

Members Present:

Capt. Ed Coursey (City Co-Chair)
 Kay Daniels-Cohen (Resident – Ward 3)
 Robert Jones (Montgomery County)
 Andy Kelemen (Resident – Ward 1)
 Patrick Kimvilakani (Resident – Ward 2)
 Jennifer Kurtinitis (Resident – Ward 1, Community Co-Chair)

Anne Ludlow (Resident – Ward 1)
 Kathleen Quinn (Resident – Ward 2)
 Jim Stoddard (WAH)

Members Absent (Excused)

Tom Horne (TPVFD)

Others Present:

Jessie Carpenter (Recording Secretary)
 Brian Geraci (Takoma Park Lions)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item(s)	Responsibility
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Andy moved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2011; seconded by Anne. The motion carried.		
Report from County OEM/HS	<p>Bob reported that the County EOC had opened for both the earthquake and the hurricane. A lesson learned from the earthquake is that evacuation plans need to be reviewed. Many people were confused as to how to respond to the earthquake.</p> <p>Bob also reported on upcoming exercises, including a functional exercise for winter storms to be held in November. Web EOC training is being conducted monthly.</p> <p>He noted the new NTAS (National Terrorism Advisory System) guide that has replaced the color coded threat warnings. A full explanation can be found on the FEMA website.</p>	"	
Hurricane Irene	<p>Ed noted that the County and the City are lumping together the two events (hurricane and earthquake) for the after-action report. He indicated that the earthquake was interesting in that it pointed out that action by government in an earthquake is not as important as the actions taken by citizens and building owners to prepare. There is no warning for an earthquake. Individual decisions are made on a building by building basis as to whether to evacuate. It depends on the individual analysis of the situation. If the government said to evacuate, then it would "own the process."</p> <p>There was discussion about the need for someone in a building taking responsibility. Bob said there is a building coordinator in every government building, with floor wardens.</p> <p>It was noted that it is not always clear who is in charge. Ed said that if something came up at the Community Center, the Police Department would step in.</p> <p>Ed asked people to send him feedback on the earthquake and the hurricane.</p>		

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	<p>The EPC discussed the storm. It was noted Pepco did a good job of getting out information and in restoring electricity. Andy said that copper phone lines went out in his area. He requested that there be a City call center that residents could call for information.</p> <p>Kathe reported that some people in her ward complained about inability to remove dead trees because of the decisions of the City Arborist and about insufficient tree trimming.</p> <p>Kay noted that she received information from her Councilmember and from the Mayor to give her information for her neighborhood. She said the problem is how to get word out to residents.</p> <p>Ed noted the importance of having cell phones charged since a significant amount of the City was without power initially.</p> <p>Patrick commented that he would have liked to see more definitive street closures around areas where lines and trees were down. Ed noted that one issue is that residents of the street still need to gain access.</p> <p>Jim noted that WAH had lost power at one point but the generators had kicked on. After he drove around and saw the road closures, he communicated with Mont. Co. and PG Co. emergency services about transporting patients, and communicated with the EOC who worked to get roads to the Hospital opened. He had also been in communication with the EOC about the power outage, since that can impact the ability to do surgery. The Hospital's power was restored quickly.</p>		
<p>Lions Club & the Volunteer Mobilization Center</p>	<p>Brian Geraci from the Takoma Park Lions Club was present to discuss options for setting up a volunteer mobilization center during an emergency. The Lions had formed Lions Alert program for individual clubs to help out in emergencies. There are 54 Lions Clubs in Montgomery County. He said the members needed more information about training, shifts, and how long a mobilization might be. He said he could probably get five members for a mobilization and more for a joint Takoma Park/Silver Spring center.</p> <p>The EPC discussed ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers would be random volunteers, not affiliated volunteers who would be called up through their various programs. • Background checks would need to be done, plus screening for skills. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the center would be to have the City be able to coordinate local volunteers and funnel them where needed. • It is not clear at this point whether Montgomery County will be rebuilding the capacity of its Volunteer Center. • A joint volunteer center including Silver Spring might be a good way to share volunteers if Takoma Park has more than it needs. • A Takoma Park Center could be set up as a pilot to see how it works. • One possible use of volunteers could be to staff a City information line. • It may be possible to prescreen volunteers before an emergency. <p>Brian said he would like to set up a training session for the Lions to see how many are interested. Typically, members go through the training, then set up the center and do an exercise. Forms and paperwork need to be in place and there is a need for background checks and skills identified.</p> <p>Patrick volunteered to work on the project, possibly with Wolfgang and maybe Buddy.</p>		
Cable Programming	Jessie said the Public Service Announcements would be posted to the web after the meeting.		
Information for Elected Officials	Bob distributed a draft sheet prepared for elected officials for review. He said he would send it around to the group for comments before the next meeting.		
Preparedness Month Preparation	<p>The Preparedness Month Proclamation was signed by the Mayor. Kay and Buddy made comments at the City Council meeting.</p> <p>Kathe was working on recruitment for the Folk Festival and Street Festival.</p>		
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.		