voltage lines as a priority.¹² Vegetation clearance around small distribution lines to end users are the responsibility of property owners.
- Alerts and notifications for PSPS events present complex issues. PG&E serves millions of persons with over 145,000 miles of transmission lines. PG&E encourages everyone to sign up for PG&E alerts¹³, in addition to public safety alerts of all types.¹⁴

⁹ ALERTWildfire.org provides access to state-of-the-art Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) fire cameras and associated tools to help firefighters and first responders: <http://www.alertwildfire.org/> Some 40 fire detection cameras are operational (or will soon be installed) in the North Bay. <https://wildfiretoday.com/tag/alertwildfire/>

¹⁰ U.S. District Judge William Alsup, presiding over PG&E's court ordered felony probation arising from the 2010 San Bruno explosion, has ordered the utility must demonstrate compliance with vegetation management laws, be subject to random inspections, and more. The Federal Judge's Orders re PG&E Vegetation management are outlined in this SF Chronicle article, dated 4/2/19: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Federal-judge-imposes-new-fire-prevention-plan-as-13735958.php>

¹¹ PG&E changed use of 'Reclosure Devices'. See, for example: <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/PGE-Makes-Apparent-Policy-Change-for-Fire-Season-471396853.html> The older automatic reclosure devices are likely to be disconnected during the whole of the fire season, currently from May through October.

¹² See PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program: https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/community-wildfire-safety.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_wildfiresafety

¹³ Sign up for PG&E opt-in alerts here: https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/your-account/account-management/manage-your-account/alerts-and-notifications/update-your-contact-information.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_mywildfirealerts . Additional PG&E alerts may be available on



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- Frank pointed out that ‘First Day’ alerts, such as Red Flag warning days prior to a major fire, are now carried over powered VOIP phone lines, cell signals, internet / TV / WiFi / email systems and more. However, once a PSPS is used over large areas, and users lack power for many hours or some days, all the usual VOIP / ISP / Cell / WiFi / texting / email and other alert modalities would likely fail for great numbers of users. Residents would be unable to call anyone for help - even 911 - if needed. Further, public agencies would find it difficult or impossible to issue ‘Second or later Day’ alerts, including fire evacuation alerts, when all routine communication modalities are down.
- Last resort systems, such as ‘crank radios’ for AM/FM commercial broadcasts, may not be adequate to meet alert and evacuation needs, and almost nothing fills need residents may experience to ask for urgent help outside their immediate surroundings.
- Perhaps targeted NOAA weather radio alerts, that can be restricted to Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) zones, such as a given County, and have battery backup power, might help fill in some critical alert needs.¹⁵ NWS/NOAA broadcasters would have to work closely with authorized emergency officials to draft and broadcast ‘second day’ alerts drafted to meet specific needs.
- PG&E is exploring the deployment of ‘microgrid’ power systems, wherein key service providers or remote locations might set up localized power grid systems serving small areas outside the larger Statewide power grid. PG&E and Pacific Union College have set up a ‘Resilience Zone’ including temporary power generation, undergrounding certain portions of power lines, and installing stronger, more resilient poles and covered power lines in the Angwin area of Napa County.¹⁶ Private groups, including parts of West Marin, have already set up or may expand small microgrids for power resilience.¹⁷
- PSPS personal and family preparedness is similar to ‘All Hazard / Quake’ preparedness¹⁸ but also includes additional backup for equipment and services dependent on power.¹⁹

social media, such as Twitter or Facebook. Governmental alerts may also be issued as Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) and Emergency Alert System (EAS) <https://www.ready.gov/alerts> and <https://www.fema.gov/frequently-asked-questions-wireless-emergency-alerts>

¹⁴ Everyone in Marin County is encouraged to sign up for Public Safety agency alerts: www.AlertMarin.org, and www.Nixle.com (select public agencies of your choice.) Local cities, including Mill Valley, are installing Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRAD) that can carry loudspeaker instructions to localized areas. <http://www.cityofmillvalley.org/news/displaynews.htm?NewsID=1465&TargetID=47> See also the MV 2019 Evacuation Drill report: <http://www.cityofmillvalley.org/news/displaynews.htm?NewsID=1928&TargetID=47>

¹⁵ NOAA Weather Radio SAME codes: <https://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/nwrsame.html> and https://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/coverage/county_coverage.html

¹⁶ Anguin, Napa County, Resilience Zone: https://www.pge.com/en/about/newsroom/newsdetails/index.page?title=20190122_pge_and_pacific_union_college_partnering_on_resilience_zone_project_in_high_fire-threat_area_in_napa_county

¹⁷ ‘Outage-prone West Marin mulls microgrids to create an ‘island of power’ Marin IJ: <https://www.marinij.com/2019/05/29/microgrids-in-west-marin/>

¹⁸ See ReadyMarin.org <https://readymarin.org/plan-prepare/> and FireSafe Marin <https://firesafemarin.org/preparedness> among many excellent all hazard preparedness sources.

