

Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) City of Takoma Park

Meeting--May 25, 2017: 3rd Floor Atrium Rm 7-8.30 pm

AGENDA

Issue/ item	Who	Estimated Time	Hour
Welcome and guest, Councilmember Rizzy Qureshi	Claudine Schweber, Rizzy Qureshi	35min	7.35
Update on Web Page	Ron Hardy	15	7.50
City and County update	Ron Hardy	20	8.10
Public Service videos—status and volunteers; Summer & Fall EPC issues: thinking ahead; Other: 'dirty bomb', EPC guests, other	ALL	20	8.30

Next Meeting: June 22, Thursday 7pm

Emergency preparedness links:

America's PrepareAthon! Be Smart. Take Part. Prepare. <https://community.fema.gov/about>

America's PrepareAthon! is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to prepare for specific hazards through group discussions, drills, and exercises. This link will give you information about hazards which can affect your community and ways you can take action to prepare and participate. <https://community.fema.gov/take-action/hazards>

Download the FEMA App, available for Apple, Android and Blackberry mobile devices. The app includes weather alert information, home fire safety tips and reminders users can set to test smoke alarms (monthly), change smoke alarm batteries (yearly), and practice fire escape plans (every six months). Learn more about the FEMA App at <http://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>

Higher Education Symposium at EMI, June 5-8: <https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/>

MADRA: Mid-Atlantic Disaster Recovery Association -- <http://www.madra.org/>

Training:

- Virginia Dept of Emergency Management: <http://www.vaemergency.com/em/training>
- Maryland Emergency Management Agency - <http://www.mema.state.md.us/calendar/index.asp>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency- <http://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.asp?page=all>
- International Federation of the Red Cross - <https://ifrc.csod.com/client/ifrc/default.aspx>
- Disasterready.org - <http://www.disasterready.org>

Attendance: Jake, Ron, Donald, Kathe, Claudine, Fred, Tom, Meg, Satchel, Rebecca, Jenny, Rizzy

Chat with Council Member Qureshi

- Feedback about what the Council is doing well/could do better
 - Concerns about that people do not want to hear about emergencies: “it won’t happen to me”
 - Folks don’t realize that a decision *not* to prepare, doesn’t mean they are guaranteed an instant response after a large-scale emergency. Need to expect to be on your own for 3-5 days whether you are prepared or not.
 - Have a lot of resources in this area (yay!) Suggestion to focus on time from “bang” to the “hand-off” as this is likely to be when there is the least amount of support available. Not necessarily always going to be the case, but that’s a good starting point
 - What message do you send out? Make it meaningful – need to connect it to something that’s personal (local fire, gas leak, etc.)
- How can the EPC help the Council and vice versa – *for additional discussion*
 - How do we identify vulnerabilities in the community?
 - City Survey
 - [2009 questions](#):
 -
 - How do we share information with the community?
 - Utilizing pictures on preparedness materials to help bridge language barriers
 - Takoma Park “branded” materials
 - Facebook
 - Takoma Radio
 - List serves
 - Ron’s apartment “road show” – EPC, Elections, Energy + Housing
 - Booths at City events
 - Recommend identifying “bite sized” information that council members can easily share at meetings or send to constituents.
 - Council members can ask if there is anything in particular residents want to learn about.
 - We can tailor themes along with the FEMA messaging calendar (see below)

Web page

- Ron to send current version of the EOP
- Recommendation to use dark green font as opposed to black
- Want to add photos – 4, maybe 5. Suggestions include:
 - Preparedness kit
 - Committee members
 - Pet preparedness
 - Past tabling events
- Suggestion to remove the boxes and utilize quick links like TPPD
 - Seasonal safety tips – pull themes from FEMA calendar [2017 National Seasonal Preparedness Messaging Calendar](#) or perhaps [NOAAs Seasonal Safety Campaign](#)
 - Add link for [MCPS Emergency Information](#), [Emergency Preparedness](#) (specific)
 - PSAs – ours + FEMA
 - Add local training information

County Update

- OEMHS is continuing to do their preparedness events at libraries
- Updating the EOP

City Update

- Messaging sent to City staff on Zika. Also putting something in the Newsletter and info to Council members to pass along
- Celebrate Takoma – got kind of a late start for the event, but overall went well

PSAs

- Is it worth to continue pursuing? Could have Council members participate
- FEMA ones – utilize these, then develop some kind of 5-10sec EPC-specific screenshot to tack onto beginning or end to localize
- Weather service – check out each [NOAA Seasonal Safety Campaign](#) for PSA details

Dirty Bomb

- Plume goes E-W, which means folks would most likely evacuate north, towards TP
- Region utilizes National Special Security Events (NSSE) such as 4th of July, the Presidential Inauguration, etc. to “exercise” evacuation planning. Short form – people will be funneled out major arteries

Action Items

- Follow up with RQ
 - How do we identify vulnerabilities in the community?
 - How do we share information with the community?
- PSA Thoughts
- Website feedback