



**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 October 5, 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
Garry Lion	DC3 member, Marin Economic Forum

Members Excused or Absent:

Vincent Valenzuela	Red Cross Marin / Solano Disaster Program Manager
James Wickham	PG&E Safety & Preparedness Specialist, MV Mayor
Amber Davis	HHS Public Health Preparedness Manager

Members Public Present

Mark Van Gorder	PG&E North Bay Public Affairs mark.vangorder@pge.com
Frank Cox	Former PDEP CoChair/DC3 Member, frnkcox5@gmail.com
Rob Ireson	RACES/ACS, rob@aqmconsulting.com
Skip Fedanzo	Marin Amateur Radio Society, drferret@comcast.net
Marco Berger	Multicultural Center of Marin, mberger@multiculturalmarin.org
Cindy Swift	Fairfax CERT cindyswift@sbcglobal.net
Jody Timms	Marin Commission on Aging jodytimms@comcast.net
Lori Schifrin	CERT, MMRC lori.sch@att.net
Rachel Kertz	Central Marin NRG Coordinator coordinator@nrgmarin.org
Amy Glenn	Central Marin NRG Advisory Comm aglennstyle@gmail.com
Mike McDermott	DC3 District 2 Representative mjmbug@yahoo.com
Ashley Howe	Corte Madera Parks & Rec ahowe@tcmmail.org
Perry Nalle	Corte Madera Parks & Rec pnalle@tcmmail.org
Flo deLosada	Marin Health & Human Services FdeLosada@marincounty.org

The following documents were emailed to PDEP in advance:

- PDEP_Agenda 2020-10-5a.pdf**
- PDEP_Minutes 2020-09-14c_AR/PDEP.pdf (Draft to be approved)**
- PG&E PSPS Video and information**
- PGE_CWSP Presentation_Marin County_October 2020**

I. Welcome, Introductions, Review of Minutes

- Catherine Way welcomed attendees
- Draft PDEP Minutes 9/14/2020c_AR/PDEP.pdf were reviewed. Garry Lyon motioned and Peter Mendoza seconded. Minutes approved.

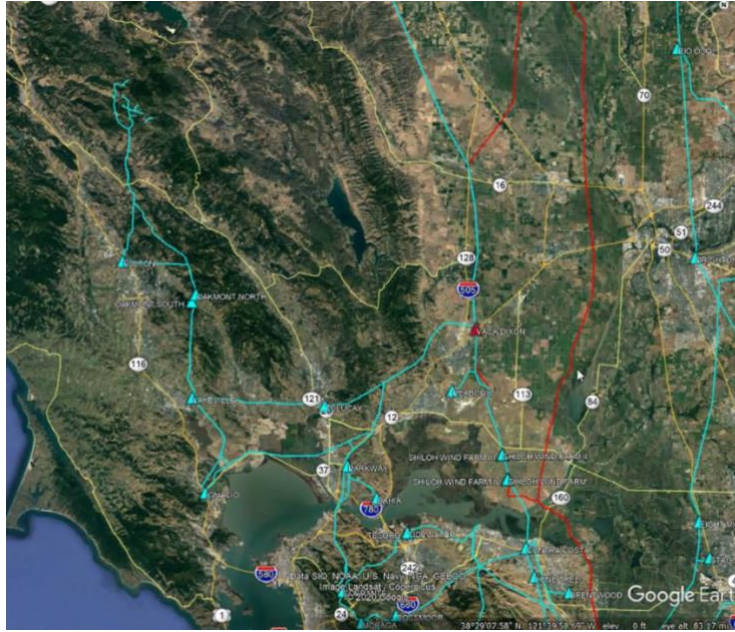
II. PSPS: Mark Van Gorder, Sr Govt. Affairs & Public Policy, North Bay, PG&E

- See Mark's powerpoint for details
- This is year 6 for fires in the Bay Area. They have become bigger and faster.