¹⁹ PSPS Preparedness resources: <https://prepareforpowerdown.com/>



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- A major concern will be preparedness by persons who are medically dependent on power operated devices that provide oxygen, mobility, communication, and other life functions.²⁰ PG&E has special programs for medical baseline customers and those with special medical needs.²¹
- Persons who have Access and Functional Needs (AFN) include not only those who are medically dependent on power, but have many other identified needs.²² Overall, persons with AFN are always the most at risk in disasters²³, and will need particularized preparedness efforts.²⁴
- All persons, including persons with AFN, are advised to participate in local neighbor to neighbor efforts such as CERT, Neighborhood Response teams, and the many private and public medical, non-profit or faith based services that meet their needs.²⁵ PG&E has set up a few 'Community Resource Centers' in some areas particularly at risk when a PSPS event has occurred.²⁶ These centers may supplement, but not replace, essential services needed by persons with AFN.

²⁰ Persons with Access and Functional Needs (AFN): See the ADA National Network site: <https://adata.org/factsheet/emergency-power> See also Marin County H&HS site: 'Preparing for Extended Power Outages' <https://www.marinhhs.org/preparing-extended-power-outages>

²¹ PG&E efforts to reach power dependent medical needs customers includes the Medical Baseline Program, with lower rates and special power shutoff notification functions. See: https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/save-energy-money/help-paying-your-bill/longer-term-assistance/medical-condition-related/medical-baseline-allowance/medical-baseline-allowance.page See also the URL: https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/public-safety-event.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_pspupdates

²² Persons who have Access and functional needs (AFN) refers to individuals who are or have:

- Physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities
- Chronic conditions or injuries
- Limited English proficiency
- Older adults
- Children
- Low income, homeless and/or transportation disadvantaged (i.e., dependent on public transit)
- Pregnant women (partial list)

See Cal OES resources for persons with Access & Functional Needs: <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/access-functional-needs>

²³ See: 'Disaster Risk and Vulnerability: The Role and Impact of Population and Society' <https://www.prb.org/disaster-risk/>

²⁴ AFN preparedness: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/897>

²⁵ Marin County H&HS Community Resource guide: <https://www.marinhhs.org/resources/Emergency>

²⁶ PG&E Community Resource Centers - See: https://www.pge.com/en/about/newsroom/newsdetails/index.page?title=20190608_sierra_foothills_update_pge_to_proactively_shut_off_power_for_safety_in_butte_and_yuba_counties_continues_to_evaluate_weather_in_nevada_el_dorado_and_placer_counties_north_bay_psp_update_power_restored_to_all_impacted_customers



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III. Discussion / PDEP report for 6-13-2019 DC3 meeting

- The 2019 Marin Grand Jury Report, 'Wildfire Preparedness - A New Approach'²⁷ concluded: "Marin has become extremely vulnerable to devastation from wildfires. We are living in a powder keg..."
- Coupled with this reality, PG&E has announced the foregoing PSPS plan that may reduce the risk of power-caused fire ignition, but itself creates a potential nightmare of unintended consequences.
- All of the daily functions of life: lighting, food services, cooking, communication, water & sanitation utilities, transportation, alerting, public safety functions, schools, work, commerce and services of every type - and more - could be severely impaired by a PSPS. If a PSPS were to co-occur with a major fire in a populated area, together they could create a disaster of unprecedented proportions.
- The announced DC3 Agenda for 6/13/19 covers both the Grand Jury wildfire report and PG&E's reports on PSPS. Both of these issues are rapidly developing, and there may be no simple answers to some key questions.
- DC3 is tasked with the responsibility to report on disaster preparedness progress in the public and private sectors biannually to the Board of Supervisors.²⁸
- PDEP will report on some of the developing questions we've identified with these items, and encourage DC3 to recommend the BOS and collaborating agencies and services work together to help us all prepare for the certainty of wildfire and power outage emergencies.

IV. Updates from PDEP members

- MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine other key Marin County and City officials attended the Governor's Summit on Emergency Preparedness in Sacramento 6/3/19, and thus was unable to attend PDEP the same day.
- Attention is drawn to the draft 3/27/2019 MCCMC minutes that were distributed as part of the PDEP meeting packet.

- West Marin

- Attention is drawn to the West Marin Disaster Council minutes of 5/21/19 that were part of the PDEP meeting packet.

- Red Cross

- Vincent advised the Red Cross Pillowcase Project and 'Sound the Alarm' efforts²⁹ will resume with the opening of schools this Fall.
- Red Cross has actively participated in recent preparedness and evacuation drills in Mill Valley and other sites, and will participate in an upcoming Sausalito event.

- Southern Marin / Business Community

- Garry advised that Maggie Lang, CERT Coordinator, will resign from that position at the DC3 meeting of 6/13/19, but will be assisting part time for Mill Valley as an Business Preparedness (M'BER) consultant, among other efforts.

