



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

PDE&P Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2020

Draft to be approved at next PDEP Meeting

Members Present:

Catherine Way	CoChair, DC3 City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Adriana Rabkin	CoChair, DC3 Member, Coordinator Marin VOAD
Jay Hubert	ACS/RACES / OES / Firewise Community / Red Cross
Maggie Lang	Mill Valley Fire, Emergency Prep Coordinator
Quinn Gardner	SRFD Emergency Manager
Anne Carta	Marin Medical Reserve Corps
Tom Cromwell, MD	Marin Medical Reserve Corps
Peter Mendoza	DC3 / AFN representative, Vice Chair Marin VOAD
Vincent Valenzuela	Red Cross Marin / Solano Disaster Program Manager
Garry Lion	DC3 member, Marin Economic Forum

Members Excused or Absent:

James Wickham	PG&E Safety & Preparedness Specialist, MV Mayor
Amber Davis	HHS Public Health Preparedness Manager

Members Public Present

Frank Cox	Former PDEP CoChair/DC3 Member, frnkcox5@gmail.com
Tricia Ossa	Mill Valley Council & Emerg Prep Comm. taaossa@gmail.com
Pati Stoliar	Central Marin NRG, agefriendlycortemadera@gmail.com
Rob Ireson	RACES/ACS, rob@aqmconsulting.com
John Lenser	Coalition, Pt San Pedro Disaster Chair, john@lenser.com
Vicki Chase	VERG, sgvalleyer@gmail.com
Cindy Swift	Fairfax CERT cindyswift@sbcglobal.net
Jody Timms	Marin Commission on Aging jodytimms@comcast.net
Troy Peterson	Marin County HHS TPeterson@marincounty.org
Lori Schifrin	CERT, MMRC lori.sch@att.net
Lorenzo Cordova	BOS Aide to Supervisor Rodoni lcordova@marincounty.org
Chief Ruben Martin	Central Marin Fire Chief, rmartin@centralmarinfire.org
Anne Starr	Marin County Volunteer Coordinator astarr@marincounty.org
Marco Berger	Multicultural Center of Marin, mberger@multiculturalmarin.org

The following documents were emailed to PDEP in advance:

- PDEP_Agenda 2020-09-14a.pdf
- PDEP_Minutes 2020-08-03c_AR.pdf (Draft to be approved)
- 2020 07 23 Peter Mendoza Article on ADA_MarinIJ.pdf

I. Welcome, Introductions, Review of Minutes

- Catherine welcomed attendees
- Draft PDEP Minutes 8/03/2020c_AR.pdf were reviewed. Garry motioned and Maggie seconded. Minutes approved.

II. Southern Marin Disaster Council Summit: Maggie Lang

- The local disaster group originated 4 years ago when Tom Cromwell, Joe Saxton, and Maggie had coffee. They met for 2.5 years and coordinated Local Disaster Councils from around the county. They would share what each Disaster Council was doing in their jurisdiction. Chairpersons from the DCs of Mill Valley, Marin City, Corte Madera, West Marin and Tiburon-Belvedere met with representatives from Novato and San Rafael and discussed current challenges in preparedness and shared best practices. Each Disaster Council was either led by a resident or led by a city official.
- Chief Welch was interested in this and in May 2020 Maggie and Chief Welch convened Tiburon/Belvedere, Mill Valley including unincorporated areas of MV, Sausalito, and



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Marin City, to start the Southern Marin Disaster Council Group. Disaster Councils in the county have different structures, some are all residents, some with members of public safety and some with business members. They talked about Covid, fire season, NRGs, CERT, and PSPS. They invited people to speak on each topic, followed by questions/comments by each local jurisdiction. They held their first meeting in May and then met again in August. Central Marin DC members were also invited.

