

**Eastern Madera County
Emergency Preparedness Committee
Meeting Summary
January 14, 2010
Sierra Ambulance Training Headquarters-Oakhurst, CA**

Meeting Attendees: Larry Ballew, Rich Drozen, David Konno, PJ Grant, Ed Guzman, Christi Hansard, Jere Miller, Rachel Rivera, Janet Stanovich, Mike Vaughn, Dave Wolin

Meeting called to order: 0735

Committee Introductions:

Old Business

The H1N1 vaccine clinic in Oakhurst had a fair turnout and went smoothly. Coarsegold had a smaller turnout. The low turnout was most likely due to the fact that most priority groups have already been vaccinated. The vaccine is readily available at most drug stores, clinics, and the Health Department. However, with the increase in vaccines there is a noted shortage of band aids and certain size needles.

New Business

The committee will be making plans for the 2010 Spring Drill soon.

Due to the ongoing budget shortfall, the Madera County Board of Supervisors has decided to close the Ahwahnee and Raymond Cal Fire Stations between January and April. They are also looking at all county positions and services with hopes of coming out in the "black". The closing of fire stations or reduction in coverage hours has a ripple effect on home owner's insurance coverage for being in an unprotected area.

Discussion/Roundtable

Janet Stanovich is currently working on the mitigation plan and will have a rough draft in June and then go forward with public hearings in the valley and mountain areas. There will be a Golden Guardian meeting in the end of January with the focus on port security. Her department is also waiting for the next round of budget cuts. She is updating resource lists as personnel changes occur.

Rich Drozen states due to the state budget crisis, there is a hiring freeze. There will be meetings with the Sheriff's Department and other agencies to coincide with Cal Fire in tactical planning. Cal Fire is currently inspecting properties now so that home owners can clear brush and burn instead of being inspected in May when burning is suspended.

PJ Grant reports that Sierra Telephone recently donated an AED to Mariposa High School, which brings the total donations by Sierra Telephone to 13 in the mountain area.

Christi Hansard attended the Environmental Health Training and Emergency Response course recently held in Alabama. It was sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security and paid by FEMA. She states that the training topics of the three day course were excellent and informative.

Mike Vaughn has reorganized his group and will be training and implementing a "strike team" that can stay in the area along with the fire department. His goal is to have two full scale drills prior to the fire season this year.

Jere Miller is moving forward with the building of the fire department and is looking for contractors. He is currently in the process of doing educational programs for preschoolers.

Chris Dragoo reports that CMC-Oakhurst is continuing to prepare for the flu season and has a good stockpile of supplies. She will be focusing on the two required drills involving "patients" for this year.

Kathy McCoory announced that Sierra Ambulance was named Business of the Year for its continued support to the mountain community. Ed Guzman will accept on its behalf at the annual Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce dinner on January 15th. Congratulations Sierra Ambulance!!!

Larry Ballew is pleased with the fuel breaks that are being created in the Indian Lakes area. He is actively working on programs with an emphasis on evacuations in a cooperative effort with Cal Fire.

David Konno is implementing a chipper program available to seniors, the disabled, and those needing assistance. He is also developing a disaster program for 5th graders with monthly sessions and guest speakers. At the end of the program, the kids are awarded with a "Masters of Disasters" certificate.

Dave Wolin has noticed an increase in volunteers due to the recession.

Ed Guzman reports that Sierra Ambulance will be acquiring three new ambulances in the next couple of months. They will have additional space to care for patients.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2010

Meeting adjourned at: 8:10am

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Hayes

