



**Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of
the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3)
Committee Meeting – January 6, 2020**

PDE+P Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2020

APPROVED at PDEP meeting 2-3-2020

Members Present:

Catherine Way	CoChair, DC3 City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Frank Cox	CoChair, DC3 Member, OES Auxiliary
Amber Davis	H&HS Public Health Preparedness Manager
Garry Lion	DC3 member, Marin Economic Forum
Jay Hubert	ACS/RACES / OES / Firewise Community / Red Cross
Maggie Lang	Mill Valley Fire, Emergency Prep Coordinator
Michael Huynh	Countywide Disaster Preparedness Coordinator
Quinn Gardner	SRFD Emergency Manager
Tom Cromwell, MD	Marin Medical Reserve Corps etc.
Vincent Valenzuela	Red Cross Marin / Solano Disaster Program Manager
Anna Lane	Alternate San Rafael Red Cross / Community Partnership

Members Excused or Absent:

James Wickham	PG&E Safety & Preparedness Specialist, MV Mayor
Peter Mendoza	DC3 / AFN representative, CoChair Marin VOAD

Members Public Present

Cindy Swift	Fairfax CERT cindyswift@sbcglobal.net
Jody Timms	Marin Commission on Aging jodytimms@comcast.net
Lori Schifrin	CERT, MMRC etc. / lori.sch@att.net
Robert Zadnik	Belvedere DPW, Emergency Prep. rzadnik@cityofbelvedere.org
Steve Marcotte	WMDC Coordinator smarcotte@bolinasfire.org
Terry Sternberg	NRGMARIN.ORG Central Marin Advisory C. terry@tjstern.com

Handouts distributed:

- Agenda, PDEP meeting 01/06/2020
- Draft PDEP Minutes 11/04/2019(b).pdf
- West Marin Disaster Council PSPS After Action Review Nov 21, 2019
- Marin IJ print: Dec 29 2019: Marin Voice: Get Involved ... by Dr. Tom Cromwell
- Email by Peter Mendoza 1-5-20 update on MCIL planned PSPS activities in Yr 2020
- Marin Schools Emergency Preparedness Council Mtg Schedule 2020 / Mike Grant
- Email F.Cox / Tom Cromwell - Robert Zadnick, Belvedere DPW will attend PDEP mtg.
- PDEP Contact list 12/23/2019

I. Welcome, Introductions, Handouts. Review of Minutes

- Catherine welcomed attendees, and introductions were made.
- Draft PDEP Minutes 11/04/2019(b).pdf with corrected position title for OES Emergency Services Coordinator Tom Jordan moved by Garry Lion, 2nd Maggie Lang. Approved.
(Note: the Dec. 2, 2019 PDEP meeting was cancelled)

II. West Marin Disaster Council (WMDC) - PSPS and Preparing for more

- Stephen Marcotte, Asst. Fire Chief, Bolinas Fire¹, and WMDC Coordinator², updated us on West Marin / WMDC preparedness efforts. He advised:

¹ Bolinas Fire Protection District: <https://www.bolinasfire.org/>

² WMDC does not maintain a separate website, but the Pt. Reyes Disaster Council site at <https://www.pointreyesdisastercouncil.org/west-marin-agencies> has links to Bolinas, Dillon Beach, Inverness, Muir Beach, Nicasio, San Geronimo Valley, Stinson Beach, and Tomales Fire agencies or disaster groups.



