



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDEP) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster Council Committee Meeting

PDE&P Meeting Minutes for Nov 7, 2022
Draft approved at 12-5-2022 PDEP Meeting

Members Present:

Catherine Way	Co-Chair, DC3, City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Adriana Rabkin	Co-Chair, DC3 Member, Director Marin VOAD
Anne Carta	Marin Medical Reserve Corps, County HHS
Garry Lion	Marin Economic Forum, DC3 Member
Elaine Wilkinson	Marin County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Rob Ireson	Chief, RACES/ACS
Richard Diaz	San Rafael Emergency Mgt, Disaster Prep Coordinator
Miranda Miller	Ross Valley Emergency Prep Coordinator
Leah Curtis	Southern Marin NRG Coordinator
Rachel Kertz	Central Marin NRG Coordinator
Vincent Valenzuela	American Red Cross, Marin Chapter
Milt Hyams	DC3 District 1 Representative
Tom Cromwell	DC3 District 3 Representative

Members Excused or Absent:

Amber Davis	HHS Public Health Preparedness Manager
Quinn Gardner	SRFD Emergency Manager
Steve Marcotte	DC3 Member, West Marin Disaster Council

Public Attendees:

Frank Cox	Former PDEP Co Chair/DC3 Member frnkcox7@gmail.com
Skip Fedanzo	MARS, drferret@comcast.net
Gerd Goette	CERT, Central Marin NRGAdvComm, gerdgoette@yahoo.com
Sara Robinson	Marin Aging & Adult Services, SRobinson@marincounty.org
Fernando Barreto	Aide to Supervisor Rodoni, fbarreto@marincounty.org
Lesley Pfeiffer	Marin County Office of Education, lpfeiffer@marinschools.org
Jody Timms	Age Friendly Marin Network, jodytimms@comcast.net
Lori Schifrin	CERT, MMRC, Red Cross lori.sch@att.net
Julia Hales	Marin CIL, julia@marincil.org
Marimar Ochoa	Marin Public Information Office, IOchoa@marincounty.org
Jennifer Ancona	Marin Social Services, JAncona@marincounty.org

The following documents were emailed to PDEP in advance:

- PDEP_Agenda 2022-11-7.pdf**
- PDEP_Minutes 2022-10-3a.pdf (Draft to be approved)**

I. Welcome, Introductions, Review of Minutes

- Catherine Way welcomed everyone. We are still meeting on Zoom but can consider meeting in person at the beginning of the year.
- Minutes were approved as submitted with the following changes noted:
 - Rob Ireson provided clarification on No Notice Protocols – one is regional (drilled at Golden Eagle) and one for local operators who are available if the EOC is activated.
 - Milt Hymans was present for the District rep report. Nothing to report.
- The agenda for today's meeting changed as follows:
 - Mark Van Gorder was not present to provide a PG&E Safety Update. PG&E is holding a North Coast virtual town hall on Nov 15th on winter safety and bill savings. Catherine will forward the information to this group.
 - An item was added to the agenda to have Skip Fedanzo present on the Radio Communications Volunteer (RCV) Program.



