

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 16th, 2020 9:30am

New Kent Fire Training Center, 11825 New Kent Highway, New Kent, 23124



Meeting Summary

Key Points

1. Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment and Endowment (F.R.E.E.) is an organization that provides free used rehabilitation equipment for people that need it and cannot afford it. They also have shelter kits that provide walkers, shower chairs, wheelchairs, bed side commodes, canes, and other small items that can be provided to local shelters upon request
2. National Weather Service is changing their flood warning products to reduce confusion and improve usability. Categories of flooding include “Base”, “Considerable” and “Catastrophic”. Wireless Area Emergency Alerts will be activated for Considerable and Catastrophic (will not be activated for base flash flood)
3. Richmond City and State agencies are engaged in detailed planning for the Jan 20 Lobby Day event on Capitol Square. An Emergency Declaration has been made by the Governor of Virginia.
4. All sub-committees are asking for greater attendance and input by EMACV members to help manage the multiple projects that are on-going
5. Next Meeting will be followed by the Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) – Maximum attendance is needed for this event to be effective.

Decisions Made: None

Decisions Pending: None

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 20, 2020, 09:30 AM, at Fairfield Library, 1401 N Laburnum Ave, Richmond, VA 23223

Detailed Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Bill Lawson called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Introductions were made. Bill Lawson presented Sherry Laffoon with a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of work with EMACV.
2. **Approval of minutes from the December 19, 2019 meeting.** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Donald Hunter. Robert Foresman seconded. All were in favor. The motion was approved.
3. **Special Presentation:**
 - Tracy Meador, Manager of Programs, Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment and Endowment (F.R.E.E.):
 - F.R.E.E. started 21 years ago in March with a rehab doctor – found he could not send people home because they did not have the medical equipment they needed at home
 - Began with purchasing new equipment, then switched to recycling medical equipment
 - 2019 – 2070 some people served
 - Headquarters in Roanoke with centers in Williamsburg, Virginia Beach, Lynchburg, South Hampton Roads, Northern Shenandoah Valley

- A note or letter from a medical professional is required for a patient to be donated a piece of equipment
- Application form – establish need (i.e., no insurance coverage for the equipment, no ability to purchase out of personal funds). Application is available on-line.
- Have 4 shelter kits – currently working on resource sharing agreements with VDEM
- Shelter kits contain walkers, shower chairs, wheelchairs, bed side commodes, canes, and other small items
- Have supported Richmond City in the past during UCI, even without the MOU in place
- Have a HubScrub washing machine to clean and sanitize medical equipment
- Partnership with the Richmond Rotary to pick up and deliver equipment to recipients in the Richmond area. In other locations, the patient or a family member would need to pick the equipment up.
- F.R.E.E. follows up with Outcome calls with the patient to determine the effectiveness of the program/equipment.
- Partnership with the Good Wills at each of the locations (except for Winchester)
- Eric Seymour – Special Presentation on Flash Flood Warnings:
 - Up until now flash flood program included Flood Warning, Area Flood Warning, Flash Flood Warning.
 - New modification – impact-based flash flood warnings.
 - Bulleted format, adding additional information
 - Machine readable tags to allow translation to graphical format
 - Added to product:
 - Hazard
 - Source (of information – i.e., radar based, emergency management agency provided, etc.)
 - Impact
 - Tags:
 - Base (BAS) – Flooding of infrastructure areas that normally flood
 - Considerable (CON) – Flooding of infrastructure/areas that normally don't flood
 - Catastrophic (CAT) – Hurricane Mathew and Michael type events
 - Wireless Area Emergency Alerts will be activated for Considerable and Catastrophic (will not be activated for base flash flood).
 - Definitions
 - Flood Advisory = Nuisance type flooding
 - Areal Flood Warning = Slower paced flooding as a result of rates of generally less than 2" per hour. Road Closures likely. The word "Areal" is being removed by the NWS. Wakefield office currently not using the term in its products (new term = "Flood Warning")
 - Flash Flood Warning = Rapid Rise of Water resulting a road closures and buildings and homes being cut off).
 - How are flood advisories used for decision making?
 - City of Richmond – we use the products and share with infrastructure partners and internal situational awareness. Don't always send out to the public
 - Colonial Heights – do same – also notify Parks
 - INWS – make sure that you have that set up
 - Do you have triggers in your plans?
 - Richmond City – yes (activate flood wall)
 - Contact Info: Eric Seymour, NWS Wakefield – eric.seymour@noaa.gov
 - See slides for more info.