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- West Marin population is small (<7,000), but the area is larger than East Marin. However, many thousands of tourists and other visitors use the area routinely. Support for visitors is problematic in summer when a typical busy weekend substantially exceeds many thousands of persons. PRNS alone accounts for about 2.4 million visitors annually.
- Strive for self sufficiency; long travel time to hospitals
- CERT activation complicated by multiple jurisdictions: Bolinas FD; Stinson Beach FD; Inverness FD; all others under County Fire
- Planning for Tsunami drill in Bolinas on March 26th.
- KWMR Radio³ is key communication tool. Broadcasts on 89.9, 90.5, and 92.3 MHz. KWMR also sits on the WMDC council, and the station's Chief Operator / transmitter wrangler Richard Dillman has done an exceptional job setting up and maintaining repeaters throughout West Marin from the South end of Muir Beach to Dillon Beach.
- KWMR transmission was maintained through the 2019 PSPS event with generators, and was able to broadcast real-time local information specific to West Marin.
- Ordinarily, CERT team activations by local fire departments follow the declaration of a local disaster or emergency. However, West Marin CERTs contacted local fire officials without the declaration and were able to check on AFN residents, provided charging stations and generators, and help shelters established at Dillon Beach and Tomales.⁴
- West Marin fire agencies loaned about 10 small generators to residents requiring medical ventilation or similar needs. Additional generators were obtained in the East Bay as Marin generators became quickly unavailable.
- Some West Marin areas, particularly Dillon Beach and Tomales, require electrical pumps for potable water. Their water supply was disrupted by the PSPS.
- If a major earthquake, wildfire or tsunami were to strike West Marin, the local response in sheltering and caring for tourists in addition to residents could be easily overwhelmed. Bolinas Fire maintains a 20 ft. disaster trailer, and Stinson Beach caches food during the year that is replaced annually. Additional supplies and help would be needed following a major disaster.
- In the event of a disaster, local Departmental Operations Centers (DOCs) could be set up at hubs, such as Stinson, Bolinas, Pt. Reyes, and Dillon Beach who would then coordinate with the County EOC.
- West Marin and County personnel from National Park Service and Golden Gate National Recreation Area work closely together to share law and fire resources.
- Frank advised County OES / UASI is offering substantial EOC level training for the next few months, and qualified agency personnel should apply to attend the training.
- Large animal evacuation is an issue, but owners and Marin Humane Society work together effectively, and have evacuation plans with Sonoma, San Mateo and other nearby horse groups.
- Emergency notification needs improvement. LRADs (long range acoustic devices for voice broadcasts)⁵ are now being tested with favorable results in Mill Valley, but LRADs are costly and ineffective when the terrain is rough and population density is low.

³ KWMR West Marin local Radio. See: <https://kwmr.org/> (recommended downloadable smartphone app <https://kwmr.org/apps>)

⁴ See the Pt. Reyes Light article: 'How West Marin neighborhoods, CERTs and fire departments work together' by Anne Sands, 10/13/2016, <https://www.ptreyeslight.com/article/how-west-marin-neighborhoods-certs-and-fire-departments-work-together>

⁵ LRADs: <https://genasys.com/products/long-range-acoustic-devices/>



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- Almost all first responder After Action Reports (AARs) following disasters recommend improvement in disaster alerting and response communications.
- FireSafe Marin and others are exploring expanded all-hazards alerting using NOAA Weather Radios⁶. Sleepy Hollow Fire District is working with County OES to use the radios for PSPS and other local emergencies, and have distributed radios to local block captains to test coverage and utility.⁷
- Vacation Rentals By Owner (VRBOs) and Air B&B hosts need to provide safety information to renters. West Marin social media may help - but many visitors would not know where to turn for accurate information. The City of San Rafael has posted Short-Term Rental Guest Fire Safety Information templates online.⁸
- Registries of AFN residents are not maintained by fire agencies. However, West Marin Senior Services⁹ works with, maintains registries, and knows the needs of, many persons with AFN limitations. Residents of smaller communities, like Bolinas, know fellow residents well and could check on each other. The key is: *'Neighbors should know neighbors.'*

III. New Year Strategic Planning - Priorities for PDEP in 2020

- The cancellation of the December 12th DC3 meeting came as a surprise to all. None of the DC3 members present were queried whether they could attend the meeting, but the reason given for cancellation was the absence of a quorum.
- Following the 11/4/2019 PDEP meeting, the PDEP chairs sent an email to the DC3 chair and OES recommending a dynamic discussion of the impact the PG&E PSPS events. Marin County residents suffered a 49.6% failure of cell service on Sunday Oct 27, 2019 due to the PSPS¹⁰. The DC3 agenda for 12/12/19 did not include a PSPS element.
- PDEP recommends additional reports and planning be offered at DC3 to plan for more PSPS events.
- Further, PDEP has repeatedly recommended that DC3 receive a presentation on catastrophic earthquake preparedness, such as the HayWired Quake projections.¹¹

