

**Eastern Madera County
Emergency Preparedness Committee
Meeting Summary
January 10, 2008
Sierra Ambulance Training Headquarters-Oakhurst, CA**

Meeting Attendees: Ed Guzman, Dave Wolin, Dick Rekart, Jerry Thompson, Tom Burdette, PJ Grant, Denise Emler, Deborah Hall, Rodger Maggio, Chris Ferbrache, Diane Reeves, Roger E. Simms, Chris Dragoo

Meeting called to order: 0735

Committee Introductions:

Old Business

MCI drill

Committee members reviewed the drill held on November 13, 2007. Participant Evaluations for the different sites along with the corrective action plan was handed out to committee members. Survey report cards are still coming in with an approximate 50% response rate. Responses have been very positive.

Coarsegold: The exercise at the Coarsegold site went well and extends a thank you to all who helped. Participants were pleased with the drill. There were approximately 10-12 people who received their flu shots in their car.

Oakhurst: Staff at the Oakhurst site also reported the drill was a great idea and didn't take long to be processed. However, the nurses from Community Medical Center-Oakhurst had to change tactics, as giving immunizations in a hospital setting is far different than this. One issue noted was that the signage could have been up earlier. Although, primarily a health department exercise, utilizing local people to handle things such as this could be more beneficial in future events. Oakhurst does not have a count at this time of reported drive-thrus.

North Fork: North Fork reported the exercise ran smoothly at their site and saw approximately 150 people. People were happy with the efficiency. Due to people standing in line, the drill began about an hour earlier and concluded around 1015. Signage was also an issue. The site was held at the market whereby parking became an issue. Future events might possibly be held across the street. Also, it might have been better to have had more cones to keep people in line.

Reverse 911 calls: All sites reported problems with the calls. Some people stated that they were given wrong information, the recording was inaudible or received a portion of the message, some received several calls, and some received none. One possible explanation could be the way the message began, stating "standby for an important

message". People might have thought it was a telemarketer and hung up. It might be better if it started out with a more attention grabber, such as "this is the emergency system". Dave Wolin will follow-up with the Sheriff's Department and report back.

Discussion/Roundtable

Rescued victims

Discussion ensued regarding last Friday's rescue of 6 individuals lost in the mountains. Contact was made to CMC-Oakhurst of rescue and facility agreed to stay open to care for the individuals, also to be coordinated, was the rendezvous with the Clovis Police Department. Media was present and family did not want disclosure. The incident command structure can not control the media, therefore, there needs to be a dedicated public information officer to funnel information through. Beneficial information can be gleaned if an actual critique was written out. Chris Dragoo volunteered to write the critique.

Ed Guzman is optimistic that there will be an affirmative vote from the Board of Supervisors to proceed with the building of a fire station and Sierra Ambulance post in North Fork.

Tom Burdette reported the SPCA is looking at three areas for a new site. He has been working with Valley Animal Center and also with Marin County. Marin County is currently taking dogs as they have a shortage. Marin County was able to handle and find homes for 2,500 dogs and cats rescued from Katrina.

PJ Grant informed the group that Sierra Telephone has installed a lock box for keys and proximity cards so the fire department can get in if needed. Also the company has relocated the fire panel.

Denise Emler of Kaiser stated that she is glad to be invited and participate with the committee.

Deborah Hall states the Chamber is occupied with incorporation issues. Public forums will be held the 15th and 29th.

Rodger Maggio reports he is working with local businesses on fire code issues. His department wishes to work in partnership to educate them in fire safety aspect. One business shut down by fire can have a negative economic impact in a community.

Diane Reeves handed out a pamphlet on the Madera County Public Health Reserve Corps for review. She states program is slow but moving forward.

Roger Simms reports the Raymond station is up and running. Station 12 is slow moving but still in the works. The Rancheria Station is pretty much built.

Chris Dragoo stated the corporation is doing much needed repairs to the building and is in the planning stages of the radiology department. The Chukchansi grant is going towards very expensive equipment and construction issues are being addressed as they come up. The project should be completed by May or June. Also, the next drill is scheduled for April, 2008. Chris Dragoo and Chris Ferbrache will be making contact with the high school. The public school system should have a safety plan and the drill will test their plan. Agencies involved would be the school, fire, law, medical, and media.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2008

Meeting adjourned at: 0835

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Hayes