

Sonoma Disaster Council Regular Meeting

Emergency Operations Center
177 First Street West

Thursday, November 15, 2012
Draft Minutes

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

1. Introductions were made. Present:

Mayor Pro Tem Brown, Management Analyst Rogers, Public Works Director Bates, Operations Supervisor MacCarthy, Division Chief Andreis (Sonoma Valley Fire Department), Sergeant Crum (Sonoma Police Department), Executive Director Toni Castrone (Sonoma Community Center & Volunteer Center for Emergency), Darrel Jones (Sonoma Skypark Airport), Ken McTaggart (Auxiliary Communications Service Leader), Gary Cramer (SCOPE Program Temelec HOA), Charlene Rundstrom (SCOPE Program, Creekside Village HOA), Hans Steuck (SCOPE Program, Chantarelle HOA), Zachary Hamill (Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services), Paul Gradolph (VOMWD), Lawrence Giovacchini (Retired SFFD)

2. Comments on items not appearing on the agenda. No comments from the public.

3. The Minutes of the August 16, 2012 meeting were approved as corrected.

4. Update on the October 18, 2012 Annual Disaster Preparedness Exercise.

Management Analyst Rogers reported that organizations statewide registered to take part in “The Great California ShakeOut Drill” on October 18, focusing on Earthquake Preparedness. In Sonoma County, 134,273 were registered to participate. Local Governments registered 6,670 and K-12 Schools and Districts, 76,032. For a complete list go to:

www.shakeout.or/california/participants

The City of Sonoma encourages in-place drills and review of emergency plans. City staff emphasized back to the basics, discussing the roles and responsibilities, setting up the EOC computers and reviewing communication channels. Captain Morrison, SVFRA presented an overview of incident planning.

Spencer Andreis, Division Chief, SVFD reviewed the Incident Action Plan process using an actual summer fire incident and reviewing the documentation. Documentation is detailed and includes all operations and coordination between agencies during a wild fire or other disaster, called Incident Action Plan (IAC). During a City wide disaster, this documentation will be required; Team specialists in IAC Documentation can be requested to assist. Nationally and throughout the State there are pre-existing Incident Management Teams that will come into a city to run the IAC. During a major disaster, such as an earthquake throughout the Bay Area, Teams might not reach all cities. In that situation, a city needs to know the basics of producing documents and action planning.

Andreis said in a national forest setting, two IAC documents a day are produced as shown in an actual incident that occurred in Plumas National Forest.

State incidents (e.g. CalEMA) work with a 24 hour operational reporting required (a detailed report every 24 hours). How to reach people and who you are working for are critical when staffing changes daily (documentation also includes weather forecasting, management objectives, tactical objectives, assignment lists, planning, finance, air operations, etc.). State or Federal agencies require documentation and accountability to declare a state of emergency, to authorize funding and reimbursement.

5. Commissioner Reports: Disaster Drills, Meetings, Information.

Paul Gradolph, Valley of Moon Water District, reported on October 18 their staff followed the ShakeOut Drill, starting with drop-cover-hold. This was followed with a table top drill in their EOC, simulating a disaster in the Glen Ellen area. In the afternoon, three generators for portable power were hooked up to wells for testing. The drills were successful.

Ken McTaggart reported on the flyover from Sonoma Skypark Airport. ACS radio operators did limited radio communication between Sonoma's EOC and the Skypark Airport. Skypark Airport used two aircraft with radio operators. They were given direction by VOMWD to check water tanks with aerial surveillance, which they did successfully. With good visibility, pilots can survey all the water tanks in valley in 15 minutes from the air. Commissioners discussed the need to have a common reference for the tanks (pilots and non-water personnel would not be able to distinguish a tank for documentation purposes from the air). One suggestion made was to ID the tanks using a system with letters or numbers, so it is visible from the air for surveillance.

McTaggart said the City of Sonoma's EOC has capability of using ACS radio frequencies to talk to the County Water Agency, VOMWA, and City of Sonoma Public Works to report damage or leakages.

Darrel Jones reported he was on emergency service calls the day of the drill, but delegated those tasks to volunteers that have been training in surveillance reporting. He confirmed that Paul Gradolph and Steve MacCarthy provided maps of the water districts tank locations which are kept at the airport office along with Valley maps. Skypark Airport is successfully expanding a pool of pilots and radio operators.

Another suggestion was to use a cost effective, low tech method (paint and roller) to label each tank. If you label from the air, a ground force won't be able to recognize the numbering on top of the tank, so labeling the sides of the tanks was also recommended.

Water Operations Supervisor MacCarthy reported the City took out generators the week before the drill to be tested. He said the communications the City has between the Cities Water Department, the VOMWD and County Road Maintenance has benefited coordination of repairs and testing throughout the year.

Charlene Rundstrom (SCOPE Program, Creekside Village HOA) reported having the HOA drill the following Saturday. The drill consisted of setting up a command communication center in the clubhouse and each area of the community given a radio (each area reports back to the command center). There are 24 areas and all but one called in. While there was smaller turn out than in past years, the drill went well. During a disaster or drill, everyone in the community meets at their designated area relative to where they live. Creekside HOA has 313 homes.

Rundstrom also invited Gary Gramer to the meeting today who is interested in setting up similar groups in the adjoining Temelec neighborhood (a senior community). Gary Gramer said he has been to several SCOPE trainings (he was as a volunteer fire fighter for 10 years).

Temelec has been harder to mobilize and keep the interest of residents to participate. There are 325 homes in Temelec. He is researching getting portable radios. He has worked with Charlene Rundstrom's group, has contacted Oakmont and attended Captain Morrison's SCOPE training.

6. Updates from Staff. Public Works Director Bates announced she was moving on to another position in Washington State. She mentioned her early involvement with the Disaster Council, and hopes the council will continue in the for-front. The Public Works Department is more secure than it was four years ago with communication and emergency preparedness. Mayor Pro Tem Brown commended Milenka Bates for her contribution in making Sonoma a safer place for every citizen in Sonoma Valley.

Lawrence Giovacchini, Sonoma Greens, said they are trying to set-up disaster preparedness similar to Creekside, Chantarelle and Temelec communities. They did have a demonstration from Joe Morrison (with a small turn out of homeowners). He would like to have an emergency shed on the property, is looking for funding and working with the County as to where an emergency shed would be located (to include water supply, medical supplies, and possibly radios if they can be purchased). People are most enthusiastic immediately after a local or regional disaster.

Charlene Rundstrom said that responders and trainers are some of the most loyal people that continue to come out to teach people how to be better prepared, despite the apathy that can occur.

Steve MacCarthy reported the water department had scheduled a leak locating company to begin inspecting the west side of the City (to determine leaks that are not evident) and getting ready for winter with valve activation and hydrant flushing and cleaning storm drains.

Ken McTaggart invited council members to join the Sonoma Disaster Yahoo Group, as a link to staying informed about events your group might be having and meetings that need to be posted of interest to this group. Ken's email address is: kmct@vom.com He will send an invitation to sign in (the site has a calendar section, event section, and email section).

Sergeant Crum reported they have gone to a new press release format with Nixle.com. You enter your email, cell phone number, subscribe to a zip code, and the type of advisory you are interested in receiving. The system offers instant messaging versus waiting for news the following day.

7. Meeting Dates for 2013 : 2/21/2013, 5/16/2013, 8/15/2013, 10/24/2013

Mayor Pro Tem Brown said Monday's City Council agenda includes safety on First Street West.

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Rogers
Management Analyst