

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, September 24, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.  
Community Center Hydrangea Room  
Minutes**

*Draft minutes of September 24, 2014*

**Present:** Jim Stoddard, Andy Kelemen, Kathe Quinn, Ron Hardy, Jenny Klurtinitis, Herma Percy, Alan Goldberg, Tom Horne, Jessie Carpenter (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:** Patrick Kimvilakani, Anne Polansky, Claudine Schweber

**Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

**County and City Reports**

Jenny Kurtinitis noted that the new County OEMHS Representative is Tina \_\_\_\_\_. The County will be transitioning to the new Everbridge alert system on October 13.

Ron Hardy reported that Takoma Park's new Everbridge alert system will be pushed out in October. Police, Recreation, and other key staff are being trained.

He made his presentation to the City Council on September 22. The presentation included information to set the tone for future presentations. He also included in his report information about the recent activities of the EPC.

Ron will follow up with the City Manager about whether reports from the Emergency Manager will be scheduled regularly.

He has been contacted by the Essex House. The tenant association there would like to have a presentation or discussion about fire safety in high rise buildings. He will check with the Fire Marshal to see if that agency can follow up, or perhaps the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Dept. could reach out to the tenant association.

**Folk Festival Brief Out**

The EPC had a good table location at the Festival. A lot of people stopped by the table. The table was well staffed and able to engage people.

Ron has been contacted by a FEMA Corps group from Texas. They are here from four to ten months and are willing to help the EPC.

### **Railroad Chlorine Tanker Follow Up**

Jim Stoddard from WAH explained the Hospital's preparation for a chemical release:

- A notification would be send via emergency medical communication channels and there would be a check as to who would be available to accept patients.
- Hospital could shut down the air handlers and initiate a lockdown if necessary.
- Once the Hospital is notified, it would set up incident command and assign roles.
- For standard decontamination, the Hospital would report out as to how many patients it can receive. A standard decontamination room is available for a small number of patients. If there are a large number, the Hospital has a decontamination tent and supplies to use outside. How patients would be handled depends on the situation.
- Hospital staff goes through a two-day first receiver training on an annual basis.
- They have a cache of decontamination suits, kits, and personal air purification respirators.
- Decontamination would be a multijurisdictional/regional matter.
- The hospital could set up a staging area in the lobby to handle the worried well, the subtle injured, and family members. The incident command system has been redesigned to include social workers and pastoral care.

Tom Horne (TPVFD) described fire service response to a hazardous rail spill:

- The first alarm response is large and would include DC, MD, and Takoma Park.
- Hazmat involvement is assumed with a collision or derailment on non-passenger trains.
- Additional resources can be pulled in as needed. COG Interagency Task Force enables calling on four additional hazmat teams if needed.
- National Guard forces are trained on WMD and work well on non-hostile events.
- There are codes in the emergency broadcast system for hazmat emergencies.

### **Follow Up on Youth Outreach Efforts**

The EPC had agreed to focus on youth this year. Ron organized the raffle and quiz board for outreach events. The Committee discussed other ideas:

- FEMA has materials for youth and will support programs.
- Use a classroom at the Folk Festival to show very brief preparedness videos.
- Engage the teen CERT program.
- Engage youth to do preparedness videos.
- Scout merit badges – Tom is a badge counselor for radio, fire, and preparedness badges.
- Speak with the Recreation Department to see if something can be built into a youth program.

The Committee agreed to continue focusing on youth outreach. Putting together a presentation would be a good next step.

### **Exercise Sub-Committee**

An EPC exercise subcommittee will be formed to start developing exercises for staff, the community, various City departments, City leadership, and the City Council.

Andy volunteered to serve.

### **New Direction for Newsletter Articles**

Deferred.

### **November/December Meetings?**

The Committee will decide when to hold a meeting during November or December.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of June 26 and August 28 were unanimously approved upon motion by Andy; second by Jim.