- The concerns they are hearing from Disaster Councils are that people are worried about mental health, child abuse, being shut inside now with poor air quality. The next meeting on Oct. 1 will cover these issues. They will also have updates about PSPS, Covid, and Fire season. They continue to get updates on each of these topics at each meeting.
- Block captains are reaching out to residents in their NRGs.
- All areas have different numbers and different representatives. Mill Valley has 8 members, some have reps from city staff. Sausalito PD is involved.
- We talk about business, schools and how to reach everyone. We have tested to see if protective equipment fits.
- Catherine Way: this model is oriented to service areas. With the exception of West Marin, we do not see groups that are multi-jurisdictional like this.
- Jody Timms: Is attendance open to those outside of Southern Marin? Have you heard of any efforts for other regional areas such as Central Marin, North Marin, Western Marin? It's a terrific model for the rest of us in other "regions." Maggie will ask at the next meeting if attendance is open to others. Tom Cromwell: these are public meetings meant to get information out to people.
- Catherine: will there be policy recommendations that come from this? Maggie: That hasn't been discussed yet.
- Adriana Rabkin: Other areas want to learn from these efforts. Zoom meetings make it easy for others to participate and even just listen in on the conversation.
- Tom: This group is volunteers who want to get together and exchange ideas; it is not a policy group. If you are on Disaster Councils, where does the information go? In Belvedere/Tiburon we are an oversight committee and the information ends there. Maggie: Notes from the MV Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) meetings are posted on the Mill Valley city website. An annual report is provided to City Council and they are governed by the Brown Act. Meetings are open to the public, but they rarely attend. Tom: Does the city council do anything with the information you give to them? Maggie: I would like to think they do. EPC is backed by the city council. Maybe the city adopts our ideas, like the evacuation drill for example.
- Catherine: Mill Valley and Sausalito are the only two formal DC's where community members are interviewed and brought onto the council. Tom: Belvedere/Tiburon also appoint members. Pati Stoliar: Corte Madera does too, though the DC is defunct.
- Catherine: How do we push this important information from these groups to the public?

III. Updates from PDEP members

MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine Way: No update. They don't meet over the summer. First meeting is at the end of September. The Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow is on disaster preparedness. They are adopting a resolution for DSWs.

Marin VOAD

- Adriana Rabkin: Marin VOAD continues to coordinate and collaborate in Marin County's disaster response. We continue to be part of food distribution and coordination efforts within Health & Human Services and with all different food providers in Marin.



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- VOAD was ready to assist with the West Marin evacuation and helped coordinate food for evacuees. The Resident Coordinator at the 2 housing sites in Pt Reyes worked with all residents to make sure they had evacuation plans. She coordinated neighbors helping neighbors. Marin CIL helped some people with evacuations as well. ARC and Community Action Marin provided case management and other services to evacuees in the hotels. VOAD took a back seat.
- We have been helping coordinate mask distribution to lower income residents in Marin City, San Rafael, Canal, and Novato. Now working with the Canal Covid Outreach & Prevention team to coordinate these efforts. Also extended the mask distribution effort to include census information, confirming that people have completed the census and providing them with a phone number at Canal Alliance where they can get assistance to complete the census.
- At the VOAD meeting last week Amy Callis from the Canal Covid Outreach and Prevention team spoke and we heard from Paula Gladowski who spoke about the West Marin evacuations and the Temporary Evacuation Point that was set up for evacuees. The Canal outreach effort is a partnership with hospitals, city of San Rafael and CBOs in the Canal. They have created teams to focus on messaging, data gathering, outreach, education, testing. All focused on slowing the spread of Covid. Messaging is adjusted as needed for those with lower literacy rates.
- We are also co-facilitating weekly Public Health Updates by a team at HHS with the CBOs. HHS understands that nonprofits are an important part of the disaster response and this is an opportunity for them to get information and ask questions and be part of the collective response.
- Catherine: Have more orgs joined the VOAD? Adriana: yes. There are new organizations learning about the VOAD on a weekly basis.

West Marin

- Vicki Chase: VERG had 160 new members sign up. WMDC has not had any coordinated efforts as everyone was busy in their own local efforts. Hoping for lessons learned soon. Focus on developing NRGs.
- Catherine: How is the air quality? Vicki: Smoke is bad. We use purple air (<https://www2.purpleair.com/>) and windy.com (<https://www.windy.com/>) for most up to date information.
- Adriana: Were you active during the Woodward fire? Vicki: social media was a big challenge initially as people put out inaccurate or dangerous posts. This was a full time job to regroup those people. SGVCC was very helpful and they have a large influence. Need to continue to work on communications during these events. **When there is a communication void people put out their own messages and make things up.** One person said "let's get a team to hike around and put out the fires".
- We are continually adjusting what we provide to people. It ended up being a daily update to residents and social media outlets (NextDoor, FB, yahoo group). It took time but it did work. **We need improved means of getting out accurate information that is concise, and we need to create vetted avenues of information.**
- I try to include an official fire seal and trusted information. Emails were more of a "be ready" type of message for evacuations. They had information about shelters and other resources (humane society). They also provided information like keep your cars parked facing out, get cash, if you are nervous leave early.



