

TOPANGA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

*August 12, 2020
10:00am – 12:00pm
Remote Skype Call*

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: Wants more info from Dave Ford on how medical baseline Topangans can apply for Critical Care Battery Backup Program, how much hardened lines have been completed, did they make circuits smaller? Are they on the same circuits? For those that don't apply for TCBB (low-income based), would SCE give info on these so residents can buy their own?
 - James requested additional info on % of sheathing distribution lines replaced with concerned conductor. Jeanne can share info from SCE on TCBB. James can share info on circuits.
- Amanda Michael: Residents can qualify on area risk, not just based on income level.

V. Review/Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2020 Meeting

- Minutes approved with changes.

VI. Community update from Malibu

- Debbie Predozilie explained her roles as a DMAC and identified the areas she represents.

VII. LA County/State Updates

Fire

- Megan gave update on joint training at 69 Bravo with Fire, Sheriff, TCEP, and CERT volunteers that Chief Smith and Mark Winn put together. They discussed emergency management expectations, new evacuation terminology, incident command post options in the canyon, the nine evacuation zones, and different protection standards. Stacy spoke on Topanga Access cards and discussed different scenarios based on where a fire starts in canyon.
- Mark Winn had follow up with Malibu volunteers who assist, Topanga CERT and TTC were there. Can set up another one for those who missed.
- James pointed out that worst case scenario was discussed and within 48 hours we had that scenario occur, luckily without wind.

- Jeanne recognized need to change survival guide to match new terms. Also going to add info about temp evac points, will discuss more shortly. James explained that voluntary and mandatory evacuation are now evacuation warning and evacuation order.

Sheriff

- Deputy Cerveney agreed that the 69 Bravo training was great, particularly for folks that will be on the front line. Stacy gave him Access Card program information flyers for field units, so they can have handy for repopulation.

VIII. Southern California Edison

- Dave Ford: We are in wildfire season. SCE is doing grid hardening to prevent fire threat, installing covered conductors, upgrading composite polls and transformers, switchgears and fast acting fuses. 117 miles of circuit go through Topanga and 4 circuits serve Topanga. SCE has done upgrades over the past couple of years. Post Woolsey, SCE did almost 8 miles of circuit upgrades and covered conductor installation. SCE can isolate a circuit area much better now to deenergize for PSPS. Haven't had a PSPS event in Topanga. Most times when an alert goes out, it is not for Topanga; SCE is trying to see how they can isolate emails of warnings and activations to only send to right people.
- There was a presentation on Customer Care Programs for PSPS. Dave overviewed programs for portable power stations and rebates and assistance for critical care customers. Focus on community crew vehicles.
- Dave addressed an earlier question on TCBB and will follow up. May be able to find at marketplace.sce.com.
- SCE is partnering with TCEP and Sages.
- Janice Wong: Leading SCE effort for community resource centers during PSPS and looking for recommendations in Topanga. CRCs are third party facilities that SCE activates for customers to get info, water, ice, etc. and access bathroom, charge portable devices, etc. during PSPS. Been working with communities to locate sites best suited to provide these services. Want to accommodate up to 50 people comfortably at once. CRC must operate from 8am-10pm. Want compliant with ADA, needs to have 2 egress routes, and have strong cell reception under blue sky circumstances. Open to all types of facilities but prefer one where community members already meet and are familiar with. Currently have 40 CRCs assigned in their service territory.
 - Annemarie asked whether CRC in Topanga would be on same grid that is shut off in PSPS.
 - Answer: Several circuits run through the community. Safety is most important concern. If there is a PSPS for a wildfire, evacuation will be the primary action, not setting up CRC. Have had instances where team got to CRC site to set up, realized how close the fire was, and relocated. SCE wants to have as many possible CRC sites as possible.
 - James asked whether vehicles are brought to provide power.
 - Answer: Can bring in Community Crew Vehicles, but CRC is brick and mortar facility. CCV has advantage of mobility, CRC has bathrooms, but similar services are provided through both.
 - Tessa asked if solar panels would be needed during PSPS. She suggested the library could serve that role.
 - Answer: Depends on if facility already has some sort of energy source not connected to grid (solar panels, backup generator, etc.). CRC can still serve community without (SCE brought small Honda generators in recent events for charging tower).
 - Ryan Ulyate recommended Pine Tree Circle or Topanga Library as sites where SCE could show up with generators in short term, in addition to long term planning for CRC.
 - Mark Winn asked if you can you tap into main power with your generators when you go to CRC during PSPS.
 - Answer: It's a possibility, but there is a short supply of backup generators. SCE is earmarking specific remote communities for those generator capabilities, where residents can't drive to a nearby community for power.
 - James recommended moving forward with the Topanga Library as a CRC site. Work with Tessa since library is County facility. **A task force will be set up with all parties to initiate Topanga Library as CRC.

