

Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) City of Takoma Park

Meeting: Thursday, 22 August 2019, // 7-8.30 pm. 3rd Floor Conf Room

AGENDA

Issue/ item; persons	Est. Time
--Welcome back; overview : Claudine Schweber, Ron Hardy --Guests Andrus Phinney, Levi Houston:Takoma Park House Numbers Project: painting # to speed access for emergency helpers (description attached*)	20 minutes
--Training & communication: CPR, Stop the Bleed -- Ron Hardy + EPC --Upcoming: TP Folk Festival, Street Festival—Ron --High Rise buildings --Ron Hardy	20 minutes
EPC Outreach & communication: --List of contacts per member --Quick BP (be prepared) messaging --Metro safety: Kathe : video https://www.wmata.com/rider-guide/safety/emergency.cfm Satchel: video https://wjla.com/news/local/class-offers-tools-to-help-in-emergency-situations-and-mass-shootings?fbclid=IwAR3_864KMec93B2-bMv4aoJNh6xxqeUulbZ5Q5711rorej4_WRXwFHfOVz8 OR https://tinyurl.com/y6f3ue5g --Upcoming issues/concerns	35
Monthly column: ideas, writers (reporters) Radio program: examples and your ideas	15

Next Meeting: 26 September 2019

Emergency preparedness links:

Financial Preparedness----- <https://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness> + column March 2019

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

MD Emergency Management Agency - <http://www.mema.state.md.us/calendar/index.asp>

Emergency Preparedness <https://www.ready.gov/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency- <http://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.asp?page=all>

Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting
22 August 2019

Participants: Ron Hardy, Claudine Schweber, Andy Kelemen, Josue Canas, Rebecca Chestnutt, Mary Muchui, Buddy Daniels, Karen, Tom Horne, Stephen Schwartz (notes)

Guests: Andrus Finney, Arthur Villbas, Levi Houston (+ one parent each); Junior entrepreneurs who paint house numbers on curbs or steps.

Guest Presentation and Discussion

- Levi Houston spoke for the group. All entering the 6th grade.
- Estimate to have painted 30-35 numbers at Takoma Park residences over the past year. Applied with stencils. Some are just the numbers, some have a contrast background. Will begin using glossy paints to increase visibility.
- They try to place the number where it will be seen, often at eye level. Curb is common but can be obscured by parked cars. It was suggested that they paint close to the opening of a driveway where cars are usually not parked.
- Participants discussed additional ways to market the service.

City and County Update – Ron Hardy

- Scheduling outreach to high rise residences with Jimmy Jarboe TPVFD. Police, fire, preparedness information and drug take back, etc.
- Stop the Bleed Thursday Sept 19 and October 17
- Folk Festival Sunday Sept 08 10:00-6:30. (EPC will staff an information desk.)
- Street Festival Sunday October 06 10:00-5:00 Fire House. (EPC will staff an information desk.)
- Identifying communication sites where messages could be posted during prolonged power/communication outage Ward sites.

General discussion

- Tom said that NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has increased the likelihood of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. These provide the conditions for some of the most persistent power outages, often lasting for some period after the storm ends. Claudine said that PEPCO can help people using electronic medical devices to prepare for power outages. Tom suggested the city consider purchasing lockable phone charging stations for citizens to use during a prolonged outage. Claudine will develop and disseminate a list of actions the public can take to prepare for such events. Steve will provide her recommendations from major disaster response websites. Ken said key steps might be put on magnets which people could affix in their homes. Rebecca suggested including photos and examples from storms and other emergencies in Takoma Park.

- Committee discussed improving dissemination of alert messages. Need to consider how to communicate two-way information if there is no internet or telephone service. This underscores the importance of Ron's effort to pre-identify static locations to post information. Tom cited the utility of hazard radios which provide key weather alerts.

- Claudine encouraged the EPC to find ways to increase its outreach to the community. She solicited topics to share on the committee's spot-on Takoma Park radio the first Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. She also proposed the committee start an advice column in the Takoma Park Newsletter where the public could ask questions about threats, vulnerabilities, preparedness, and response, which would be answered by a member of the EPC.

- It was noted that upon request the Montgomery County Fire Department will conduct a fire hazard survey of private residences and in some cases provide smoke alarms.

- Discussion about spate of ransomware attacks on U.S. municipalities and small cities in particular. Ron undertook to ask about the preparedness and resilience of Takoma Park's government IT systems.

- Ron is organizing a CPR training for EPC members following National Safety Council guidelines. Tom suggested TPDFD might have facilities and other support. Claudine will poll members to identify the best time given Ron's availability.

Next meeting: 26 September 2019 Third Floor Conference Room