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- Cindy Swift: VERG did a wonderful job communicating accurate information to the Valley. Vicki: Thanks Cindy, we felt good about it too and actually had several folks register with VERG for our e-blasts from Fairfax and other surrounding communities.¹

Red Cross

- Vincent Valenzuela: no updates for Marin Red Cross. Everything is focused on response right now. 'Be Red Cross Ready', a 45 minute presentation that includes Covid information, is now virtual. It will be shown weekly on M/W/F in Spanish. Will attach information in notes.²
- Operations: The whole Red Cross region came together as one team: 900 Red Cross personnel were assigned in person and virtually. Moved from a district model with 16 counties to now operating as one district. There was a big rotation of leadership and staff after 2 weeks. Recovery team is focused on distribution of emergency supplies and we are supporting the LAC in Santa Cruz. Have some fantastic Marin Red Cross volunteers who stepped into leadership roles.
- Starting SRT: Shelter Resident Transition team. New effort started last year. Working with clients to help get them out of shelters as soon as possible. They might simply need a \$50 gas card to help get them moving for example.
- Prepping for Marin after action team.
- We have 25 Marin volunteers active now and they likely will be for a couple of weeks. Some volunteers are helping virtually in Oregon and other parts of the country.

Southern Marin / Business Community

- Garry Lion: Update provided in Zoom chat due to technical issues.
- Marin Economic Forum will be fully funded this new fiscal year by the County. Mike Blakely continues to work actively with the Marin Recovers group on getting businesses open.

Mill Valley Preparedness, community efforts

- Maggie Lang: NRGs
- NRG development is slow progress. Focusing on one area in town before moving to the rest of the city. With the NRGs we are connecting residents to Block Captains and are holding monthly Zoom block captain orientations.
- We have received a small grant from Outdoor Art Club to buy basic supplies for Block Captains. Looking for fiscal agent for donations. The NRG Advisory Council, the leadership group for the whole NRG community, will meet for the first time on Sept. 24th and then likely each month. This group has representation from the Fire Department, City Council, and the MV Emergency Preparedness Commission, as well as each of 13 local NRGs. Check out <https://nrgmillvalley.org/> for information. The website also has a Mill Valley CERT page. MV will participate in the November 1st time change drill.
- Sept is preparedness month. We are having "Living Room Chats", similar to the Get Ready class, though we have not started the Get Ready Zoom classes yet. The focus is on fire season and we had a Fire Dept representative come and speak about Summit and Cascade Canyon. 77 residents participated. We held 3 in September with 40-75 residents attend each time. Many questions came up at each session re: evacuations.

¹ San Geronimo Valley Community Center <https://www.sgvcc.org/>
VERG San Geronimo Valley Emergency Readiness Group <https://sgverg.org/>

² Red Cross Ready <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html>



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- Information was shared through block captains, city council, and residents could also sign on through the <https://nrgmillvalley.org/> website.
- CERT has a new leadership group in S. Marin. Moving in direction of a Southern Marin group. Holding monthly Zoom trainings for CERT members, including radio guidelines and "CERT & NRGs: How to Work Together".
- During Blue Skies (non-disasters) the CERT team staffed the cooling center. They are also delivering food at Tam High School and answering the Mill Valley call center.
- The State has done CERT webinars for train the trainer. There is also a hybrid CERT class (part online/part in person small groups) coming out of Utah in September.
- State has CERT week as part of September preparedness month. This is the first time ever and will be from Sept. 21-27. Recognize your volunteers. MV City Council is going to make a proclamation.

Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Amber Davis was not present. Anne Carta provided the update.
- We are continuing to work with health care partners and hospitals on Covid preparedness, with specific attention around Skilled Nursing Facilities.
- Working with community partners to support EOC.
- Giving out vaccination doses to regular health partners like Ritter Center, Marin Community Clinics, and others; working on a Point of Dispensing, possibly at MCC in October. Using this as a testing process now for flu vaccine and in the future, Covid vaccine if/when it becomes available.
- MMRC volunteers will assist with this; Will find out if CERT can be a part of this as well.

