

County of Santa Cruz



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Tel: (831) 454-2188 Fax: (831) 454-2350

Meeting: March 05, 2020
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Location: EOC
5200 Soquel Ave.
Building C 2nd floor
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062

MINUTES

- 1.0 Call to Order/Introductions
Meeting called to order by Chair Robert Ritchey at 2:03 pm.
- 2.0 Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members*)
 - 2.1 Attendees: 18 voting members; total 44 attendees
 - 2.2 Absent:
 - 2.2.1 Brenda Brenner
 - 2.2.2 Mitch Medina
 - 2.2.3 Paul Horvat
 - 2.2.4 Lisa Ehret
 - 2.2.5 Tom Avila
 - 2.3 Absent with Notice:
 - 2.3.1 Cap Pennell
 - 2.4 Quorum achieved: Yes, with 18 of 24 voting members present
- 2.0 Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
None
- 4.0 Approval of Minutes:
 - 4.1 Minutes of January meeting were sent for review via email 2.4.20
 - 4.2 Draft minutes were posted on the website
 - 4.3 Motion made and seconded to approve minutes; passed unanimously
- 5.0 Correspondence (*All*)
 - 5.1 Notice of appointment of Captain Mike Dean of Scotts Valley to the Emergency Management Council at Board of Supervisors meeting 2.25.20
Welcome Captain Dean
- 6.0 Oral Communications: *Regarding items not on the Agenda*
None
- 7.0 Presentations:
 - 7.1 Presentation on COVID-19 – The Epidemiology perspective/data and local

preparations by Kathleen Conley, County Health Services Emergency Preparedness Manager and Mikala Caton, County Health Services Epidemiologist

- COVID-19 is a corona virus (corona viruses includes common cold, SARS, MERS). Began in late 2019 in Wuhan, China, but was not publicized until mid-January 2020
- COVID-19 global cases being tracked by Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE)
Interactive Map:
<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>)
- Health Services Agency (HSA) is keeping website updated; recommend bookmarking <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/>
- Legitimate info also available from the CDC
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
 - Note: be cautious about media/internet—use trusted resources such as CDC and the County HSA
- Concerned about large crowds. Standard precautionary measures were stressed:
 - Stay home if you are sick
 - Wash your hands—adequately (20 seconds minimum with soap and water)
 - Cover your cough (cough into elbow or tissue; dispose of tissue and wash hands)
 - Clean surface areas with an adequate product
- No confirmed cases as yet in Santa Cruz
- Testing currently is very limited; done in a Santa Clara lab, can only test 30 people day. Test results 48 hours, or could be longer depending on process
 - CDC has announced that testing is at clinicians' discretion
 - Only 15 labs in California have access to testing; expect this to expand very soon
 - Anticipating more commercial production of testing kits
- Health Services Agency (HSA) Departmental Operations Center (DOC) opened on 2/28 at Level 1 (low level: monitoring, watching)
 - DOC is Incident Command; County EOC is activated in support of DOC
 - Incident Commander (IC) is County Medical Officer Gail Newel; Jen Phan is Deputy IC
 - Expect to be moving to Level 2 activation over the next few days, may be reaching out to other departments to assist with staffing
- Health Officer declared Local Health Emergency in Santa Cruz County on March 4
 - Expands capacity
 - Enables using staff from other operations
- Incubation period:
 - Most corona viruses about 14 days
 - CDC guidance for COVID-19 is 2 – 14 days
- Viruses travel; this is a respiratory virus
- Preparedness: Take care of your health, hydrate, watch stress levels, minimize contact with others as much as possible.
- 211 is activated, great resource for the public/worried well
 - Can provide information and connect people with resources
 - Call 211 or text "COVID19 to 211-211 for info

- <https://www.211santacruzcounty.org/>
 - Operated by United Way
- Corinne Hyland, Health Services Manager and HSA PIO and Jason Hoppin, Communications Manager for the County are working together on messaging
- Looking forward based on pandemic modeling
 - We have good epidemiologists analyzing and providing data for response and incident management
- N-95 masks (fitted) in short supply—healthcare workers and other first responders need priority
 - Looking at using older/expired masks that may provide some protection
- HSA having meetings with hospital partners, Healthcare Coalition (hospitals, nursing, assisted living, volunteers, etc.), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)—a team of medical volunteers
- Points of Dispensing (POD)
 - Contact Kathleen Conley for MOU for when vaccines are deployed
 - Legislation may enable front-line folks to get vaccinated
 - Don't know when vaccine will be available
- MHOAC-Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC is the resource ordering point for medical and health resources)
 - Brenda Brenner is the County MHOAC
 - Celia Barry is currently taking on role while Brenda is out of town
 - MHOAC avoids duplication of requests
- COVID-19 is now an incident in Web EOC—use this to get updates (remember confidentiality)
- Remember to thoroughly document everything (time, purchases, etc.) for potential reimbursement
- Governor Newsom has declared State of Emergency March 4 to help state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19
- Preparation: What is your Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) if personnel is impacted?
- **HSA DOC: 831-454-4444**

Q&A, Discussion, and Additional Information

- Where many people are working closely in a closed space, such as the 911 Call Center, what actions to take?
 - Sick people should not come to work
 - Wipe down high touch surfaces very frequently
 - Minimize person-to-person contact if possible
- We may experience disruption
 - *Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)* is a business plan, but take into personal life if possible. For example, parents—what will you do if schools close?
- Public transportation (Metro)—Paratransit, etc.:
 - Should drivers have N95?
 - Currently: handwashing, cleaning all surfaces.
- CDC COVID-19 webpages have procedures
 - Information about disinfection procedures, what products to use, etc. is on the CDC website
- Health Services Agency (HSA) Human Resources (HR) sent out request to update emergency contact info
 - Check call-down lists, practice them