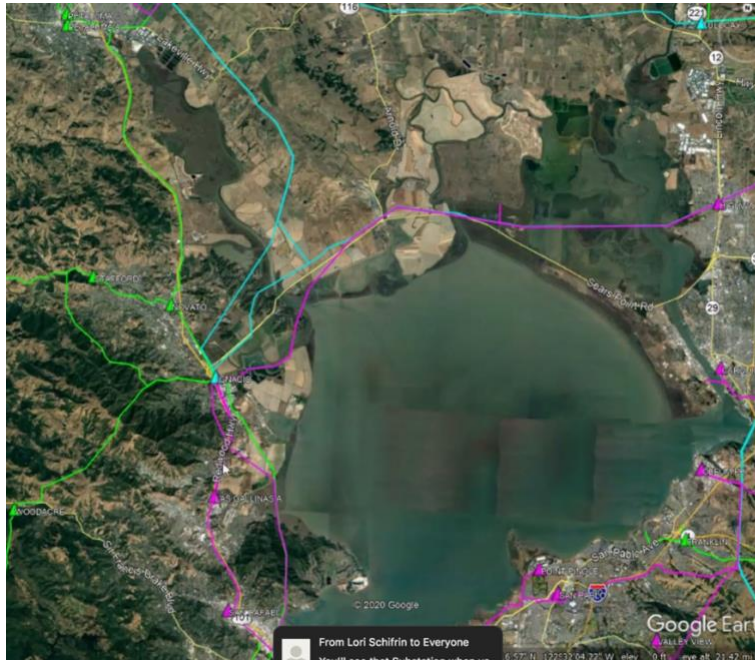


Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3) Committee Meeting

- Mark used Google Earth to show PG&E's energy transmission and distribution:
Substations step energy down to distribution lines. Red lines are power lines, 500kv. Blue lines are 230kv.



- Marin County is served through West side substations from Fulton to Ignacio (purple lines 115kv) to Marin (green lines 60-70kv).





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

- A lot of the bigger distribution lines come through the 101 corridor or along San Pablo Bay; some lines cross over high fire threat areas from east to west Marin.



- PSPS events are during high fire conditions which consist of low humidity, high winds (35mph+), dry vegetation, and a heavy fuel load. Power will be shut off when these conditions exist. Northerly winds are hotter. There is speculation that an electric fence may have started the Glass Fire in Napa/Sonoma.
- Key point: power steps down to substations. A PSPS will shut off power in areas where PG&E thinks there is high fire risk.
- PG&E might be able to provide generator power to substations to allow certain communities to remain in power even in a PSPS. A generator will be brought a day or two before the event.

Question:

Tom Cromwell: How quickly can substations be set up and are there enough substations to power all of Marin if needed?

- Generators are pre-staged in certain areas (like Marin City). PG&E typically has 4-5 days advance notice of major weather events. They will coordinate with OES, Jim Wickham, and others before talking to the public to start planning.
- They will have 48 hours to deliver generators to an area where they are needed. Even with no notice they are able to bring in generators within 24 hours and have them setup within 6-10 hours after (this happened in Calistoga).
- With 24-48 hours notice, we should be able to move generators on site and operate them. We have an estimated 250-300 generators available.
- Resources would be scarce if 20-30 counties are impacted at the same time.
- Follow up Question: could counties set up their own generators if they wanted to? Mark: I do not know.