Access & Functional Needs (AFN) communities:

- Peter Mendoza: Marin CIL: Sheltered 3 individuals with disabilities from West Marin during the Woodward fire at the request of the EOC. Two people were sheltered for a few days, 1 person for a week due to health conditions.
- We identified 30 individuals who live in the area, 3 requested help to evacuate. County provided transportation. Marin CIL took the lead with shelter locations. County DSWs checked on these people. VOAD arranged for these residents to have gift cards for food.
- Before Covid, we worked with County, Laney Davidson the Marin AFN Coordinator, to recruit new members for FAST team – Functional Access Services Team – to make sure people with disabilities are accommodated in the shelters, link them to services; helps ensure they are not evacuated to medical center if that is not needed.
- Worked with State Council on Disabilities to provide PPE to 10 housing sites for older adults and people with disabilities. This was a partnership with Marin VOAD, HHS, and Whistlestop.
- Marin CIL is also supporting EOC and will covering for staff when they need time off.
- We also provide PSPS support for people who are on medical equipment, including CPAP machines. Go to [MarinCIL/PSPS](#) for more information.

Public Safety / Emergency Management

- Quinn Gardner: We set up cooling and clean air centers. These have been last minute setups. There were 40 people at the cooling center 2 weeks ago and 6 at the clean air center this past weekend. No time for a lot of pre-planning.
- Adriana: how do you choose your locations? Quinn: Cooling center 2 weeks ago was at 618 B street. We had space available and isolation areas. The Clean Air center target was homeless individuals, so we also set this up at 618 B street. Outreach was done through word of mouth and through officers who work with the homeless.



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Utilities including PG&E

- Jim Wickham was not present. No update.

Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)

- Anne Carta: MMRC are on standby if Skilled Nursing Facilities need staffing. We have 30 volunteers to do specimen collection at testing sites; also active in contact investigations unit. We are also on standby for an alternate care site and at shelters and/or a Temporary Evacuation Point (TEP).
- A TEP assesses needs of evacuees. One was used for West Marin evacuations. We want to avoid congregate settings.
- We have organized supplies and are developing new procedures for these operations. We used online certification for Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) and used DocuSign for the MMRC volunteers. Also implementing for 65+ age group.
- We are getting more people fit-tested to see if protective equipment fits in case we need deployment and we are preparing to staff flu pods for vaccinations.
- Tom Cromwell: A silver lining with Covid is that MMRC has virtually doubled to 500. Many of the volunteers remain in a surge capacity and will be vetted when there is time/need. These are younger volunteers than the existing MMRC volunteer.
- We now have enough volunteers to develop a logistics arm for MMRC. This is a real advantage if we ever want to be an austere force to be deployed.
- FADR program is inactive during Covid.
- Belvedere Block Captain program met this morning. We are getting them comfortable with AFN/mobility/hearing and other issues. We want to identify them before disaster. Very difficult to do.
- Catherine: Marin Search and Rescue team uses D4H³. Anne: This didn't work for us in the past. We may use the County system, Samaritan⁴.
- Adriana: Laney Davidson has great information on what AFN is. We can send out. Peter Mendoza: Marin CIL can help with training or dispense information. Tom: We want to alert Block Captains about AFN including mental issues.

Public Preparedness Coordinator / Get Ready Marin

- Michael Huyhn is no longer the CERT coordinator. This position is currently vacant.
- Update provided at most recent DC3 meeting: Fire chiefs are looking at this role.

OES RACES Chief Radio officer, San Rafael CERT steering and Firewise

- Jay Hubert: RACES / ACS⁵: More volunteers are interested in RACES. Having trouble getting them vetted; many are over 65. We produced a video that highlights radio communications for specific agencies like Bay Area Health Network (doesn't include many Kaiser hospitals, but we are working on that). The video alerts agencies to what communication is possible. Communication capabilities have improved significantly (text, voice, images).

³ <https://d4htechnologies.com/government-public-safety/urban-search-rescue-usar-software>

⁴ <https://samaritan.com/>

⁵ Marin County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS) are volunteers working under the authority of the Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES). <https://www.marinraces.org/wp/>



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Public Comment/Questions:

