

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, June 11th at 9:00 AM

SOUTH WHATCOM FIRE AUTHORITY TRAINING ROOM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

V. PROJECT UPDATES:

- Final review of evacuation submission to SVCA BOD (i.e. the two documents send to all committee members in May)
- Change in table top scope, date still Aug 30th
- Current status of annual review of SVCA Emergency Operations Plan
- Development of spending plan for remainder of 2019 and 2020
- Update on retirement gift for Chief Ralston
- Community Outreach (Townhalls with emergency preparedness themes)

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- To Be Determined

VII. PROPERTY OWNER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

VIII. CLOSE/ADJOURN

Sudden Valley Emergency Preparedness Committee
May 13th, 2019 Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
SWFA Training Room

Minutes

Present were: Mike D'Angelo, Norm Smith, Halina Reynolds, Scott Walsh, Ruth Evans, Henry Renteria, Frank Procella, Charles Hartje, Tom Fields, Con Rigas, Ann Merchant, Owen and Penny Bamford.

Relationship between Sudden Valley and the County DEM.

Norm reported on meetings with the Whatcom County and a white paper prepared in March. The DEM will make a decision at the end of the summer. This is a complicated plan involving the County, the Port of Bellingham, Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer and the County Council all of whom have to discuss it. Meanwhile, the SV Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) and the General Manager (GM) are also checking the relevant documents.

A long discussion followed involving putative costs of enacting the plan, advertising the plan and training. Principally it was decided:

- as soon as possible we should have memoranda of understanding with the County and other principal agencies.
- the GM and SV staff and volunteers to the Incident Command Center must be trained to HSSE standards.
- in addition, it is essential that we make our efforts to finalize the plan (and increase our readiness and ability to respond to damaging incidents) known to the residents of the valley.

Status of the Committee

The issue of this committee being either *ad hoc* or a standing committee was revisited.

Table-top exercise

We will have an exercise on Friday August 30th 2019 from 10 to 1 for SV following the scenario of the Black Squirrel dam exercise. This will be for the Sudden Valley volunteers including Hams and CERTs. Norm will discuss this with Chief Topel.

This will not include LWWS personnel. SV will “report” to the county DEM who will contact Chief Topel who will activate SV ICC. It is yet to be decided if the GM and SV staff will be involved as this would be a good introduction for them.

1610 radio.

Signs are up at the gates and more will be up at the mail boxes.

Enlarged signs will be added to the CERT trailer.

The radio only being on during troubles was discussed as was the legality of constant broadcast. The possibility of the EPC getting money to replace the equipment, so that it can be on the air at all times was suggested. Others maintained that if there is no message on 1610 there is, by definition, no problem.

Evacuation Plan.

Mike asked for everyone to proof-read the part of the emergency Plan on Evacuation and to comment on the Orange County preparedness document, and to send all comments to Norm.

Chief Ralston's retirement.

The committee will have a plaque made for him with our thanks and appreciation for the GM to present at the end of July.

Fire Season.

Norm reminded us that fire season is upon us now with fires in the Okanagon highlands already.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.