



Southern Marin Fire Protection District

Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Committee

Christine DeBerry, Chair

Ashley Raveche

Alternate: Pete Fleming

Tuesday, March 9, 2021–07:30 am – Headquarters

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Director DeBerry called the meeting to order at 07:32 AM.

In Attendance:

BOARD: *Participating via Zoom meeting:* Director DeBerry and Director Raveche.

STAFF: *In Person:* Chief Tubbs, Chief Peterson, Communications Coordinator Elysha Omoomy, and Clerk of the Board Mariya Weinberg. *Via Zoom:* Chief Welch.

Absent: none

2. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

No public present.

3. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There was no EDPC meeting in February of 2021, hence there are no February meeting minutes. Approval of January 12, 2021 meeting Minutes were deferred to April 13th, 2021 meeting.

5. Reports and Information

5.a COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Update.

The meeting packet contains a Marin Health and Human Services presentation titled “Data for COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy Meeting” of March 3, 2021, and Chief Welch explained the key points.

The graphs show a spike in cases over the holiday season, as was predicted by the CDC, but then have had a significant decrease by February 1, and those trends continue. This is a result of the public participating in various safety measures, and also due to the vaccine rollout. Even cases in residents and staff of long-term care facilities, the most at-risk population, have dropped significantly from January to February. Marin is the 2nd highest county in California in the number of vaccine doses administered per 100,000 residents. There were graphs of vaccination rate breakdowns in various types

of populations, graphs related to education, genome sequencing to determine virus variants present in Marin, and available vaccine types.

Chief Welch said that once over 90% of fire service team members have been vaccinated with two doses, we would be able to make significant changes in operations.

5.b COVID-19 Changes in the firehouse.

Chief Welch presented this verbal report. He spoke about the CDC guidelines for those who have been fully vaccinated, particularly about wearing masks and gatherings. Chief Welch and Chief Peterson will be in a Battalion Chiefs Meeting this Wednesday, where these guidelines will be discussed in relation to our operations. Examples of issues are whether we can have paramedic intern ride-alongs, full multi-jurisdictional training exercises, and interactions with the public. We may still need to wear masks when interacting with the public, but in the firehouse rules may become more relaxed, commensurate with the risk continuing to get low.

Director Raveche asked if those personnel who did not get a vaccine yet did so based on personal choice, or if there was an access issue. Chief Welch said it was by choice, and that the union has been great at providing videos and forums that assist everyone in getting additional information to allay their concerns. Those personnel who are not vaccinated will be required to take additional precautions.

5.c Upcoming SMDC meeting update.

Chief Welch explained that he will be participating in the Southern Marin Disaster Council (SMDC) meeting next Thursday March 18th at 4 PM. Everyone is invited to attend. Mill Valley EDPC is hosting the meeting on Zoom, and Mark Brown from MWPA will be talking about evacuation studies, and software called Zonehaven, which is of great use to responders as well as the public. There is also information on an RFP in the works for county-wide risk assessment study, which will assist with the process of re-assessing priorities, after certain wildfire risks are mitigated.

Chief Tubbs mentioned our work in Southern Marin areas with CERTs and different Disaster Preparedness Groups. CERTs are neighborhood groups set up to assist responders with different types of disasters, from wildfires to natural disasters. To improve effectiveness, SMFD is helping those individual groups to join together by assisting with organizing a steering committee. This was originally done for the 94941 zipcode area, and now includes all of the Southern Marin area. There is a pilot CERT training course that includes both online and in-person training with the fire department and other CERTs.

The other aspect of SMFD involvement is organizing the Neighborhood Resource Groups (NRGs). There is a great resource website nrgmillvalley.org. A Sausalito NRG is coming up. Director Raveche added that the NRGs are involved in a twice annual drill, which occurs during daylight savings time change. Each NRG has its own goal, depending on their level of organization, ability and equipment. Director Raveche thanked the District for facilitating donations through the foundation.

Chief Tubbs also mentioned a topic from the Board Retreat, where it was said that the NRGs have interest in getting a full-time coordinator. Staff were directed to work with Maggie Lang and also other local agencies to put together a funding plan, and that work is under way.

5.d Staff Report – Communications

Elysha Omoomy, the Communications Coordinator, presented this report, which is included in the meeting packet. Ms. Omoomy reminded the Committee that at the end of 2020, the EDCP Committee and the Board have approved the Strategic Communications and Branding plan. Of special note is item 4b - District's Communications Methods of Engagement. To support this objective, Ms. Omoomy is working on various digital communications campaigns which are further described in the Communications Report in the meeting packet. Items of focus are subscriptions to e-Newsletters, educational postings on Next-door and other social media, and the SMFD Website. The staff report contained specific metrics on success of these efforts. Ms. Omoomy has been making sure that relevant information is included in Sausalito and Mill Valley e-Newsletters as well. She mentioned communications efforts on the recent fire sprinkler recall, and communications on household battery safety. Such communication and education postings will be ongoing. Ms. Omoomy also went over social media analytics.

Director Raveche asked if, with relation to the fire sprinkler recall, we have done any checking with the County regarding recent projects that trigger requirements for fire sprinkler installation? That way we could get additional list of affected residents to notify. Chief Welch confirmed that the notification about the recall will go to the approximately 300 most recent projects that were required to put in sprinkler systems. Chief Hilliard had gone through the data to identify those who may be affected, both in Mill Valley and SMFD jurisdictions, and contractors are being notified. There is a monthly countywide Fire Marshall meeting, where this has been discussed as well.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourned at 8:03 AM.