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

Continuation of Powerpoint

- About 23 weather stations have been installed to date. Weather stations are checked weekly. Pge.com/weather will show upcoming PSPS events and <https://pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/updates/> will show the most detailed and up to date information about PSPS'. Alertwildfire.org has publicly available cameras to view wildfires.
 - Catherine Way: I saw on Twitter that someone in New Zealand was looking at the PGE camera and saw a spark. Is that true? Mark: people from Australia and New Zealand follow us closely and watch our cameras. Not sure if this was the first report of the fire.
- We have more than 500 locations where we must replace poles in high fire zones. We put in "hardened" poles (metal/insulated wire).
- Community Resource Centers: we started with hardened sites. Now due to Covid we use outside sites. There is only one CRC that has a generator pre-positioned on site and that is in Marin City.
 - Cindy Swift: Most of Ross Valley is Tier 2-3. Downtown San Anselmo is Tier 1. How will the work that has been done affect providing power to the Tier 2-3 areas of Ross Valley? Mark: Most of Ross Valley will not get power in a PSPS event. Fairfax is similar and is almost completely surrounded by high fire zones. San Rafael and maybe some parts of San Anselmo will get power.
 - Catherine Way: Are systems being set up for cooling centers, not just charging centers? Mark: it is very challenging now during Covid to set up indoor spaces with air conditioning.
- We look out 5 days ahead. We start talking to OES and county officials then. We let customers know within a couple of days' notice.
 - Maggie Lang: Our cooling center in Mill Valley is at the MV Community Center & probably will be a charging station again. It has its own generator; however, now social distancing will limit how many people can attend.
- If CalFire tells PG&E to shut off power, we do it asap. OES will likely then get out the message to residents via Alert Marin and Nixle before PG&E is able to do so. If we can we email and text people if time permits.
- Restoring Power: We send out the "all clear" message. We have 2 helicopters with infrared technology to inspect the area. We have a 12 hr objective to restore power once the All Clear designation has been made. For any questions call: 1 866-743-6589.
 - Garry Lyon: are telecom providers providing back up power on cell towers? Mark: They are encouraged to do so by the state legislator, but I cannot speak to whether they are doing it. They should have generators on site with a fuel supply for any time of year, even during winter because of storms and trees down which can cause power outages. Backup power should last for 2-3 days.
 - Lori Schifrin: I have seen on Pulsepoint multiple times that a wire is down in the street. I have seen them down in front of my window.
 - Mark. NO, this is not common. If someone sees a live wire down they should call: 800-743-5000 immediately. If you smell gas, move away, get out of the house, and then make the call. Don't stay where you smell the gas. If you see wires down, move away. Tell others to stay away. Some wires could be communication wires down from trees. But don't assess this yourself. Call the hotline and we will check. Property owners are responsible for removing vegetation from around lines. Call 800 number and PG&E will safely remove the vegetation.
 - Cindy Swift: On the CRC Location slide 7, what is the difference between a 'county recommended' and a 'not county recommended' indoor site? Mark: We



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

work with OES to determine these sites (indoor and outdoor). The Fairfax location could be a local jurisdiction request.

- Catherine Way: Mark will send updates to the PDEP email and we can pass them along to PDEP members. They come out daily.

III. Updates from PDEP members

MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine Way: We are finally meeting again. We met last Wed. on Zoom. Emergency preparedness and Covid was the main focus.

Marin VOAD

- Adriana Rabkin: We are working with County Aging & Adult Services to provide emergency food boxes to all seniors at residential housing sites in Marin. We ran a pilot program in August to distribute to 10 housing sites all across Marin and now we are hoping to distribute this one-time box with a 5-day supply of shelf stable food to all the remaining housing sites in Marin. It is a State funded program for people over 60 years old and there is funding to provide 1,500 boxes of this emergency food supply. We will be including relevant messaging about disaster preparedness with the food boxes.
- MarinCIL provided PPE to these 10 initial housing sites and has also received additional funding to provide PPE equipment to all of the housing sites. The County has contracted with Whistlestop to deliver the food boxes and PPE.
- We are also coordinating delivery of face shields from FEMA and NorCalVOAD.
- Jody Timms: Are you checking on whether sites have generators? Adriana: That is a good question. I am not checking, but it is something I can ask. As a result of the work with the county to distribute the emergency food boxes I have an opportunity to talk to many of the housing sites. I am presenting at their first quarterly meeting of the year and will talk to them about their preparedness.
- Catherine Way: Why did Whistlestop change their name? Jody Timms: They wanted a broader, newer name. They have many services. Whistlestop will still be the name of their transportation services. Vivalon¹, their new name, will encompass their other services.

West Marin

- Vicki Chase was not present. No update.

Red Cross

- Vincent Valenzuela was not present. No update.

Southern Marin / Business Community

- Garry Lion: We held a meeting of Flood Control Zone 3 Advisory Board last week. Normally we meet every spring. Garry is the Vice Chair and has been on the board for 16 years. They control the whole flood area near Mill Valley and all surrounding areas including Tam Valley, Marin City, and Strawberry.
- Marin City has received a grant for \$1.7M from the flood control district to get a new pipe to reduce flooding onto 101.

