

TOPANGA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

January 30, 2019
10:00am – 11:15am
Topanga Library

120 N. Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Topanga

MINUTES

Approved Approved with changes

Co-Chairs: OEM, Jeanne O'Donnell and TCEP, James Grasso

Members: Alli Acker, Tessa Charnofsky, Scott Ferguson, David Ford, James Grasso, Maria Grycan, Susan Nissman, Arthur Nissman, Jeanne O'Donnell, Flavia Potenza, Roger Pugliese, Dan Schag, Stacy Sledge, Drew Smith, Tam Taylor, Ryan Ulyate, Simon T, David Rydman, Jennifer Seetoo, Anthony Williams, Mark Winn

Guest: Alisa Land Hill, Kent Land Hill, Joe Ligon, Roger Pugliese, Casey Ranstead, Rosemary Viveno

I. Welcome from Co-chairs

Jeanne O'Donnell and James Grasso called the meeting to order at 10:10am. Members and Guests were welcomed and introductions were made.

II. Mission Statement

Mission Statement read by Tessa Charnofsky, SD3.

III. Minutes were approved

Minutes approved with corrections: (Dave Rydman, Michele Johnson, Ryan Ulyate added to 10/10/18 attendees.)

IV. SCE/Dave Ford Review

SCE/Dave Ford reviewed SCE's "**Wildfire Mitigation, Safety & Grid Resiliency**", submit for record with minutes. **Strategy:** Focus on Prevention, Resiliency; **Near-Term**

Mitigations: Operational Practices that can be deployed quickly and applied broadly across all highfire risk areas; **Long-Term Mitigations:** Multi-year effort to harden infrastructure (Cover Conductors, Fire-Resistant Poles, Fast-Acting Fuses), and prioritize using risk-based approach.

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Discussion: a) Questions re impacted circuits in high fire risk areas during Woolsey Fire; Circuit Maps requested; b) James G gave background on PSPS and community concerns; Tessa C said BOS report on PSPS just released; c) Re PSPS circuit alerts, Dave Ford wants 1 or 2 groups like TCEP and TTC to disseminate PSPS circuit outage information/alerts to broader community. Further discussion to take place after TEM meeting adjourns.

Scott Ferguson commented: Power outage 11/9/19 very widespread; was it PSPS communication breakdown; community did not know of mandatory evacuation order; vast majority rely on FIOS, Internet. What can homeowners do? Other comments: got conflicting notices suggesting once

power came back on 11/10/19, it would be turned off again; critical care needs very important; fire hardening poles/equipment disconnect when crews will be out; due to manufacturing distribution

problem of composite poles and conductor hardening cover, need SCE to stock-pile materials to repair and replace in high-fire zones.

David Ford responded: PSPS warnings went out; No, first outage not a PSPS event: tree came down on lines, wind related outage, arteries from the circuit effected other arteries, spread to all.

Reinforced: set up one email account between TCEP/TTC to get alerts out to entire Topanga Community, including Critical Care community.

Alternative Alert Communications Systems needed: Reinforce & Educate “Old School” methods; plus, look into warning sirens. TEM Communications Committee/Siren Sub-committee set up, interested attendees signed up. Will meet offline, research, investigate, report back to TEM/Communications Committee.

V. Woolsey Fire Evacuation

Asst. Chief Anthony Williams: mandatory evacuation orders given Friday, 5:30 am when Fire hit LA County “trigger point” north of 101; 250,000 mandatory evacuations ordered. SD reported extra resources ordered from Lost Hills to implement mandatory evacuation order starting at “Top of Corridor”: Malibu Canyon, Encinal, Decker, Malibu, Agoura, Westlake, Calabasas, and Topanga. Questions asked about Topanga evacuation route to PCH, joining already clogged southbound PCH. FD Captain Drew said “too risky” to send north. Staging evacuations onto PCH needed? PCH 2 southbound lanes needed to immediately add one northbound lane to evacuation route at beginning of evacuation. CHP: resources spread out all over north and south, east and west; activated CHP Coastal Division.

Topanga Repopulation: Confusing messages. Law Enforcement personnel at road blocks not familiar with area, some okaying entry day before at Mulholland & Old Topanga. Q: Why full open on 11/16, instead of residents only? A: Many residents had already returned; residents-only would have taken many, many hours, causing backup on TCB/101 and PCH, wanted to get done before weekend. SD patrols needed to show visible presence along TCB and Old Canyon throughout entire Canyon during repopulation to discourage non-resident looting, etc. Should evacuees now leave doors & gates locked? Yes, says FD. They can get in regardless. No thefts reported.

Law Enforcement Challenges re evacuations summarized by James Grasso: 1) Local Subject Experts need to be identified and embedded early on; 2) Institutional Protocols not getting to “top”.

Cooperating pre-fire season meetings: Multi-agency Meeting (all first responders, LACO, LA City, VCO, CHP, Caltrans, State Parks, SMM Conservancy, and NPS) needs to be reinstated: update mutual contact lists, review protocols. This meeting used to take place early to mid-spring, organized by LACOFD, Division 7. TCEP also attends, as well as SD3.

VI. Alert LA System

Ryan Ulyate shared that if you aren’t receiving updates, it’s a good idea to create multiple accounts. Add an address and all of your phones onto the account.

VII. Business Emergency Exercise/Drill

May 5th is the designated date for the Topanga Emergency Preparedness Fair. It will be hosted at the Topanga Community Club. The business workshop will have 4 components to it. We currently have 2-3 pieces that are drafted. County agencies will come and speak with businesses on preparation for emergencies. Jeanne O’Donnell is getting support from communications and is still in the proper window of time for contracts. We are aiming to have materials by January to distribute for the Emergency Preparedness Drill. We will go over the materials in March and in April to finalize information.

VIII. Topanga Emergency Preparedness Fair

May 5, 2019, Topanga Community Club. OEM needs order now from County to secure location, and notify County Agencies/Departments. Q: Fair or Drill needed now? A: Chief Williams said “Both”! May is Preparedness Month. Business Workshops planned, as well.

TEM Drill Subcommittee meet? Stacy Sledge mentioned the Woolsey Fire Evacuation was a great evacuation drill. Topanga Elementary School re-engagement for onsite FD drill, and participation on TEM Task Force critical. Parent leaders, Alisa & Kent Land Hill representing Topanga Elementary.

IX. New Business/Announcements

1) TTC encourages people to go online and fill out Woolsey Fire Evacuation Survey. The survey will be provided to SD3, and to Woolsey Fire Task Force.

2) Tessa C/SD3 reported the Woolsey Fire Task Force has been formed and will be announcing dates and locations of Listening Sessions soon. James Grasso was appointed to the Task Force as one of 3 community members in the SMM region. All residents are encouraged to attend, or submit comments online. All input will be analyzed by Task Force consultants. Goal is to hear from as many impacted residents as possible in order to understand what can be improved/changed for better fire emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

Note: Public Comments were incorporated into overall minutes.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 pm.

Next Meeting: March 20th

Next Meetings: June 19th, October 16th.