



Sonoma Disaster Council

Thursday, February 16, 2012

MINUTES

Minutes of February 16, 2012 Sonoma Disaster Council meeting held in the Emergency Operations Center, 177 First Street West.

Mayor Sanders called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Introductions. Introductions were made.

Present: Mayor Sanders, City Manager Kelly, Building Official Wayne Wirick, Management Analyst Rogers, Water Operations Supervisor MacCarthy, Sergeant Crum, Captain Morrison, Toni Castrone (Sonoma Community Center), Paul Gradolph (VOMWD), Jennifer Hainstock (Board of Supervisors 1st District Office), Zachary Hamill (Emergency Services-Sonoma County), Mark Heneveld (VOM Water Director, City of Sonoma's Planning Commission), Jim Hill (Auxiliary Communications) Kathleen Hill (Disaster Food Distribution Network), Daryl Jones (Skypark Airport Emergency Response), Skip Jirrek (Sebastopol CERT Program), Ken McTaggart (ACS Unit Leader), Eric Padgett (SVFRA), Wendy Peterson (Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau), Charlene Rundstrom (Creekside HOA Emergency Program), Cindy Scarborough (Vintage House), Hans Steuck (Chantarelle HOA Emergency Program), Joe Dukes (Sonoma Developmental Center Chief Engineer)

Mayor Sanders welcomed everyone saying she was pleased with the broad spectrum of organizations being represented from the community.

2. Comments on items not appearing on the agenda

Cindy Scarborough mentioned an organization called FIRM, which combines community resources to transport people during an emergency.

City Manager Kelly explained the budget situation with the elimination of Community Development Agency (CDA) funds, as of February 1, 2012 under Assembly Bill 1X26. Prior to this legislation, CDA funding could be used to help rebuild after an earthquake but is now no longer available.

3. Approval of November 10, 2011 Minutes. The minutes of the November 10, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. Building Department role in Post-Disaster Inspections – City of Sonoma Development Services Director/Building Official Wayne Wirick.

Wayne Wirick presented an overview of Sonoma's Building Department role and preparedness in post-disaster inspections within the City of Sonoma.

Highlights from the post-disaster process include:

1. Action steps through the Safety Assessment Program (SAP); City of Sonoma safety assessment program and activation steps.
2. Sonoma has three Building Department staff certified as Safety Assessment Program evaluators and as coordinators. Besides government employees, Disaster Service Worker-Volunteers (DSW), such as private architects, engineers and special inspectors are on-call.
3. Coordination of all resources is done for rapid evaluation of buildings.
4. SAP volunteers are issued an ID card by Cal EMA and must be deputized as a Deputy Building Inspector.
5. SAP workers do not receive pay for services but are reimbursed for travel, housing, meals, etc. If the Governor proclaims a state of emergency, labor fees may be eligible for reimbursement by California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA).
6. Once a building evaluation has been performed, the facility is posted with an appropriate placard regarding the safety of the building (Unsafe Do Not Enter; Inspected – Lawful Occupancy Permitted; Restricted Use; Unsafe – Do Not Enter or Occupy).
7. SAP reports are sent to Sonoma City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for evaluation and documentation. *For more information refer to the attached PDF.*

Kathleen Hill asked Mr. Wirick if people should be prepared for 7-12 days before help might arrive in Sonoma. Mr. Wirick said typically in other major disasters in California, requests for teams of evaluators are made to get things going quickly; the reality is it will take 3-5 days to see anyone from other local agencies and other jurisdictions come to assist Sonoma to determine the safety of buildings.

Wirick said since Sonoma has several main access roads for travel, help could reach Sonoma, but local resources would first need to assess the safety of bridges and roads. Transport of larger trucks with food could be more difficult than individual vehicles and the ability to navigate roads depending on damage. Mr. Wirick concluded by saying the Building Department has a list of critical facilities it needs to inspect first (Emergency Operations Center, Sonoma Valley Hospital, Vintage House, the Community Center, etc.) which would become resources during a disaster. Hans Steuck asked if homeowner's residents were included in any inspections. Mr. Wirick said there was no legal obligation; homeowners should be prepared to shut off their gas and other safety measures which many of the HOA have learned through the SCOPE program.

Mark Heneveld asked how the reciprocal relationship of VOM Water which is County and Santa Rosa would be interconnected during a disaster and would like more discussion on this topic. Mayor Sanders suggested agendaing the topic for future discussion.

