



Council Reporting ***Minutes of Council Committee Meeting***

MINUTES **Rappahannock EMS Council** **Disaster Committee Meeting** **January 9, 2007**

Members Present: Mark Bledsoe (Fredericksburg), Ray Harvey (Quantico), Dr. Rob Fines (MWH – FEMA) Gerald Jaskulski (Stafford), Eric Lasky (Spotsylvania), Tom McCoy (MWH), Dr. Joe Saitta (Rappahannock Health District), Paula Shaver (Red Cross), Bruce Sterling (VDEM)

Others Present: Tina Skinner (REMS), James Hill (Stafford), Liane Sowinski (RAHD)

Excused: Doug Boggs, Ed Fuzy, Eric Haas, Eddie Peck, Glen Rudner, Billy Shelton, Wendy Shepherd

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Rappahannock EMS Council Training Center. Dr. Saitta presided over the meeting in the excused absence of the Chairman and other REMS Board members.

Approval of minutes: Motion made by Tom McCoy, seconded by Eric Lasky to approve the November 7, 2006 minutes as presented.

REMS Report:

The Committee's annual review of the Regional MCI Plan must be completed by May 1, 2007. Members were asked to begin looking over the document and be prepared to discuss at a future meeting. The current plan is available to committee members on the council's website.

Jurisdiction/ Agency Reports:

a. Counties:

- Spotsylvania County reported they continue their work on the County's Pandemic Flu Plan.
- Fredericksburg reported their Continuity of Operations Plan is almost complete.
- Quantico thanked Stafford County for their assistance with the recent large scale event of the U.S. Marine Corp Museum opening in November. Noted one lesson learned is to share Incident Action Plans early in your planning process for such events. No major incidents to report from event. Quantico is still making progress in working towards an ALS Plan and coverage.

- Stafford County – No report.
- b. Virginia Department of Health:**
- The Rappahannock Area Health District reported they have a new Acting Director, Dr. Tom Franck
 - Developing a Risk Communication Training Program with Lucy Caldwell
 - Researching the purchase of medical translation devices. Might be useful to pre-hospital providers as well. (Speech Guard/Hand held)
 - on an upcoming Community Based Emergency Response Seminar targeting citizens with special needs during a disaster or event. The Seminar is open to the Public Safety Community and will be held March 3, 2007 at the Fredericksburg Expo. REMS will assist in getting the flyer out to all EMS and Fire agencies.
 - Upcoming Events: Fredericksburg CERT Training scheduled for every Wednesday night. Also CDP “Pandemic Influenza Planning and Preparedness Course reviewed by Dr. Saitta – a very good program to consider (<http://cdp.dhs.gov/resident/pipp.html>)
- c. Hospital:**
- Tom McCoy announced that Mary Washington Hospital’s Surge Plan has been finalized. Shared copies with committee members.
 - In addition he shared a copy of the RHCC Activation Procedures for Hospitals. This plan outlines process for how they will be activated during a major event. Mary Washington belongs to the Northern Virginia Hospital Region which has two centers fully operational to support 12 hospitals during a disaster.
 - The hospital is also planning a Fair through their Human Resources Department geared towards self preparedness. Will be conducted in the next 60 days.
- d. Virginia Department of Emergency Management:**
- November exercise was conducted in VDEM Region 2 which included 17 jurisdictions and 15 participants. The After Action Report will be published in the next few weeks. Also had a successful Pandemic Flu Regional Exercise in December. Are looking to identify a location for the next exercise with consideration of Fauquier and surrounding counties.
 - A new ICS independent course is now available for hospitals.
- e. Pandemic Flu Work Group:**
- The Rappahannock Area Health District 2007 Pan Flu Goals have been adopted (Attachment 1) and were reviewed by group.

- In an effort to keep our region updated on Pandemic Flu Lianne reported that a recent “Weekly Tips” publication which is distributed to area schools was sent out on Pan Flu. There is a list serve available for this weekly publication and all are welcome to join.

- Work group member Elizabeth Lowrey from RAHD is working to meet with our region’s EMS Infection Control Officers on Pandemic Flu. Will work through REMS Council.

f. Counterterrorism Task Force:

- Dr. Saitta reported that a Terrorism Utilities Exercise is being planned for Spotsylvania County on January 10, 2007.

Unfinished Business:

Committee discussed Goals for the Regional Disaster Committee for the coming two years. Motion made by Tom McCoy, seconded by Mark Bledsoe and carried to approve the goals as discussed. (Attachment 2)

New Business:

Discussed ICS Training and the committee and councils potential role in preparing our localities, agencies, hospitals and other health care partners in this area. Would like to be a resource to assist our localities as well as offer NIMS Training Courses. VDEM is already offering the program. Localities must currently certify that they have taken steps to become NIMS compliant. Committee questioned whether our localities have exposure to NIMS or real idea of what it is. In some of the recent table top exercises conducted in our area, there appeared to be a lack of understanding from County officials in this area. **Eric Lasky and Gerald Jaskulski agreed to research the topic further and report back on some potential regional initiatives at a future meeting.**

Next Meeting Date: February 6, 2007; 1:30 p.m.; REMS Council Training Center 2301 Fall Hill Avenue, Medical Arts Building 2nd Floor.

Attachment 1
Rappahannock Region Pandemic Work Group

Rappahannock Area Health District 2007 Pan Flu Goals

1. Add a pan flu component into area CERT classes
2. Complete a Regional Pan Flu Plan
3. Complete and distribute a family home care pamphlet
4. Offer a risk communication course to PIOs and other related professions
5. Brief Fredericksburg Public Relations Society on Pan Flu
6. Sponsor a special needs conference (including coverage on pan flu issues)
7. Offer area Infection Control Officers training and consultation on Pan Flu preparedness
8. Distribute Pan Flu preparedness brochures through area schools
9. Conduct a RAHD staff update on District's pan flu activities
10. Conduct a drive-through clinic in Fall, 2007 (free seasonal flu vaccine permitting)
11. Assist jurisdictions, bases, colleges, VOAD, etc. with Pan Flu exercises
12. Offer at least two Pan Flu classes to the Rappahannock MRC
13. Work through REMSC to determine future actions on issues (mass care, surge, etc.)
14. Develop and implement a full public education campaign plan
15. Develop a system for conducting influenza surveillance in area schools
16. Prioritize new groups to begin working on the pan flu planning process (i.e. area businesses, daycares, senior citizens)