⁶ NOAA Weather Radios, long associated with alerting people to weather events such as tornados, have the capacity to become inexpensive but broad spectrum alerting devices. See: NOAA Weather Radio: https://www.weather.gov/nwr&ln_desc=NOAA+Weather+Radio/ and FireSafe Marin's page: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/evacuation/alerts-warnings> See additional Marin Sheriff's Alerting tools: <https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/emergency-alert-and-warning-tools>.

⁷ Sleepy Hollow Fire District Weather Radio testing: <https://www.shfpd.org/public-education/shha-bulletins>

⁸ City of San Rafael Short-Term Rental Guest Fire Safety Information forms: <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/documents/example-short-term-rental-guest-fire-safety-information/>

⁹ West Marin Senior Services: <http://wmss.org/>

¹⁰ FCC report on PSPS cell service failure: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-360454A1.pdf>

¹¹ HayWired Earthquake projections. See <https://outsmartdisaster.com/> and 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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- PDEP believes the County's emerging Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) should actively seek feedback and participation from cities and special districts for a countywide coordinated plan.¹²
- Another strategic goal for PDEP in 2020 will be to assure that DC3 receives reports on the Dec. 14, 2017 Marin DC3 subcommittee recommendations, formulated by MCFD Chief Jason Weber, and adopted by DC¹³
- The Get Ready (GR) renewal efforts may require funding beyond publication costs to include staff time and other promotional expenses. A refresh of the www.ReadyMarin.org website to better provide GR classes, ARC classes, CERT training, and more to create a 'one stop site' for Marin disaster preparedness efforts needs to be made.
- PDEP recommended a presentation on Sea-level rise and related risks based on the PDEP Sept 9th 2019 presentation by Union of Concerned Scientists(UCS) Dr. Kristina Dahl, Ph.D. and Chris Choo, Marin County Department of Public Works(DPW) watershed and sea level rise planner.¹⁴
- Marin Wildfire (Measure C on March ballot) will need public education efforts.
- Transportation bottlenecks (Highways 1 and 101) create isolation and security issues.¹⁵ Transportation is the primary focus for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) planning in 2020 and will include a Marin OES training on May 19, 2020.¹⁶
- PDEP strongly supports expanding Neighborhood Response Groups (NRGs)¹⁷, CERT training¹⁸ and other local citizen training / preparedness efforts.
- A strategic goal for PDEP in 2020 will be to try and work with the DC3 chair and/or OES to have more current and important items on the DC3 agenda for DC3 discussion.

IV. Updates from PDEP members

- MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine Way advised she did not have substantive MCCMC news.

¹² Marin Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) See: <https://www.marincounty.org/-/media/files/maringov/board-actions/2019/august/1908061caopspsltr.pdf?la=en>

¹³ The DC3 December 14 2017 subcommittee report included three Strategic Goals:
1. The Disaster Coordinator Position / Renew the Get Ready program
2. County and City Disaster Service Worker (DSW) training
3. Promote a School Disaster preparedness Continuum
<https://www.marinsheriff.org/assets/downloads/Final-Signed-Approved-DC3-Minutes-Dec-14-2017.pdf>

¹⁴ PDEP 9/9/2019 Sea Level Rise meeting minutes:
https://www.marinsheriff.org/assets/videos/PDEP_Minutes-2019-09-09-C.pdf

¹⁵ Richmond Bridge is a critical transportation / evacuation corridor:
<https://abc7news.com/traffic/officials-seek-ideas-for-replacing-richmond-san-rafael-bridge/5733399/>

¹⁶ Bay Area UASI transportation project proposal:
<http://www.bayareauasi.org/sites/default/files/resources/011118%20Approval%20Authority%20January%20Agenda%20Item%2009f%20Management%20Team%20Proposed%20FY18%20Regional%20Projects%20Appendix%20F.pdf>

¹⁷ Neighborhood Response Groups - see for example: <https://www.nrgmarin.org/getting-started.html>

¹⁸ Marin CERT training: <https://readymarin.org/cert/> and calendar: <https://readymarin.org/calendar/>



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- West Marin

- Stephen Marcotte gave an extensive WMDC report, infra.

