

MINUTES

City of Pacifica
Emergency Preparedness & Safety Commission
Pacifica Police Department Conference Room
2075 Coast Highway
Pacifica, CA 94044

DATE: Wednesday, November 18, 2009

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Blackburn called the meeting to order at 1800 hrs.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Blackburn, Erbacher, Chiechi, Shaw, Balestreri,
Johnson

Commissioners Absent: Salisbury

Ex Officio Members Present: Schultz, Peterson

Ex Officio Members Absent: Wisell, Lancelle, Maheley

STAFF PRESENT: Capt Realyvasquez
Sgt Londerville

APPROVAL

OF MINUTES: The minutes for the September 16, 2008 meeting were approved.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Blackburn confirmed that the October 2009 City of Pacifica Emergency Preparedness & Safety Commission was cancelled, as there were not enough Commissioners present to meet the requirements of a quorum.

Commissioner Chiechi reported he was not able to attend the Pacifica Fog Fest, as he was involved in the West Contra Costa County Disaster Fair the same weekend. This was a multi agency event and it was a successful operation. The plan is to have the disaster fair again next year and hopefully have more agency involvement.

Commissioner Blackburn reported that on 9-30-09 there was an earthquake in America Samoa that subsequently caused a tsunami. An early morning offshore earthquake on September 29, 2009 in the Samoa Islands caused a tsunami that brought death and

destruction to American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga. The Tonga and Samoa region is situated on the fault line where the Pacific and Australia tectonic plates meet. The Pacific plate is slipping beneath (sub ducting) the Australia plate. The Australia and Pacific plate boundary is one of the most active earthquake areas in the world.

The epicenter of the earthquake was 20 miles below the ocean floor at a distance of 125 miles from Samoa and 120 miles from American Samoa. The earthquake occurred at 6:48 am followed by five aftershocks throughout the day, ranging from 5.6 to 5.9 on the Richter scale.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii immediately issued an alert but the waves reached the islands within 10 to 15 minutes after the earthquake. There was not sufficient time for the all residents of the coastal areas to evacuate to higher ground. Both America Samoa and Samoa experienced four tsunami waves reaching a height of 15 to 20 feet approximately 15 minutes after the quake. The waves traveled at least for one mile inland.

Commissioner Erbacher commented that he felt there were fewer visitors to the City of Pacifica Emergency Preparedness & Safety Commission booth then in past years. He believed it might have been a result of the lack of video and audio displays that have been present in past years.

Commissioner Shaw reported that visitors to the booth were interested in the CERT program and asked a lot questions.

There was significant discussion over the need for continued education of the general public regarding earthquakes and tsunamis.

EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS:

Ex Officio Member Schultz reported that the Jefferson Union High School District has completed the emergency pandemic flu response plan.

The commission discussed the potential conflict that could arise to employees such as school employees, police and fire personnel between their employment responsibilities to care for their immediate family during an emergency. The commission discussed that there is an obvious need for people in the position to be responsible for others in the event of an emergency need to ensure that their immediate family is prepared adequately for a disaster situation in order for them to be able to perform their jobs effectively.

Ex Officio Member Peterson stated that the Red Cross has several different pamphlets with information about becoming a youth volunteer. She could also have a youth volunteer be available for next years Fog Fest to attract interest in the younger generation.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Captain Realyvasquez reported that on 9-29-09 the National Weather Service conducted the Storm Spotter Training. CERT and Pacifica Police Dispatch personnel were present. He estimated that about forty-four people attended the training.

On 10-1-09 a tsunami tabletop meeting was held in the EOC at the Pacifica Police Department involving multiple agencies that work the coastal communities. The meeting was to discuss the evacuation process of coastal areas and traffic control.

On 10-15-09 the Pacifica Police Department command staff visited Oceana High School to observe a lockdown drill response to an active shooter. Captain Realyvasquez stated that the school did an excellent job during this drill. Copies of the emergency plans for each school are being collected and will be on file at the police department.

On 10-17-09 Captain Realyvasquez had a meeting with Tom Stafford from the Pacifica School District to discuss emergency plans and communication with the schools. There will be a countywide exercise in April 2010 that will include the school districts

A draft of the pandemic flu plan for the City of Pacifica has been completed and is being circulated through the command staff. A final version will be completed following review.

The most recent CERT class will be having their final training day on 11-19-09. Following this graduation class there will be about eighty CERT members in the city. The next class is being scheduled for January 2010.

The City of Pacifica has met all the requirements for the storm ready program. When all the final paper work is completed certifying that the City of Pacifica has met all the requirements it will be published in news sources.

The Commission discussed numerous issues involving the CERT program including liability, training, assignments, and maximum number of CERT personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The December 2009 meeting will be conducted to have an official vote for the Chair and Vice Chair position. Commissioner Blackburn stated that according to the City web site the expiration date for current commission members is March 2010. Staff will research this to determine if there is a limit to terms and the process for renewing current terms.

OTHER: N/A

ADJOURNMENT: 1704