- Lists are getting updated
- Reminding county staff that all are Disaster Service Workers, and may be asked to take on another role
- School closings are up to superintendents. Health officer may make recommendations.
 - Does County have authority to tell schools to close? Don't know, but Health Officer has authority to quarantine
- We will know if Santa Cruz has a confirmed case. Santa Clara does have cases
 - Read declaration carefully. Have organizational discussions about triggers.
 - Higher mortality and higher transmissibility than flu. Still in research process.
 - Symptoms of COVID-19 and flu very similar; COVID a bit deeper cough.
- Paul Garcia, GIS Analyst for the County
 - Working on mapping
 - He has created 3 mobile apps to anticipate needs for assessments in the field
 - Contact Paul if you have specific statistics or other info you want tracked—he will work to build a model
 - Wants to hear if anyone has ideas or needs for data collection
 - Advance notice will let him get ahead to create apps that may be needed
- American Red Cross started disaster relief operations 3 weeks ago
 - Allow them to mobilize resources
 - Getting ready—have stopped meeting in person—working electronically
- Chamber of Commerce
 - Reevaluating group meetings: Currently business is as usual.

8.0 New Business:

9.0 Informational Reports

9.1 County Office of Emergency Services/Update

9.2 City Reports

9.2.1 Capitola____ *Captain Andy Dally*

9.2.2 Santa Cruz____ *Paul Horvat*

9.2.3 Scotts Valley____ *Captain John Wilson/Captain Mike Dean*

9.2.4 Watsonville____ *Tom Avila*

9.3 County Office of Education____ John Armstrong

9.4 Grant Updates

9.4.1 FY2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (3-year grant through 5.31.2020 award of \$351,387); all projects must be completed prior to 5.31.2020

Completed projects: Sheriff's Office-Airplane Engine; Sheriff's Office-Bomb Suits; Sheriff's Office/EOC-Generator Enclosure; Scott's Valley PD-911 Tower; CERT PPE; Scotts Valley PD-Computer Systems; Fire Service Gurneys

Projects in progress: Medical Reserve Corp Coordination; EMS PIO Coordination; EMS Mobile Medical Shelter; Fire Service ATV; Emergency Medical Personnel PPE; Repeater for Auxiliary Communications-Bonny Doon

9.4.2 FY2018 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (3-year grant

through 5.31.21; award of \$349,660)

Projects in progress: Medical Reserve Corp Coordination; EMS PIO; Coordination; EMS Hearnnet Radio System; Sheriff's Office armored van; radiological detection devices for County first responders; CERT training; Watsonville Slough Stream Gage/Warning System.

9.4.3 FY 2019 State Homeland Security Grant advance application submitted on 1.15.19 for \$349,660. Federal Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released 4.12.19; award amount increased to \$359,856—identified scalable projects were modified appropriately; Notice of Award Approval 9.26.19. Full application packet submitted 12.4.19. OK to begin projects with no hold requirements, awaiting final approval pending updated BOS authorized agent resolution.

9.4.4 FY 2020 State Homeland Security Grant projects were vetted and identified by the Authorized Body of Five; Advance Application submitted 1/31/2020.

9.4.5 FY2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) award was approved by Cal OES for \$180,870; initial application approved 12.4.19; full application packet submitted to Cal OES 12.5.19; awaiting final approval.

10.0 Non-Governmental Organizations

- 10.1 CERT Council.....*Robert Gray*
- 10.2 CERT Auxiliary..... *Mary Edmund*
- 10.3 Medical Reserve Corp.....*Kathleen Conley*
- 10.4 Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS).....*Cap Pennell*
- 10.5 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).....*Robert Ritchey*
- 10.6 Equine Evacuation.....*Cally Haber*

Report submitted by Kenneth Coale:

The Santa Cruz county Equine Evacuation Unit participated in monthly Community Animal Response Team (CART) conference calls in preparation for February 18, 2020 statewide meeting on animal response, which included 19 counties and multiple agencies. We presented to this group about our activities and our readiness.

Several of our members participated in the EOC Action Planning training February 19 and others are taking advantage of the various ICS and EOC workshops and trainings offered in Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. CART, the state-wide initiative led by Claudia Saunders, DMV from the Napa CART organization, seeks to describe and adopt a series of standards for animal care and transport in the event of an emergency.

Pending additional input and consultation, we will soon call a meeting of the Santa Cruz County EE leadership to evaluate the landscape of animal emergency response, consider our County's perspective, and develop a strategic plan for our organization in light of the changing nature of fire in California, the talents of our group, and the additional training that may be required to serve our County's needs, both in the EOC and in the field.

11.0 Announcements (All)

Zach Ackemann, Felton Firefighter and Training Coordinator, announced an Active Shooter Training and Exercise in San Lorenzo Valley on Saturday, March 8. They are bringing in CHP, the Sheriff's Office, firefighters, etc. This will be a full day training that will include an active shooter simulation. Contact Zach with any questions or communications for command staff.

12.0 Items for future meetings

None

13.0 Adjourn

13.1 Motion to adjourn made by Liz Taylor-Selling; seconded by Joe Christy; motion passed

13.2 Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

14.0 Next Meeting: May 7, 2020 2-4 PM

The Emergency Management Council generally meets the first Thursday of every odd month, excluding July.