- Red Cross

- Vincent Valenzuela, American Red Cross updated us on several disaster preparedness programs: Red Cross Ready (for adults) and Red Cross Pillowcase Project (ages 7-11).
- Red Cross installs free smoke alarms through the Sound the Alarms project¹⁹. Volunteers are always welcome and need not be vetted Red Cross members. Novato Fire Dept has suggested communities who would welcome free smoke detector installations.

- Southern Marin / Business Community

- Garry Lion advised many Southern Marin businesses were preoccupied with holiday sales, and did not meet to discuss M'BER level preparedness efforts.

- Mill Valley Preparedness, community efforts:

- Maggie Lang reported Mill Valley is working on bringing NRGs into Mill Valley starting with two of the Fire Department's Mutual Threat Zone areas, Cascade Canyon and Scott Valley.
- Mill Valley hopes to organize "clusters" of 40-300 homes, each with a designated Command Post location, with block captains responsible for 4-20 homes each who would help prepare neighbors, collect home contact information, and check on neighbors if there was a large scale emergency. The initial orientation meeting is Jan. 21 7-8:30pm. Further information is available by contacting Maggie at maggielang101@gmail.com
- Mill Valley will resume business preparedness efforts in an effort to get businesses to develop a COOP plan, and practice one element of the plan each year.
- Schools: The Fire Department will hold a district-wide teacher in-service training on Jan. 29th for all teachers K-8 schools whose emergency roles include First Aid and Search & Rescue.

- Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Amber Davis, H&HS Public Health Preparedness Manager advised a county-wide exercise was held on September 18 at the Multicultural Center of Marin for in-home caregivers. Presentations were given in Spanish.
- Partnering with MMRC to provide an opt-in training for in-home health service clients.
- Looking to expand FADR, Stop-the-Bleed, and NARCAN training. Need wheel-chair accessible sites

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

- Peter Mendoza was unable to attend, as he was in Sacramento for another conference. He provided PDEP with a detailed written report, including:
- PSPS is problematic for people with disabilities who depend on power for durable medical equipment: wheelchairs, stair lifts, automatic doors, respirators, ventilator, and air-conditioning for people who have difficulty regulating body temperature. MCIL is joining with many sister ILC's to announce a new initiative to support people with disabilities and seniors to remain independent and safe in their communities during a PSPS event.
- MCIL may be able to assist persons who rely on power to operate life sustaining medical devices in covering the costs associated with accessible transportation and may also provide funds for hotel expenses and provide loaner backup batteries through a newly created battery loan program. During a PSPS event, MCIL's office (710 4th Street, San Rafael) will be a charging station available for our community

¹⁹ Red Cross Sound the Alarm free smoke detector installations: <https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm.html>



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- MCIL can assist persons in applying for PG&E's Medical Baseline Program²⁰. This is not an income based program, and can help customers who have special energy needs due to qualifying medical conditions. Qualified persons may receive a lower rate on their monthly energy bill and extra notifications in advance of a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).
- Preparedness takes time so it is important to reach out to MCIL in advance of a PSPS. MCIL is not an emergency service and people experiencing a life-threatening emergency should dial 9-1-1.

- Public Safety / Emergency Management

- Quinn Gardner advised Marin VOAD is planning for a conference later this year.
- The one-year startup funding for VOAD's Executive Director (Adriana Rabkin) expires this year. Alternative funding is needed.
- San Rafael will offer quarterly CERT meetings for existing CERTs (which will include elements of training, but should not be confused with the basic CERT class). SRFD will continue to host 2 basic CERT classes in coordination with the County.
- Quinn is considering sponsoring a story-time preparedness program for pre-schoolers.
- Quinn's part-time assistant resigned and a replacement is needed
- Plan to staff a booth at the Marin County Fair in July. Participation from other disaster preparedness organization is welcomed.

