

**Town of Fairfax
Citizens Disaster Council**

**Friday, January 9, 2009
10:00 a.m.
Youth Center
16 Park Road**

Minutes

In attendance: David Weinsoff, Mayor; Michael Rock, Town Manager; Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator; Sgt. Stuart Baker, Police Department; Bob Wheeler, Red Cross; Bruce Stahley, OES

Mayor Weinsoff convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The October 31st minutes were approved with the following corrections by Bruce Stahley: Change Silver Centinel to Silver "Sentinel"; "G" Channel, and Matt Davis, not Mack Daniels on the Board Member Reports section.

1. **Board Member Reports-** no updates at this time.

2. **CERT Update and Get Ready Program-**Craig Carroll sent a written report via e-mail since he was unable to attend the meeting. Maria read his update to the Committee: *The last CERT class finished off with 11 people and it was nice to be back at the College of Marin Facility. The next class will be February 19, 21 & 28th. We are working hard to pack that class. Gearing up to put on the next "Get Ready" class, no date set yet. Working with the school staffs (High school, middle school, and elementary schools) on disaster preparedness. Updating skills on Search and Rescue and Triage. Creek gauges have been tested and are fully functional. Pray for rain. New antenna in place for the Ham Radio. Ham Radio operator says a test will be forthcoming.*

3. **Vial of Life Program- deferred** to next meeting, since Craig will report on item.

4. **County of Marin Disaster Council activities-**Bruce announced that the December 13th meeting was chaired by Supervisor Susan Adams. Office of Emergency Services Manager Chris Godley reviewed how County employees will be required to serve as disaster workers. "Get Ready" Marin will be offered to each County employee on a voluntary basis. One of the County of Marin goals for this fiscal year is to ensure emergency preparedness for the county, therefore the emphasis on training. Tom Jordan of Southern Marin CERT

organized neighborhood volunteer groups to collect information and then transmit it using RACES emergency radios to the EOC. Miles Julian reported on the Emergency Medical Services of Marin, that in the case of a health care crisis, there are only 3 hospitals in the County with a total of 300 acute beds, which will not be sufficient in the event of a disaster. John Hanson, chair of the ad hoc Volunteer Management Committee reported on using the Center for Non-profit & Volunteer Leadership as the agency to develop an emergency volunteer center. A total of \$50,000 was allocated to volunteer programs from Homeland Security funds.

Bob Wheeler added there was Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding for shelter and supplies available. There are several Red Cross trailers available in the County: 1 in San Rafael, 1 in Woodacre, 1 in Mill Valley, and 1 in Novato. Bruce added that Reva Saper, a member of the County Disaster Council reported that 11,000 Marin County residents have been trained to date in "Get Ready". Brian Waterbury of the Marin Medical Reserve Corps has a list of Fairfax health professionals. Mayor David Weinsoff inquired if that list could be made available to the Town. Maria will ask Brian, and Michael will check with the Town Attorney to determine if that information must be made public once the Town has access to it. The next meeting of the County's Disaster Council is March 12th from 3-5 p.m., in Room 266 of the Civic Center.

5. **Discussion of installation of siren(s) in the Cascades**-Michael reported that a representative of Pro-Com, the siren company, is coming to Fairfax next week to visit potential sites in the Cascades. The final recommendations will come from the Police Department. David recommended consulting with Brian Ketchum, a member of the Planning Commission, who is also on the Pt. Reyes Bird Commission, regarding community concern over the impact of the noise level on the spotted owl. The nesting season of the spotted owl is January through June. Some possible scenarios are that the siren only be tested from July through December, once the initial test run is made. A public hearing will be held prior to installation.
6. **NOAA Weather Radio**- Stuart Baker distributed a draft brochure he prepared on the NOAA Weather and Hazard Alert Radio Warning System. One reason for promoting the use of NOAA radios is so that the public can be informed rather than dialing 911, which can overload the system, thereby potentially shutting it down. Bob Wheeler mentioned the only problem with NOAA radios is they are so sensitive, even a small craft warning will set them off. It was agreed upon that NOAA radios serve better as a warning system than nothing at all, particularly in the Cascades, where the downtown siren

cannot be heard. It was also mentioned that KCBS (740 AM) provides excellent coverage in the case of disasters. Ross Valley has its own emergency notification system-1610 AM, however, the frequency is not strong enough that it can be heard in all parts of the coverage area. Bob suggested perhaps contacting the FCC to find out how 1610 can be given a stronger signal for greater coverage.

7. **Next meeting-scheduled for Friday, April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center.** Mayor Weinsoff asked to include cell phone coverage/notification on the next agenda. He requested Sgt. Baker bring 50 of his brochures to the next Town Council meeting on January 14th. Sgt. Baker will attend the February Town Council meeting and give a brief report on the NOAA Weather Radio system. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.