4. Standing Committee Reports:

- **Mass Care & Human Services:** Paul Hundley/Emily Ashley | Next meeting: 2/6/20

- Started 2020 by talking about ongoing FY19 Grant Projects
- Surviving and Thriving training opportunities – next meeting will discuss offerings and training audience needs, will discuss further at next MC&HS meeting. Looking at ways to make the training more specifically relevant for Emergency Management personnel
- Looking to plan and conduct a Regional Pet Sheltering Course between now and end of grant cycle. Location chosen (Goochland Animal Care and Control complex), but time and date TBD. Max class size 50. Start thinking who from your locality should be in the training.
- Regional Feeding Exercise is being planned. March meeting will be the time to provide input and feedback on the exercise planning process. Our feeding partners will be in attendance at the March meeting.
- Mass Care Symposium – Second Annual in 2020. Planning group is involved.
- We have all FY18 training and exercise grant money obligated.
- Our FY18 equipment grant funds are about 90 percent or so committed. If you have any supply or equipment needs – please get that info to Katie Moody. Will be on first come, first serve basis until expended.
- We continue to encourage attendance at the monthly meetings
- **Planning:** Kate Hale | Next meeting: 2/19/20
 - Last meeting was yesterday. Key personnel were not present, thus we were not able to accomplish much.
 - Recovery Plan: draft form was sent out previously by Katie Moody (not the final product) – this was an error. The final product with all errors corrected will be sent out next week. Delete the 11/22/2019 version
 - Recovery Symposium – planned for Mar. Purpose is to provide training on how to use the Recovery Framework to develop your local plan. Target audience is Emergency/Recovery Managers. Date in March still TBD. Will get that information out next week
 - FY19 Funding will be used to conduct the equipment inventory – to track items purchased with previous grants but will expand into a larger inventory to identify all assets available in the region that can be used in emergency response
 - Recovery Exercise – FY20 Grant project (if funded) – taking the Recovery Plans and exercising those plans with a scenario that covers a major catastrophic event. Want to include additional personnel from your localities that have a lead role in recovery efforts (not just emergency managers).
- **Public Outreach:** Beverly Brandt/Dennis Hale | Next meeting: 2/10/20 (Moved for Presidents' Day)
 - Met last Monday. West Cary Group provided a presentation on the Community Foundation.
 - Fund has been set up – now looking at way to market the fund to businesses and potential sponsors (need to explain what we do and how the money would be used)
 - Looking for stories (from localities, agencies, volunteers, and private individuals) – describing how they have benefitted from EMACV efforts in the past
 - Will create a video presentation with these stories for use on the website
 - Also need volunteers to participate in the video itself
 - Next Meeting – will be focused on potential future products. Need additional participation from a broad range of participants (not just EM)
- **Regional CERT:** Jess Robison | Next meeting: 2/10/19 (Moved for Presidents' Day)
 - TEEX course coming up – personal preparedness but really stepped up to include building safe rooms and training on searches.
 - Will provide free lunch
 - Will give away head lamp and rechargeable radio/flashlight/and cell phone charger

- February 21-22. Registration is full, but there will likely be future offerings
 - July – National CERT Conference. We are sending representatives. Please come to next meeting to provide input to the conference attendees.
 - Looking for host localities to host future training events.
- **Training & Exercise:** Robert Williams| Next meeting: 1/28/20
 - Next meeting will be putting the final touches on the TEPW (which will be conducted at the next EMACV meeting).
 - Will take the TEPW and develop a list of courses that are needed and work with VDEM to develop those trainings
 - Reminder to use the Training and Exercise Calendar
 - Please ensure maximum participation at the TEPW next month – to include local, state and tribal partners
- **Finance Committee:** Ben Ruppert
 - Next project with Community Foundation – see Outreach Committee comments

5. Chief Regional Coordinator Update – Donna Pletch, VDEM

- Thanks to those who attended our open house
- The Governor has now increased security at all State Government buildings, including VDEM
- Darshan’s position has been advertised and has closed. Lots of applications submitted – pending HR screening.
- VDEM is going to inherit the Virginia Graphic Information System Network and the 911 Services Board. All staff will be moved under VDEMs umbrella
- TEPW – agenda pending. Need final agenda to determine if VDEM can provide lunch.
- Lisa Foley – currently covering Lisa Mallory’s responsibilities. If trouble reaching Lisa, contact Donna
- NWS briefings – does Donna Need to send them out, or are you getting them already? Yes – so Donna will stop sending out.
- Applications for Technical Assistance being extended to March 1st.

Planning for Lobby Day at the General Assembly:

- City of Richmond:
 - No major issues with NRA day this past Monday
 - This coming Monday – rally day for Second Amendment
 - Out of State groups expected to show up – have received threats and concerns
 - Also concerned about counter-demonstrators
 - Lots of agencies involved. An exercise was conducted yesterday.
 - Discussed MCI response at the exercise, to include a bus crash outside of Capitol Square occurring at the same time.
- State Level:
 - VDEM Region 1 reps attended the exercise yesterday
 - In contact with neighboring localities to let them know that they may be needed to support
 - Looking at bringing in additional HAZMAT support
 - Also looking at capability to stand up State Family Assistance Center (FAC)
 - Concern about it being a State Holiday and inability to reach people at home
 - Lots of intel data coming in – individuals and groups putting info and threats out on social media
 - Executive Order for Emergency Declaration – released yesterday. No funding including in the declaration. Expect that a revised Order may come out today.