5. Emergency Food Supply – Kathleen Hill, Disaster Food Distribution

Kathleen Hill said there was an ongoing need for volunteers to outreach to grocery stores, restaurants, churches, and other organizations such as meals-on-wheels regarding availability of food for the community in the event of a major disaster. In research done four years ago after the Katrina disaster 35 to 50 active did a lot of surveys of what were available in Sonoma Valley; volunteers were divided in to geographical pods representing Sonoma Valley, taking into consideration those geographic areas that might be isolated. Almost every pod had a grocery store and restaurant with the exception of the Creekside/Temelec area off Arnold Drive (SCOPE programs held at these HOA's remain active in stressing emergency preparedness and are largely self-sufficient). Facts need to be updated from four years ago regarding grocery store policies on "what happens to the food during a disaster."

In recent conversations with restaurant owners they indicate a willingness to feed the community with the food they have on hand (in large quantities with the exception of Monday's after a weekend of visiting tourists) through their own kitchens or transport food to kitchen facilities that feed large groups.

Kathleen Hill asked Mark Heneveld if he had reached out to churches in Sonoma Valley. Mr. Heneveld said church pastors were in mass agreement on this issue of feeding the community in the event of a disaster, that they were thinking outside the box to put aside their differences. Heneveld said that many churches have large kitchens and if the building is safe, the large meeting rooms could be used for feeding stations.

Hill said consideration needs to also be given to the visitors in Sonoma, which can reach up to 4,000 at a time per the Visitors Bureau.

Commissioners said in other disasters, grocery stores are anxious to be open and selling food if their building is safe to do so, and if employees are able to reach their assigned stores.

The HOA's represented by Hans Steuck (Chantarelle HOA Emergency Program) and Charlene Rundstrom (Creekside HOA Emergency Program), said that through their own planning meetings and SCOPE trainings, they are prepared to be independent for 7-10 days without any outside assistance. It is not realistic for help to reach their community within 72 hours (3 days) where some neighborhoods closer to town may have help from the American Red Cross depending on road access. Emergency preparedness is ongoing for residents through the HOA Newsletters and monthly Board meeting updates. Mr. Steuck said water is the main concern (most people have enough food in their pantries). You can do without food but you must have water. Ms. Hill hoped that such cooperation could be fostered in other neighborhoods that are not as identifiable as these HOA where good communication is in place.

During the discussion, Mayor Sanders said it was clear that grocery stores are one of the main suppliers of food, and that renewed face to face commitments with grocery store owners would provide the information on what their policy is regarding food resources and distribution during a local disaster. Find out how much autonomy store managers have, which would be different comparing Sonoma Market and larger chains that have corporate headquarters. Another key question is who lives locally, has a key to enter the store. Mayor Sanders said it would be beneficial to find out what the grocery store policies are.

Zachary Hamill said if Sonoma only has three entrance points and they are cut off during a major earthquake, people in the Valley will not be able to leave or enter the Valley presenting a challenge; the end result being food in the Valley would stay and likely to last 7-10 days.

Steve MacCarthy said the City has generators to pump water if electricity is down.

Kathleen Hill asked for volunteers to assist with the surveys with grocery stores; Hans Steuck said that he would participate in conducting new surveys with Kathleen Hill to update information.

6. SCOPE Trainings Scheduled – Executive Director Vintage House Senior Center, Cynthia Scarborough

Comm. Scarborough said that more and more people are becoming aware of Disaster Preparedness; progress is being made to inform residents throughout Sonoma and that SCOPE programs do help to inform and train.

SCOPE trainings were scheduled for: Friday **April 27** and Friday **October 19, 1-4 pm**. Captain Morrison confirmed the average number of participants has been 40-60. Last year they were fortunate to have actual give away items for participants that are useful during a disaster. Last year PG&E donated gas shut off wrenches for one workshop, another donated collapsible water storage containers. Neither organization are able to donate this year but asked if anyone on the Disaster Council knew of any resources to let her know. Mayor Sanders said to look to businesses wanting to promote their company, for possible donation for those practical take-away items.

7. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Jennifer Hainstock wants to pursue with help from Regional Parks, the Counties disaster plan for animal shelter in parks during a disaster. She also would like information on how to make water potable during a disaster (e.g. using swimming pool water).

Mark Heneveld suggested a presentation water systems and how they would be affected during a disaster in the Valley.

Sanitation systems affected during a disaster.

Comm. Rundstrom would like information on installation and cost to install automatic shut off valves for gas – she has had requests from residents at the HOA. Perhaps the PG&E presenter at the May meeting could provide information.

Already slated for May 17, 2012 agenda is a presentation by PG&E.

8. Adjourn

Mayor Sanders adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2012, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra N. Rogers
Management Analyst