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- II. Marin County Radio Communications Volunteer (RCV) Program, Skip Fedanzo**
- The Radio Communications Volunteer (RCV) is an official program sponsored by the Department of Public Works (DPW). It was officially approved by the Board of Supervisors in September.
 - The RCV program uses volunteer Ham radio operators for disaster communications for non-profits that provide disaster wrap-around services to vulnerable communities.
 - The development of the RCV program started three years ago at a Marin VOAD meeting when nonprofit organizations asked about disaster communications and how we would all communicate with each other when telephone and internet communications were unavailable. This was the start of the pilot project with Marin VOAD, Marin Amateur Radio Society (MARS) Ham radio operators, RACES/ACS, Dept. of Public Works and seven (now eight) community-based organizations (CBOs) recruited by Marin VOAD.
 - The RCV Planning Team consists of MARS: Skip Fedanzo, Milt Hyams, Tom Jordan; RACES/ACS: Rob Ireson, Jay Hubert; DPW: Andrew LeBlanc, Todd Williams; and Marin VOAD: Adriana Rabkin.
 - A group of radio operators were recruited and they have tested the radio communications at the eight different CBO locations around the County.
 - The Planning Team has presented and had discussions with local emergency managers, Marin County Health & Human Services (HHS), Office of Emergency Services (OES), and the Disaster Citizens Corps Council (DC3).
 - Catherine Way: Was there a budget line item? Skip Fedanzo: This program is self-funded as Ham's have their own radio equipment. There is a nominal budget for live scans, ID badges and polo shirts. RCV is self-administered, managed, and self-funded. The DPW coordination has been stellar.
 - Catherine Way: If you could have a budget what would you purchase? Skip: Equipment for repeater systems but we want to make sure it is the right equipment at the right time, maybe in 2023-24. We already have sufficient equipment to move a bit further.
 - The RCV program has existed for two years and we have practiced exercises with our CBO partners. We have established communication among the eight CBOs and with the SF warehouse of the SF-Marine Food Bank. We provide communication with VOAD, HHS, and the EOC when needed and we do it with volunteer amateur radio operators.
 - Adriana Rabkin: The RCV Program was developed with CBOs, not for individuals, and the CBOs are geographically diverse across the County. The eight CBO partners include:
 - Marin County Cooperation Team / Marin City
 - Community Action Marin / San Rafael
 - Canal Alliance / Canal
 - SF Marin Food Bank / San Rafael and San Francisco
 - Homeward Bound / Novato
 - North Marin Community Services / Novato
 - San Geronimo Valley Community Services / West Marin
 - West Marin Community Services / Pt Reyes Station
 - Rob Ireson: The RCV Program and ACS-RACES operate in parallel. ACS is backup communications support for emergency services public safety agencies whereas RCV supports the VOAD and CBOs. There is overlap with the Ham radio operators as well as repeater usage and equipment. We are building out the UHF repeater system which is used by many overlapping teams.
 - Adriana Rabkin: We did not develop the RCV Program in a vacuum. It was based on an existing need for the VOAD to communicate with CBOs in a disaster and within an existing system in which the VOAD, CBOs, and the EOC are a coordinated network. It is also built on an existing radio system using technology that already exists.
 - Sara Robinson: What level of technology is provided to the CBOs? Do we get to the level of communication within each organization? We have heard from Vivalon about their concern about bus operators being able to operate if communications are down. Skip



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- Fedanzo: We provide communications from front door to front door. We are not involved in internal CBO communications i.e., bus to bus in the case of Vivalon. Rob Ireson: We cannot put RCV operators onto buses. Vivalon's drivers would be on the land mobile radio system or MERA. Adriana Rabkin: We became aware of these communication concerns when we started the RCV Program. We also know that many CBOs have staff who live outside of Marin County. It is up to the CBOs to resolve some of these issues because if they cannot coordinate with their own team following a disaster, the RCV team will not be able to help them. It is our hope that the development of RCV will help them to advance their own internal communications. For many nonprofits it will take funding and internal planning. We meet with them quarterly and Skip also meets separately with CBOs to help them figure out the best solution for their internal communications.
- Skip Fedanzo: Our Ham radio operators have interoperability over several modes: voice, digital files, and over multiple frequencies. We are also experimenting with MESH Microwave technology. All we need is generators and battery power and we can go online.
 - Catherine Way: Congratulations on getting this approved by the Board of Supervisors. Is there any one champion for this? Skip Fedanzo: We built this from ground up and worked independently of the BOS. Supervisor Rodoni has been the most involved of the Supervisors and he supported this effort. Catherine Way: Collect your data: meetings, radio tests, etc. You will need the data to get funding.

III. Updates from PDEP members

MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine Way: At the last MCCMC meeting we discussed the Great Shakeout. Catherine attended the 50th Anniversary of the Redwoods in Mill Valley. Ann Eichhorn was there as her husband, Bill Eichhorn, started the Redwoods 50 years ago to provide senior housing.