¹ Whistlestop has changed it's name to Vivalon, to underscore a mission beyond services of Rides, Meals, Classes, Care and Advice. Now Vivalon and the transportation services, now called 'Whistlestop Wheels by Vivalon' offer participants a personal connection based on individual relationships and needs. See: <https://whistlestop.org/vivalon/>



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

- Mill Valley flood management training task force: We met more than 6 times over the past 4-5 months. The 2005 New Years Eve storm created \$1 Billion in flood damage in the area. We are going to MV City Council in the next couple months to get approval of a plan for Mill Valley. Most of the things we would like to do, we cannot do because a lot of the damage is on private property, or just not possible because of the terrain; most of the area is built on flood plains. We identified some things to mitigate flooding.
- If funding becomes available for infrastructure at federal level after the November election we might get some help.

Mill Valley Preparedness, community efforts

- Maggie Lang: We had Dr. Jei Africa present at the Southern Marin Disaster Council meeting last week.
- NRGs: still identifying block captains. Going slowly to support captains. We had our first citywide leadership group, Advisory Group, which included the Fire Dept. MV Emergency Preparedness Commission, and all but one NRG. This will be a working group. Will participate in the time change drill on November 1st.
- Sept. was preparedness month. Our Living Room chats were held remotely. We had 3 discussions that reached 180 residents. Michael St John, the retired MV FD chief, participated. We followed 3 Step Red Cross Guidelines.
- CERT / Community Emergency Response Team: They have been busy all summer working at food distribution lines, delivering fresh produce to homebound seniors through Growing Excellence in Marin, staffed cooling center and MV hotline.
- CERT is offering a hybrid training model: part online and part in-person. There are 3 webinars and the last one is tomorrow. We might do a pilot in Southern Marin.
- Tom Cromwell: At S. Marin DC meeting last week, we discussed conflicting information coming from social media. The call from the S. Marin group is to be a voice that the community can trust.
- Maggie: we discussed at the N2N (neighbor-to-neighbor) meeting, a VOAD subcommittee, that some information should have come from the County (orange apocalyptic sky for example). We also spoke about the second round of cooling centers. Where should that information come from (Alert Marin or Nixle?) and where should it be kept for residents (NextDoor, County or City website)?
- Adriana Rabkin:
 - How do we replicate the well-developed collaborative preparedness in Southern Marin in an area that is less well developed?
 - We also need to think about the messaging countywide. Where is it stored? How is it messaged? How do people in Novato learn about the cooling centers open in MV? There are lots of food sources available. Where do people go for the comprehensive list. SFM Food bank lists theirs. HHS provides about 90% of the information and resources available. More is still needed; links to resources are needed.
- Catherine Way: At the S. Marin DC meeting I heard a consensus to push people toward official sources: Ready Marin for preparedness and Alert Marin/Nixle for emergency updates. Let's delve into this deeper at PDEP.
- Maggie Lang: We think the topic of messaging is a priority. Everyone talks about this. We could put it on the agenda for the next PDEP meeting. I ended up texting our MV Fire Chief for information about the orange sky.
- Skip Fedanzo: we have too many information channels. People only take in a few and only one channel at a time. The information that you use "just in case" has to be continually developed in one's mind. How many channels do you need to put out spontaneous or ad hoc events like 14 out of 200 gas stations have power? How many channels will catch the attention of 30% of residents? Every time we put out a new



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

source it introduces cognitive dissonance. At some point there is no return for a new source of information.

- Jody Timms: It seems some fire departments have communication/PIO individuals—one source of messaging. It would be good to identify and then try to coordinate who all the players are and how to better communicate and coordinate the messaging.
- Quinn Gardner: County and City PIO's needs to be included in this conversation. They coordinate all messaging through the JIC – Joint Information Center. This is not a PDEP issue to solve. PDEP can give feedback but isn't responsible for the decision. The JIC and Laine Hendricks, County PIO, need to be invited to this discussion.
- Catherine Way: Let's discuss this next month.
- Adriana Rabkin: The PIO may want to leave some issues to others to message.
- Quinn Gardner: Social media is "HOW" information gets out. WHAT gets sent out is another question. PIO also determines WHICH media is used for certain types of information. They have a whole plan about the use of Alert Marin vs Nixle vs other sources. Maybe Laine could talk about this.

Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Anne Carta: PHP is working with health care facilities on Covid response plans. We have weekly meetings with hospitals and weekly CBO update with Dr. Santora.
- Mass vaccination exercise in planning phase right now. We are distributing flu vaccines in the Canal, and working with MMRC volunteers and community partners and getting County staff to support the effort.
- Catherine Way: is there a place for rapid testing? Anne: I heard about Go Health in Mill Valley, but the question is how reliable is the rapid test?

Access & Functional Needs (AFN) communities:

- Peter Mendoza: We are working with County Aging & Adult Services, Laney Davidson AFN Coordinator, to reassess FAST team to ensure shelters are accessible to people with disabilities and older adults. We had a robust FAST team a few years ago and are working to revamp this team now. Working with Vance Taylor and CA Dept. of social services who oversees the program for the state. We hope to have training for County staff and members of VOAD and PDEP.
- MarinCIL is covering vacation relief for the AFN position in the EOC starting Th/F of this week through Oct, Nov. and Dec.
- Peter was losing his voice and said the remainder of the update will be sent via email.
- Quinn Gardner: We have received lots of requests from older adults for assistance with creating disaster plans. Peter: folks should enroll in [MarinCIL\PSPS program](#). We will help people with batteries and general prep and evacuation plans. We are also helping Medical Baseline customers get earlier PSPS notification with PG&E.

Public Safety / Emergency Management

- Quinn Gardner: Marin wildfire Prevention Authority² (MWPA) is moving forward and is funding vegetation management. Former MCFD Chief Mark Brown is the ED of MWPA. The focus is on all local and defensible spending. Q1/Q2 is the time for PDEP to ask if they want funding to be used for something.
- The cities and towns are asked to set up cooling centers, but are not part of the planning process on the OA calls. PDEP can advocate through DC3 for clear expectations of cities/towns for cooling centers. Air quality and temperature control issues will continue.

² Marin wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) See: <https://www.marinwildfire.org/>



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

- The CERT Coordinator replacement is being discussed. There might be a disconnect between fire chiefs and CERT right now. Michael's position focused on NRGs and Get Ready rather than CERT. They are looking at the job description right now and the focus for the replacement might be more on NRGs than CERT. Maybe PDEP can recommend what they want with CERT. Maggie Lang: Chief Welch is part of these conversations. Maybe PDEP recommends two different full-time positions: one for CERT Coordinator, one for NRG/Get Ready Coordinator. Maybe MWPA could fund an NRG/FireWise position.
- Skip Fedanzo: We need a full time CERT Coordinator. We are fractioning the work by having one person do both jobs.
- Quinn Gardner: Maggie Lang is doing great work filling in since Michael Huynh left the position.

Utilities including PG&E

- Jim Wickham was not present. See the previous notes from Mark Van Gorder for PG&E's report and the powerpoint handout.

Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)

- Anne Carta: We conducted MMRC N95 respirator mask fit testing last week with 15-20 MMRC volunteers and additional County staff for a total of 40 people helping.
- We are planning for Covid vaccinations and running a flu vaccine test effort. We are hoping to get a lot of volunteers to help with this upcoming vaccination effort.
- We are on standby to help neighboring counties. We might get evacuees; we might have a Marin fire event.
- We are working on procedures for evacuation shelters and supply management.
- Tom Cromwell: Covid tests are given by all sorts of agencies and people need to know about testing. Maybe this group can pull together the information. Adriana: HHS has the testing sites on their website: <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/covid-19-testing-information#where>.
- We have been operating under the assumption that Covid droplet transmission is 6 feet. Maybe this is wrong, it could be much more. New information is that aerosol spread can be 30 feet and hangs around for 8-10 hours. This is a big issue and I hope it is wrong.
- We are concerned about floods with the Belvedere lagoon. There is a proposal for \$27M to protect Belvedere lagoon and Belvedere Island against rising flood levels. All utilities to Belvedere Island are at risk.

Public Preparedness Coordinator / Get Ready Marin

- Quinn Gardner provided an update above.

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

- Jay Hubert: RACES / ACS³: A couple of RACES work teams are under way:
 - We are looking into lessons learned from the PSPS last year. We are working on activation and callout planning. MARS owns the repeaters, RACES does not. RACES can take over some, not all and will leave some for other communication needs.