²⁷ Grand Jury report: <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/gj/reports-and-responses>

²⁸ Marin County Municipal Code §2.99 defines the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council duties, powers and scope. <https://www.marincounty.org/userdata/bs/agendas/050510/050510-11.-ES-Disaster-ORD.PDF>

²⁹ Red Cross Pillowcase Project: <https://www.redcross.org/local/california/northern-california-coastal/about-us/our-work/community-preparedness.html> Red Cross Sound the Alarm / Fire Alarm program: <https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm.html>



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- Mill Valley conducted a successful evacuation drill May 18th in the Scott Valley, Alto/Sutton areas. The event included AlertMarin notices to residents, LRAD loud speaker announcements, and participation by CERTs, MMRC, and many other groups. About 100 persons voluntarily evacuated to the Edna Maguire school site. The event got coverage from Channel 7 / KGO news and other media.³⁰

- CERT, Get Ready and Get Ready 5th:

- Maggie was unable to attend this meeting, as she was helping interview candidates for the new Marin County Disaster Preparedness Coordinator position.³¹
- Quinn attended the CERT Steering Committee meeting the morning of 6/3/19, and advised Maggie will speak at the 6/13th DC3 meeting about a legal requirement the DC3 authorize the appointments of Marin Disaster Service Workers (DSWs).
- The next CERT steering committee meeting is scheduled 7/23/19.

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

- Peter was unable to attend PDEP, as he too was invited to attend the Governor's Summit on Emergency Preparedness in Sacramento 6/3/19.
- He did provide Frank with an email reflecting statewide efforts by organizations active in preparing persons with AFN for disaster. Some of these ideas were discussed as part of the PSPS agenda item, supra.
- Adriana reported the MIDC / VOAD conference planned 9/13/19 at the Jewish Community Center will have a focus on how the many different organizations who support disaster services can recognize one another, and collaborate better. They will discuss the County and local EOC's role in disaster and how they rely on nonprofits and faith based organizations in support of disaster services as well as how community organizations work together to build a collaborative, community response.
- The conference will address "how do Faith Based Organizations fit with community disaster response" and "how do all communities survive on their own for 4-5 days".

- Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Megan Stevenson, Sr Program Coordinator H&HS Public Health, continues to work with hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), clinics, local Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and similar services. A very successful simulated evacuation drill was conducted this spring with a local hospital that simulated patient movement to other facilities.
- While government maintained lists of all persons with AFN limitations are impossible to maintain, as persons and their caregivers are often mobile, or their limitations change, and the mere creation of such lists would create false expectations that authorities would be deployed to check on listed persons in the event of a disaster - some functional lists of persons receiving in home care services or such, do exist.
- The County intends to reach out to persons known to be on some of these functional lists with preparedness information. A suggestion was made that the general public needs to be aware of AFN preparedness issues, as the support network around persons with AFN issues includes all of us.
- There will be a meeting with key government and service providers in Novato June 16th to discuss how best to meet the needs of persons with AFN.

³⁰ Mill Valley 2019 Drill: <http://www.cityofmillvalley.org/fire/emergency/mapinfo/drillinfo.htm> and <http://www.cityofmillvalley.org/news/displaynews.htm?NewsID=1923&TargetID=47>

³¹ The Marin County Disaster Preparedness Coordinator position will be housed at Ross Valley Fire: https://www.rossvalleyfire.org/attachments/article/132/Brochure%20RVFD%20disaster%20coordinator_final.4.25.19-1.pdf



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- Preparedness funding for private, hospice, some skilled nursing, and similar services for persons with AFN prior to declared emergencies or disasters needs to be developed. Perhaps DC3 can urge the BOS to support legislation to meet this need.
- Public Safety / Emergency Management
 - Quinn Gardner, SR Emergency Services Manager, advised San Rafael CERT hopes to staff an emergency preparedness booth at the County Fair this year.
 - Quinn has participated in both City and County PSPS preparedness meetings for public employees.
- Utilities including PG&E
 - Jim Wickham, PG&E Public Safety Specialist, addressed us on PSPS. See supra.
- Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC), etc.
 - Dr. Tom Cromwell is pleased to report that Kim Bowman, formerly with Santa Clara County, has been appointed as the Emergency Medical Services Administrator, Marin County EMS Agency.³²
 - In the event of a Marin Emergency Operation Center activation, she is likely to be assigned as the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC).
 - The MMRC First Aid for Disaster Response (FADR) classes are doing well, including about 25 persons attending a training at the Mill Valley Golf Course.
- OES, Training and other Events:
 - Frank advised the Marin Local Disaster Council meeting will be held at County EMS 6/4/2019.

V. Open Time / Public Comment

3:04 PM end of meeting

- Frank closed the meeting.

Next Meetings:

Dates may be flexible as circumstances require.

PDEP Meetings: Year 2019: 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: 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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³² Kim Bowman LinkedIn listing: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kim-bowman-a2a42934>