Marin VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

- Adriana Rabkin: Marin VOAD met in October and held a tabletop earthquake exercise to prepare for the Great Shakeout (GS). The purpose of the VOAD is to coordinate and cooperate in a disaster. We activated on October 20 as part of the Great Shakeout and sent out alerts (using the Everbridge system) to our disaster distribution list and we held a conference call as we would do following a disaster to discuss community needs and available resources. As a result of this communications test, we were able to update emergency contact information for many CBO partners.
- Marin VOAD has a seat in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and provides a direct link between the government agencies leading the disaster response and the community groups who know what is happening on the ground in their communities. The VOAD will share information with CBO partners about charging centers or shelters that are opening so that CBOs can inform their communities. The CBOs will also have information like evacuees showing up or seniors who are stranded in their apartment buildings that can be shared with the EOC. In November we will hold an After Action Review to discuss our Great Shakeout activation and learn what we need to improve upon for the next exercise or actual activation.
- We received another grant from Marin Community Foundation (MCF). Thank you MCF and Patti Juachon for all of your support. The grant runs from 11/2022 through 10/2023 and we will hire a consultant to do a strategic review and help determine the future of the VOAD, especially in light of the OEM reorganization and the Community Response Teams. Catherine Way: We hired Paul Castro to do this for the Sheurig Center.



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- Lesley Pfeiffer: We held a GS drill at MCOE. We want to do a tsunami drill next year. The tsunami map was redrawn¹ and includes some of our schools now. We have not held a drill at San Rafael High School in my memory.

Marin County HHS Public Health Preparedness

- Amber Davis: Not present. No Update.

Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)

- Anne Carta: MMRC is piloting a new training that includes stop the blood, hands on CPR, AED, and Narcan, using national educational materials. We are working closely with MCOE and piloted a Train the Trainer program with school nurses and MMRC supporting the school staff.
- Looking to spread the training to the public next year with NRGs and Community Response Teams. Developing the training into Spanish as well.
- Catherine Way: A Falls Prevention Program would be great to add to this. Sara Robinson can send some evidenced based falls prevention programs that can receive grants from the State Dept. of Aging.
- Tom Cromwell: Both the Marin IJ and SF Chronicle have had articles on the use of Narcan and how to use it. It is getting public exposure that is needed. Lesley Pfeiffer: We brought this to a few schools and want to develop it at more schools. We need to do more outreach. I will try to get that going again. The focus was on NARCAN, Fentanyl, and tobacco with the greatest focus on Fentanyl.
- Mari Ochoa: There is a County Overdose Prevention Summit:
<https://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2022/hhs-overdose-prevention-110322>.
- Catherine Way: We are developing materials in Spanish. What are the other languages we need? The voter handbook had four languages. Mari Ochoa: The languages for voting registration are determined by the State not by our local needs and they were English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin.
- Rachel Kertz: We also have non-written languages that are only verbal: Guatemalan native languages.

Marin Economic Forum/Business Community

- Garry Lion: Working with Elaine Wilkinson and Michelle Terrell, the community interaction coordinator in Mill Valley, who is replacing Maggie Lang. We have met a few times and are coordinating with Tom Welch, Deputy Fire Chief in Mill Valley and who is retiring next year. Reviewed all the M'BER materials. Michelle put together information on Emergency preparedness for employees.

Marin County Emergency Preparedness Disaster Coordinator

- Elaine Wilkinson: Rain is on our mind and we are concerned about flooding. The King Tides are expected December 23-24. We are focusing on communication and messaging for Marin City. Richard Diaz is looking for information for San Rafael. We asked the community what languages they needed information in and they said: English, Spanish Vietnamese, Farsi, Urdu, Russian, and Arabic. We are working on building our cache of emergency preparedness information in different languages. The information and messaging about how to prepare and what to do if the area is flooded is going out in Marin City tomorrow to the senior center, library, health center and school. We are trying to get ahead of the king tides and storms as much as possible.
- Working with Anne Carta and planning for 2023 to bring training to communities through the regional Emergency Coordinators.

¹ Marin Tsunami Inundation Areas Public App: <https://emergency.marincounty.org/apps/marin-tsunami-inundation-areas-public-app/explore>



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- CERT: We are thinking about what CERT training will look like for new CERT in 2023. I want a hybrid course and I am talking to the Red Cross to provide certified training through Ready Marin.
- Catherine Way: Make sure you add a line item for translation to show that it costs money.
- Elaine Wilkinson: We can ask for money from the Office of Equity.