- Maggie: Dr. Willis encourages all to get flu shot. We do not want a bad flu season on top of Covid.
- Maggie: There is different terminology out there. A TEP is different from Community Refuge Area (CRA). There is also Community Temporary Refuge Area
- CRA is a place to stop until it safe. Chief Ruben Martin: Fire Department uses TRA: Temporary Refuge Area, a place where you can temporarily get yourself out of harm's way until you can move on. Schools, blacktops, grass fields, golf courses, any area that won't burn. TRA is the same as CRA.
- TEP: Is a staffed county location where you triage what the needs are for the evacuees. DSWs and Red Cross staff these. It is TRIAGE, a Stop gap only. Red Cross has a quick intake form for basic questions at a TEP. People stay in their cars
- Tom Cromwell to Chief Martin: about the refuge point, do you advertise these to the community or is it kept quiet until the event? Tiburon & Belvedere don't want to announce these locations because you don't know what the situation is going to be. Ruben: with fire the situation is dynamic and everything depends on where the fire is. The Temporary Refuge Areas are NOT a secret. We make the TRA's public. You should know about the golf course, schools, blacktops and other places that are safe from wildfire. Residents need to consider which locations can I get to? Through Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, the County is working on these places all over the county. Maggie: Mill Valley provided this information to everyone. We provided 2 ways out of an area and 3 ways to get there. Know your own way of getting there.
- Adriana: Should we recommend that residents know their local blacktop and other refuge areas? Ruben: Yes. In the Camp Fire, people went to the hospital parking lot. Go by foot, by car, by bicycle, however you can get there.
- Vincent Valenzuela: There won't be anyone waiting for you at these refuge areas. Ruben: Correct. But if we know that there are people waiting there we will send a pilot car to direct the residents to safety.
- Catherine: MWPA⁶ Citizens Oversight Committee applications are open until the 23rd: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/MarinCitizensForWildfirePreparedness/ApplicationCitizensOversightCommittee>
- Vicki Chase: Are these efforts for CRAs happening in unincorporated areas? Ruben: Maps are being published: Fairfax and Novato are done. This is part of the Cal Fire grant. Central Marin and West Marin should be next. Should be getting them by 2021. The wildfire protection JPA is just now starting up. Everyone knows how to get out of their own community – same way you go to grocery store. Vicki: our concern is will there be someone at the intersection to help direct people in a disaster? We have the Fire Department but they could be deployed. Ruben: Chief Weber has West Marin as a top priority.
- Rob Ireson: The key difference between AirNow⁷ and PurpleAir⁸ is the measurement technique. AirNow is based on measured particulate mass (usually beta attenuation instruments). This is the type of measurement that EPA air quality standards are based on. PurpleAir is based on laser light scattering measurements, which can provide particle number by particle size range. The AQI numbers provided by PurpleAir are estimates based on generic particle characteristics. Wood smoke has different characteristics than typical urban PM2.5 (industrial, vehicle exhaust, road dust, etc.), so the standard AQI estimates are approximate at best. For fresh wood smoke, under "Conversion" in the PurpleAir window, selecting "LRAPA" instead of "None" applies a calculation developed

⁶ Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority: MWPA <https://www.marinwildfire.org/>

⁷ <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/>

⁸ <https://www2.purpleair.com/pages/technology>



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by the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, an Oregon area that has had residential wood combustion as a major contributor to high PM2.5. This may better describe wildfire smoke, especially for near-field fires.

- Jody Timms: Were there 3 Cleaner Air Centers open this last weekend? Lori Schifrin: I knew nothing about the Clean Air Center. I know many people it could have helped who are Asthmatic and don't have purifiers. Quinn: I am only aware of Novato on Friday and Saturday at Margaret Todd and San Rafael on Saturday.
- Lori Schifrin: Jan Line, a custodian supply company in Novato, has N95 masks. They have boxes of 20 and possibly individual masks. 7388 Redwood Blvd, 415-895-1699; <https://shoplocalnovato.com/business/janiline-janitorial-supplies/>.
- Lori: Novato evacuation maps are hard to read.

IV. Closing Items

- Next PDEP meeting is Oct. 5.

Closure: 2:46 pm end of meeting

Next Meetings:

Dates may be flexible as circumstances require

PDEP Meetings Year 2020: 10/5, 11/2, 12/7/2020

Site: PDEP conducts meetings online using ZOOM.COM during the Pandemic. We hope to return to meetings at the Central Marin Police Community Room soon.

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**DC3 Meetings: 3-5pm: DC3 Meetings are currently remote and are broadcast on Zoom and Facebook Live.** They hope to return to Board Chambers, Civic Center, soon. Dates may be flexible. **DC3 Year 2020: 12/10/2020**

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

**Email:** [pdepcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:pdepcommittee@gmail.com)

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