³ 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/>



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

- Another group is thinking about how to engage more HAMs who are not a part of RACES communication. Make them available to support other needs within the community.
- Tom Cromwell: Do you need 2 HAM licensed and trained operators, one on both ends, for it to work? Jay: Yes. HAM licensed operators are needed on both ends, except for FRS and GMRS technologies. Non-HAM cannot use this frequency. Third party traffic is allowed on amateur radio networks but there needs to be a HAM operator sitting next to you.

Public Comment/Questions:

- Jody Timms: NRGs are trying to develop all across the County. Rachel Kertz in Central Marin and Maggie Lang in Southern Marin are both paid. These two positions need to work together, but there need to be these two separate positions. NRGs need to meet once a month and there needs to be central coordination. The NRG position needs to be a hired position. Maybe Rachel, Maggie and Tom can fill in to help coordinate the NRGs. It might be good to have Rachel, Central Marin NRG Coordinator, attend PDEP until the Disaster Coordinator is hired. Maggie often mentions the work she is doing, NRG development across the county, is important to integrate into DC3/PDEP.
- CERT coordinator is also a full time position. Adriana: Maybe we need two positions: CERT and NRG/Get Ready.
- Maggie Lang: Expectations were too high for the previous CERT coordinator position. One person cannot do all of this. There are 1,500 CERTs in the County, 10 classes per year, recertification every 4 years, keep CERTs engaged. We cannot wait. The message needs to come now from PDEP that 2 separate positions are needed, do not wait until Nov. PDEP meeting. Fire chiefs and OES need to hear this.
- Amy Glenn: The NRGs are highly dependent on CERT.
- Skip Fedanzo: I was involved with CERT for the past 20 years. It is clear that one person cannot do both jobs. We need full time and administrative time and training to do it.
- Maggie Lang: This coordinator was also supposed to do Get Ready and Get Ready 5th grade. 5th Grade alone is a third full time position. A large portion of the work could be fire prevention.
- Lori Schifrin: I can only speak for the majority of residents in San Rafael but a majority of residents are not part of NRG's or have been part of one and they have fallen apart. Frank, Tom and I were on the committee for the position that Michael filled and CERT was NEVER part of the plan. It was for Get Ready, Get Ready 5th Grade and the DSW program. Individual training is VERY important. It was NOT to interfere with Maggie or whoever was the CERT coordinator's job.
- Adriana Rabkin: We cannot argue for 3 separate positions.
- Catherine Way: There is opportunity with the new wildfire protection funds.
- Skip Fedanzo: The whole Marin preparedness planning is to integrate citizen participation into official county preparedness and response. We need more people. Government cannot handle disasters on their own without more civilian organizations and staffing. They need community organizations and response.
- Tom Cromwell: I agree, especially in the early stage of disasters. In the first few days we need to be activated at a civilian level.
- Jody Timms: Finding and advocating for vulnerable older adults and AFN folks is central to the work of NRGs. We are referring them to MCIL for more support/assistance.
- Rob Ireson: Re: aerosolization and transport, there was a 2 day workshop organized by National Academies on aerosol transport and viral load by source of distribution (lungs, mouth, nose at different distances): Airborne Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: A Virtual Workshop, August 26-27, 2020:



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

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/airborne-transmission-of-sars-cov-2-a-virtual-workshop>.

- Frank Cox: Seismic retrofit is a critical issue – we should be expecting an earthquake.
- Maggie Lang: ReadyMarin website has been revamped. Could PDEP provide some feedback on the Readymarin.org website? This is a preparedness portal, not a response portal. Residents can get the information they need to prepare and be resilient.

IV. Closing Items

- Next PDEP meeting is Nov. 2
- Next DC3 meeting is Dec 10

Closure: 2:53 pm end of meeting

Next Meetings:

Dates may be flexible as circumstances require

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

PDEP Meetings Year 2021: 1/4, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/7, 7/12, 8/2, 9/13, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6/2021

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 Year 2020: 12/10/2020**

**DC3 Year 2021: 3/11/2021, 6/10/2021, 9/9/2021, 12/9/2021**

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.

**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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