OES RACES Chief Radio officer

- Rob Ireson: RACES / ACS²: We worked closely with Skip and RCV and tested a No Notice Protocol for the Great Shakeout. We simulated the 2018 PSPS power shutdown and had a spontaneous net formation where communications were down and people were on their own and had to find other radio operators on alternative radio frequencies.
- We activated on Saturday after the Great Shakeout and had 25-30 operators who participated during the day and found their way to find working frequencies. Lessons were learned with protocol development and training opportunities. We had to prompt people on Thursday to take the lead as net control.
- Sara Robinson: There was a report on NPR about the 1964 earthquake in Alaska. The state's communication system was knocked out. Ham operators saved the state and people's lives, got emergency responders to where they needed to go and got people food when they had no power for weeks. You might want to make sure radio operators have a large store of food in case they have to stay by their radio for days. Rob Ireson: we have a checklist for operators that includes water, medicine, food and individual supplies. Individual operators don't have to operate for 24 hrs/day. They know how to transfer information to other operators without loss of continuity. It is a work in progress and some of this has just been developed in the last year.
- Skip Fedanzo: RCV worked over three days for the Great Shakeout. Thursday, 10/20 was a spontaneous net setup. Friday we had a standby check to verify that people were on air. We wanted get a feel for different frequencies and different issues. RCV is not an immediate first responder organization. We will be active 24-36 hours after the shaking stops. RACES will need to activate immediately following a disaster.

San Rafael Emergency Management

- Richard Diaz: San Rafael tested internal communications for the Great Shakeout (GS) and issued a city proclamation to have people participate in GS.
- Working on our Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) with an outside consulting firm and we are developing a playbook on flooding. Last year San Rafael had flooding so we need to prepare this year.
- Taking part in a County-led multi jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan. This will be a guidance document for mitigation projects for high sea level rise, purchase of backup pumps and generators, and more. We are using the new Tsunami maps that replace the maps from 2009. They are available on the [Marin County Emergency Portal](#). Tom Cromwell: the new maps show potential flooding up to Northern Tiburon, Blackie's Pasture and all downtown Belvedere and Tiburon. Richard Diaz: the whole Canal area and some downtown San Rafael areas will have worse flooding based on the new maps. Adriana Rabkin: The Marin County Emergency Portal is important to know about and will be the go to source for the public in a disaster.
- There is a current alert from the National Weather Service for a high wind advisory for the mid and west side of the county and a high surf advisory. Rainy election day but the rain does not meet the threshold for a County or San Rafael severe weather shelter.

Regional Emergency Preparedness & NRG Coordinators

² 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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Ross Valley Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Miranda Miller

- We are working with Anne Carta to launch a FADR class in Ross Valley. We had a full registration within 48 hours of posting the class and 200+ views of the event.
- We held a driveway evacuation drill in Ross Valley last month and notified 22,000 residents by Alert Marin (Everbridge system). 200 participants filled out survey (1% of total number of people notified about the event). 90% said they want to get alerts and are interested in preparedness.
- Adriana Rabkin: Who participated in the drill and how did you send out the alert? Miranda Miller: A hybrid of folks attended including families and older adults; more than I usually see. I have 600 people on the distribution list and I published the drill in the town newsletter. I partnered directly with Hannah Tarling at OES to send out the alert. We sent a soft launch with email first to prepare people for the drill. I also met with Chief Weber about this. Adriana: I send out my own alerts for the VOAD through the Everbridge system. Does it make sense for OEM to send all the notices or would it be better for each regional coordinator to send out their own alerts? Skip Fedanzo: One caution. Central Marin CERT was using Everbridge as a mailing list. About 4 years ago the Fire Dept told us Everbridge is an emergency alert system; it is not Mailchimp. They only want Everbridge used for emergencies. Adriana: People would need to be trained on how to use it and be very clear about when to use it. The VOAD only uses it for emergency communications and to test our emergency communications once or twice a year.
- Tom Cromwell: MMRC is looking to condense FADR from a 4-hour class to 2 hours; We could eliminate splinting and carries and have more on AED/ Stop the Bleed / FADR. We have about 800 MMRC members; We want more teachers. A shorter class may be more appealing for teachers. Elaine Wilkinson: We will discuss among all emergency coordinators what this will look like for 2023 and how to spread it equitably across the county. Adriana Rabkin: Will you be able to bring this out to West Marin? Elaine Wilkinson: We are working with Lynn Axelrod and Steve Marcotte to find the best place to bring this to them. West Marin is our first area of focus for next year.

