

**Town of Fairfax
Citizens Disaster Council**

**Friday, October 3, 2009
10:00 a.m.
Youth Center
16 Park Road**

Minutes

In attendance: David Weinssoff, Mayor; Michael Rock, Town Manager; Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator; Cynthia Powell, Community Services Officer, Corporal Rhonda Tuscher, Police Department; Captain Craig Carroll, Chief Roger Meager, Ross Valley Fire Service; Bob Wheeler, Red Cross; Jon Marchant, At Large, Trudy Totty

Mayor Weinssoff convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The July 10th minutes were approved.

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

2. **CERT Update and Get Ready Program-**Craig Carroll stated the next CERT classes will be on November 5th, 7th & 14th. He has seven sign ups so far from high school students. Craig will meet with Drake High School next week to discuss combining community service hours and CERT training. The school district also holds an early release drill once a year to practice emergency evacuation. Jon Marchant brought up the issue if minors can serve as certified disaster service workers. Craig will follow up on this to see if there is a mandatory age limit. The disaster relief worker card needs to be renewed every four years. Supplies in the preparedness kits do not have any expiration date, unless there is water or food items in the kits.

Get Ready classes are scheduled for October 24th and November 4th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in San Anselmo. On October 29th, Dominican University will release a study that was conducted on the Get Ready Program. Craig is also introducing **Get Ready** to ten 5th grade classes in the form of a one hour program.

3. **County of Marin Disaster Council activities-** no news to report.

4. **Swine flu update** –Roger Meagor reported that while more cases of the swine flu are predicted for this year, the severity will be less than last year. The swine flu will be more contagious however. The same rules that apply for the regular flu are suggested: frequent

handwashing, avoiding contact with infected individuals, etc. The recovery period from the swine flu is also longer than the regular flu. It is recommended that swine flu patients remain at home longer (3-5 days) than regular flu patients before returning to school or work. Vaccines will be available later in October. It is recommended that high risk populations be vaccinated: pregnant women, young children up to 6 years of age, the elderly, people with asthma or underlying health issues, and health care workers. Bob Wheeler of the Red Cross said they are following a new protocol this year, and asking people if they are ill, to wear a mask. The flu epidemic could affect sheltering in the event of a large disaster.

5. **Status of Fuel Reduction/fire grant-**Roger announced that notification of the grant has been received by the Town, but it is unclear when the funding will become available. Michael Rock added once the grant has begun, there will be a two year time frame to use the money. Most likely, brush clearing efforts will begin again in April 2010. Michael added that at the October 7th Town Council meeting a fire forum will be on the agenda. The purpose of this is to hold one or more community forums with the Fire Department on the following issues: defensible space, general preparedness, fire sprinklers, fire hydrant upgrade costs, etc.
6. **Disaster Preparedness table at fair-** Maria announced she distributed only one Fire Safe Marin DVD at the Body & Soul Festival. Approximately 6 people stopped by the booth. Part of the problem was that the information table was situated away from the main festival area.

Trudy Totty mentioned when she was volunteer coordinator several years ago, a safety fair was held by the Town that was well attended. After some discussion by the committee, it was determined that a similar fair could be sponsored by the Town, to include participation by the Fire Dept., Police Dept., Public Works & Town Hall to educate residents on disaster preparedness. This could include a bicycle auction and fingerprinting by the Police Dept., participation by the Marin Humane Society, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc. Another option is to incorporate a disaster preparedness component into the Town-wide picnic sponsored by the Volunteers. The second scenario will be presented to the Fairfax Volunteers at their next board meeting. A decision will be made at the next meeting which direction to proceed.

7. **Next meeting-**scheduled for Friday, December 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center.