6. Old Business:

- Recap of the EMACV Executive Board Retreat

- Received a briefing from PlanRVA on their capabilities. PlanRVA is also involved with Regional Transportation Group and Regional Environmental group – there could be areas of cross-over and collaboration
- Looked at on-going projects
- Looked at how we can do our business differently:
 - Standardize minutes and agendas
 - Branding
 - Ways that we can better engage our small jurisdictions and partner agencies
 - Quarterly executive committee meetings
 - Relook Strategic Plan
 - Grants structuring
 - Meeting alignment – subcommittee meetings within same week, and some combined on same day to make better use of time. Streamline production of minutes to make them available prior to the next Alliance Meeting
 - Will try to pull together a history of the Alliance and accomplishments – will feed back into the Community Foundation and outreach efforts
 - MOU with PDC in 2013 – will review and update
- Discussion: Need a historian. Perhaps an intern? Need to study further.

7. New Business:

- Planned exercises, training or special events in your locality
 - Richmond City – Lobby Day on Monday
 - New Kent – starting up CERT program – kick off in February. Two months of training events
 - Forestry: Wildland Fire Prevention Academy – 3 day event with multiple classes
 - Chesterfield – NDMS Exercise on Apr 25

8. Open discussion, comments, and announcements:

Localities:

- Henrico County (*Robert Foresman*): Lessons Learned from Threat report for a Henrico County Middle School this past week – be careful with terminology when putting information out to the public (i.e., Reunification vs Information) – Henrico established a Family Information Center in response to the report of an Active Threat at the Middle School. Parents who went to the location were confused about the purpose. Also, parents will not get out of their cars and actually go into the building
- Hopewell (*Ben Ruppert*): Thanks to VDEM for the support to our training exercise last month
- CVHC (Megan Middleton): CVHC has been heavily involved in the Lobby Day planning with the City of Richmond and in partnership with healthcare facilities. Will be hosting a Just-in-Time training on the VHASS Patient Tracking Application tomorrow (Jan 17). There are several training events listed on the CVHC Website Calendar. These events are open to localities (<https://cvhc.wpengine.com/events/>).
- VDEM Region 1 (Donna Pletch): Donna will be going in for shoulder surgery on Tuesday, Jan 21st and will be out for a while. Doug Gagnon will be covering.
- VDH Central Region (Mike Magner): VDH has reported that there has been a lot of influenza and norovirus outbreaks recently at schools and other facilities. The flu strains that are causing the outbreaks are covered in this year's flu vaccine. Reminder to all to get vaccinated. Norovirus typically peaks in the winter months. There is no vaccine for Norovirus – just practice good hand hygiene and stay home if you are sick so you don't spread it.
- VDF (Name?): Spring wildfire season coming up.
- RIC Airport (John Fitzgerald): RIC is preparing for the upcoming campaign season and the potential for arrival of the VIPs that require Secret Service Coordination

- Red Cross (Meredith Snellings): Will be watching the Lobby Day events closely and will be ready to support if called. Thanks to the Emergency Managers that participated in recent meetings with Disaster Action Team volunteers. Looking for support for future training events.
- Virginia Association of Museums (Tracie Bryan): Providing Museums training on emergency preparedness in April

9. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned by Bill Lawson at 11:07 a.m.

Calendar Request Form: <https://goo.gl/forms/u2b6kguGinedt8bE2>

Training & Exercise Calendar: <https://teamup.com/ks8szm1w3b1nggexbb>

In attendance:

Ben Ruppert, Hopewell
 Beverly Brandt, Colonial Heights
 Bill Lawson, Richmond
 David Woods, Chesterfield Health District
 Donald Hunter, Prince George
 Donna Pletch, VDEM
 Eric Seymour, National Weather Service
 Jess Robison, Chesterfield
 John Fitzgerald, RIC Airport
 Kate Hale, New Kent
 Megan Middleton, CVHC
 Meredith Snellings, Red Cross
 Mike Magner, VDH Central Region
 Paul Hundley, Richmond
 Peter Svoboda, CVHC
 Robert Foresman, Henrico
 Robert Paxton, VDEM
 Robert Williams, Hopewell
 Sherri Laffoon, VDEM
 Tracy Bryan, VHS, DHCD
 Steve Rykal, Chickahominy Health District
 Keith Chambers, Chesterfield Fire/EMS
 Blake Markey, Goochland Fire-Rescue
 Ellen Poe, Prince George Fire/EMS
 Reid Foster, Sussex