- Vegetation Management: Dave Kanealii, on Apple Fire restoration. Dave gave lots of information at previous meeting about vegetation management.

IX. Updates

- a. Department of Public Health involvement:
 - Will get DPH involved with TEM, but not at this time due to COVID.
- b. Signage PSRs PTSRs:
 - Deputy Cerveny previously noted the difficulty in finding these spots. Talked about starting ad hoc committee to explore signage. Some push back from private property PSRs that don't love the idea of signage. Need someone from Sheriff and Fire, and community members to do this. Deputy Cerveny, Megan Currier (and Chief Smith), James Grasso, and Susan Nissman expressed interest before (not present today). Roger will participate. Plan A is always evacuate; these are back up.
- c. Sunset Mesa:
 - Unincorporated area with roughly 500 homes at the base of PCH and Topanga Canyon. Tessa, Fernando Morales (Supervisor Kuehl's West LA District Director), and Jeanne will reach out to work on building connections and starting a group. They only have one way in and out. Working on defining it as zone 10. Ryan offered FSC home hardening presentation.
- d. Temporary Evacuation Protocols/ COVID Planning:
 - TEP is staging area that would precede a sheltering operation. How do we shelter in COVID environment? Currently, the number one preference is for hotel room sheltering/non congregate sheltering, but hotel is expensive. Need place where people can come in and get redirected. Red Cross working with Cal OES. Need to evaluate Taft and Pali HS. Setting up for a very different type of evacuation (masks offered, sanitizing stations, testing, isolation available). Will share materials with group (Dave and Jane asked to be added to distribution). Encourage everyone to reevaluate their evacuation plans. Dave asked about County high heat index, OEM will follow up.

X. Elected Offices Updates

- Tim Pershing: Focus is still on fire. Tying up session right now and don't know what final budgetary allotments are yet. Would expect to hear by end of week where we sit with budget.
- Tessa Charnofsky: Will talk about rent relief and grants for business at TTC. County having webinar on short term rentals on Tuesday August 25 at noon and Wednesday August 26 at 5:30pm. Changes for November 2020 Election include opening vote centers for 5 days rather than 11, sending everyone a vote by mail ballot, utilizing disaster workers to staff vote centers, and having more technicians on hand to fix machines. Waiting to see if Topanga Library will be vote center again. Tim expressed concern about having vote centers open for less days. Our office's discretionary grant applications are open for nonprofits and the deadline is Oct 1.

XI. Member Reports

- CPUC (Chris Moore): Should have 30% fewer PSPS given conditions. Requesting resiliency plans. Don't believe outages like those in PGE territory should happen again.
 - Scott Ferguson asked about cell service. Would like cell providers to attend future meetings.
 - Jane asked if CPUC can make SCE follow up on relief for power outage during wildfire.
- Sages: Unable to get audio to work. Jeanne provided previous email update from Tam about food delivery to seniors. Efforts to provide toiletries/food to those in need/homeless individuals. Brush clearance for seniors. Mark added working on vulnerable population list.
- NTFSC: Ryan and Beth are willing to do home hardening presentations for Topanga. Other Dave sending inspectors on 15th for safety pruning in September, beefed up certified arborists to supervise.
- TTC: Stacy reported they have been working on reaching vulnerable population and creating a mailer. Let's Connect Program running since March/April for caregiver access card, reusable mask, food supplies, and physical and mental wellbeing. Had about 500 people contact about this.

XII. New Business/Announcements

- James made note for Megan concerning Topanga survival website. Timothy from ISD trying to find out how to get history on the website (Fire hosts website).

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48am. The next meeting will be October 14.