

TOPANGA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

*February 5, 2020
10:00am – 12:00pm
Topanga Library
122 N. Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Topanga*

MINUTES

Approved

Approved with changes

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

I. Welcome from Co-chairs

Jeanne O'Donnell, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office-Office of Emergency Management and James Grasso, TCEP

II. Introductions

See sign in sheet for full list.

III. Mission Statement

The mission of the Topanga Emergency Management Task Force, a partnership of designated public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community organizations is to ensure the sustainability of emergency management efforts and strategies for the Los Angeles County unincorporated area of Topanga. The Task Force oversees the coordination and communication among governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the community to improve preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery. It will develop, review, and monitor community-based emergency plans, facilitate emergency planning exercises, ensure community involvement and educational outreach, and evaluate and update emergency plans after a disaster.

IV. Public Comments (3 minutes each person)

- Jane Terjung, resident: The community should be involved in planning the evacuation drill.

V. Review/Approval of Minutes of Nov 5, 2019 Meeting

The minutes were approved with no changes.

VI. OEM and Woolsey Fire Report Updates

- Kevin McGowan, Director of OEM, introduced himself and his background and presented information on how the Woolsey Fire Report is being implemented.
- OEM is finding a balance in how to support and respond to emergencies. They will play a role in coordinating and communicating to make sure everyone is headed in the same direction. They are looking at how to engage different mission spaces, how their office is set up to meet needs, and how they can build resiliency for the long-term.
- OEM continues to press forward on all fronts. They have a 3rd party monitoring implementation of the recommendations from the Report, and from the fires this past October, OEM feels that they have already seen improved results. They will receive their first report back in March.
- *Questions:*
 - Susan Nissman: How will OEM involve this model into broader, interactive change?
Answer: OEM should work with communities.
 - Tessa Charnofsky: How can specific questions on notices, evacuations, etc. translate to concrete change?
Answer: OEM will flex its muscles with action. They value community input and will give updates. Some changes will take months to years to implement. They want to make sure they are using the most effective tools.
 - James Grasso: Looks forward to fixing things, getting institutional knowledge, and making sure the plans work.

- Susan Clark: Gave thanks for the things that went right.
Response: OEM wants to constantly critique and improve itself.

VII. California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

- The State is working on ways to address PSPS and is considering monthly collaborative meetings, more exercises, more communication, access and functional needs, more transparency, etc. They will be taking comment on suggestions for staff guidelines up to February 19.
- There is a new scoping memo for telecommunications covering questions about resilience and different configurations. There will be workshops in mid to late March, comments until May, and a decision around June.
- There was discussion of the self-generation incentive program. The program has been codified, and the funds are there to help cover costs for individuals. It will be administered by SCE, and they are hoping that people will be able to begin applying in April.
- There will be meetings for Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans and Safety Advisory Board.
- We discussed problems with multiple lists of people who need care.

VIII. SAGES Report

- Reaching vulnerable senior populations continues to be a top priority. They have done initial outreach and are applying for grants for resources. They need to clarify the process as this is a huge task for a volunteer organization to take on. The Sheriff's office encouraged using 911.
- A subcommittee on the topic of evacuation for high needs people, but not children, (At Risk People Subcommittee) will be created.

IX. LA County – Updates

- a. Evacuation Drill
 - We discussed how robust we want to make the drill and the need to work out the details. Fire will facilitate, but the details will be worked out outside of this meeting. We will aim for a May drill.

X. State Updates

- a. Senator Stern's office discussion of micro-grids
 - Nick gave a brief presentation on the Senator's micro-grids project. They are looking at short-term grant assistance, CPUC program extended funding, and how to allow micro-grids from a regulatory view through state legislation.
 - Emergency back-up power and hazard mitigation are the top priority. 2021 will be the earliest for micro-grids implementation.
 - A micro-grid committee was formed to be chaired by Nick as a representative for Senator Stern.

XI. New Business/Announcements

- SCE will give tours of their emergency operations centers on Feb. 11.
- Stacy reminded the group of the Topanga Town Council meeting on Wednesday.
- Topanga Elementary introduced their new principal and discussed vandalism of signs.
- Joseph asked everyone to assist him as he updates the contact lists for this Task Force by looking over the sign-in sheet.

XII. Adjournment