Southern Marin NRG Coordinator, Leah Curtis

- We held mini evacuation drills and talks in October. Met in Marin City with an average turnout of about 10% of the community; we invited over 500 people. Elaine Wilkinson and the Fire Dept. helped put on the evacuation drill. We went door to door at Golden Gate Village to provide information about emergency preparedness. Also working with Sara Robinson and Juanita Edwards from Marin City Community Services District (MCCSD) to bring first aid training to CSD staff. We are hoping to also provide AED and Narcan training and get a practice AED device. We did not send out alerts for the training; it was promoted by word of mouth. We gave out flyers to the Shelter Ridge HOA and Condos and had better turnout than when we sent out alerts.
- We are working on translated materials with Elaine Wilkinson.
- Held a semi-annual NRG drill this past Sunday. Had large block captain participation. I worked with CERT who had CERT radio as a 'node' and I had communications for people who did not have radios. They do not have radios or training.
- ReadyMarin: We launched a speaker request for HOAs, Rotary clubs, scouts, or any organization and the topic you are interested in: <https://readymarin.org/plan-prepare/education-resources/>
- Southern Marin has new evacuation maps on SMFD.org for all of Southern Marin: <https://www.smfd.org/our-district/prevention/preparedness/evacuation>

Central Marin NRG Coordinator, Rachel Kertz

- We ran a couple of FADR classes at Redwood High School that were open to everyone. We also did radio training for NRG groups.
- We are evaluating a training around bystander effect training.



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- Great Shakeout: We asked NRG leaders and block captains to be ambassadors and drill wherever they were and with whomever they were with.
- Our drills tend to be based on full staff. How do we drill based on low staff? I am sending out a post drill survey.
- Testing Alert Marin: Chief Martin said to hold off on this now with OES and not add more things for them to do before the reorganization takes place. There used to be a way for individuals to self-test and ensure they could get alerts. This feature has been removed. Elaine Wilkinson: Maybe next year we can do a countywide test. Skip Fedanzo: Everbridge gets charged by the phone companies and the County pays for emails, texts, and voice alerts. It costs the County money every time an alert gets sent. Maybe local jurisdictions contribute money.
- Received \$15k grant from CalFire to reach underserved communities. We are having initial conversations with Marco Berger from Multicultural Center of Marin and others about this.

West Marin Disaster Council

- Steve Marcotte: Was not present. No update.

American Red Cross (ARC)

- Vincent Valenzuela: Had to leave early. No update.

District Representatives

- Tom Cromwell, District 3: Belvedere/Tiburon had a combined drill with robust participation and both fire and police departments present. Gave away NARCAN and demonstrated sidewalk CPR. The City Manager was impressed and this may become an annual event.
- Our next Block Captain drill is in January at night.
- Milt Hyams, District 1: I am the communications coordinator for the Red Cross Marin chapter and am working on their internal communications along with Steve Reynolds a long time volunteer. As part of Great Shakeout (GS) we coordinated with regional Red Cross and the warehouse in the East Bay. We have broader coverage with the Red Cross that can make its way to the EOC. Prior to GS we installed a repeater in Mill Valley at station 9 that covers areas in Southern Marin. It worked well during the Great Shakeout exercise.

Public Comment/Questions

- May 20 2023 is the 2nd annual Ember Stomp wildfire festival. It will be more than just fire prevention.
- Lori Shifrin: Does District 2 have a representative? I heard Mike McDermott is not serving in the position any more. Catherine Way: We will ask Supervisor Rodoni the next time we meet with him.

IV. Closing Items

- Our next PDEP meeting is Dec 5th and the next quarterly DC3 meeting is Thur. Dec. 8th.

Closure: 2:47 pm end of meeting

Next Meetings: 1-3pm: Dates may be flexible as circumstances require
PDEP Meetings Year 2022 (dates may be adjusted): Dec 5, 2022

Site: PDEP is currently conducting meetings online using the Zoom platform. We plan to return to meetings at the Central Marin Police Community Room soon.

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## Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDEP) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster Council Committee Meeting

**DC3 Meetings: 3-5pm:**

**DC3 Year 2022:** Dec 8, 2022

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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