- Utilities including PG&E

- Jim Wickham was unable to attend the meeting. His report is continued to our next meeting.

- Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC), etc.

- Dr. Tom Cromwell advised about 800 citizens have had FADR training.
- There is an effort to include hands only CPR, AED, and NARCAN topics in the training. Need publicity to recruit more trainees.
- MMRC meeting scheduled for 2/8/2020.
- Belvedere block captains meet at City Hall from 6:00 - 7:30 pm on 1/16/2020.
- MOU signed with St. Stephen's Church in Belvedere to provide back-up first aid site
- Robert Zadnik was introduced, and will be a key player in disaster preparedness and evacuation planning for Belvedere.
- Dr. Cromwell has served as a member of the Federal H&HS Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)²¹, and is concerned that a readiness messages have been sent to members in light of recent US/Iran military conflicts.

- Public Preparedness Coordinator / Get Ready Marin.

- Michael Huynh advised Marin CERT classes are not yet approved as required of DC3 due to cancellation of December DC3 meeting. He is coordinating with Marin's local Fire Chiefs on the authorization.
- A Train-the-trainer CERT classes was completed Saturday January 4th.
- A Get Ready booklet is being prepared though the Marin County Fire Chiefs Association.
- Want to expand online access to CERT information and Eventbrite registration
- Additional staff will be needed to update ReadyMarin.org online calendaring.
- PDEP strongly supports a 'One Stop Site' on the site for all qualifying Marin preparedness classes.

²⁰ PG&E Medical Baseline Program: 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?WT.mc_id=Vanity_medicalbaseline

²¹ DMAT teams: <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ndms/ndms-teams/Pages/dmat.aspx>



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- Michael wants to expand public communication and redirect funds now focused primarily on print to promote and support the classes.
- OES RACES Chief Radio officer, San Rafael CERT steering.
 - Jay Hubert advised radio communication equipment is being installed at Marin Health Medical Center (formerly Marin General Hospital) and Novato Community Hospital to support RACES / amateur bands. Plans are underway for radio equipment at San Rafael Fire Station 51 (now under construction).
 - A new Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted with the Marin Amateur Radio Society for use of their repeaters in a communication emergency
 - New protocols are being drafted to segregate and control various amateur radio communication channels: emergency communications to the EOC or between served agencies; local field communication with CERTs; and non-emergency traffic such as fuel or food availability.
- OES, Training and other Events:
 - Frank reported County OES has ambitious EOC staff training scheduled soon, including:
 - Situational Awareness Jan 7-8
 - Unified Command Feb 3-6
 - Shelter Mgmt: Feb 4+5,
 - AFN training: Feb 10, Feb 13, Feb 18
 - Web EOC: Feb 20th
 - ICS 300 Intermediate command: March 9-11
 - ICS 400 Advance command: March 12-13
 - Interested EOC level staff should contact Tom Jordan at OES.

V. Open Time / Public Comment

- Anna Lane advised ARC is conducting a survey of approximately 140 potential Red Cross shelter sites, reporting on elements such as suitability for persons with AFN.
- Catherine advised she and Frank invite suggestions for successor (or backup minutes taker) to Frank's position with DC3/PDEP, as Frank may not be able to attend all scheduled PDEP meetings. Catherine, too, is likely to be unable to attend the PDEP March meeting.
- Frank thanked Jay Hubert in advance for his agreeing to help draft these minutes.

Closure: 3:00 pm end of meeting

- Catherine thanked all for their participation.

Next Meetings:

Dates may be flexible as circumstances require.

PDEP Meetings Year 2020: 2/3, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 7/6, 8/3, 9/14, 10/5, 11/2/, 12/7/2020
Site: PDEP unless otherwise posted: Central Marin Police Community Rm.

DC3 Meetings: 3-5pm: Board Chambers, Civic Center, Dates may be flexible
DC3 Year 2020: 3/12/20, 6/11/2020, 9/10/2020, 12/10/2020 (may be adjusted)

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

Email: pdepcommittee@gmail.com

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