

Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
General Membership Meeting Summary – 16 September, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 by Deanie Lowe, Co-Chairman.

Members and guests present:

Anderson, Tiara	Black, Melanie	Brandon, Andrea
Brandon, Jerry	Cary, Diane	Cungano, Carmon
Forand, Patrick	Greenberg, Warren	Heald, David
Ivenlotu, John	Judge, Jim	LaHue, Larry
Langrick, Henry	Law, Audriana	Lewis, Danielle
Miller, Jeff	Poulin, Anne-Marie	Poulin, Ken
Troxler, Dave	Wassner, Rev. Bill	White, Pat
Wilary, Loretta		

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 P M by Deanie Lowe, Co-chairman.

Mrs. Lowe welcomed everyone, reminding all to get parking slips validated before leaving.

- Jerry Brandon, Chairman of the Preparedness Strike Team, reported on the team's activities:
 - The team is primarily working on the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) presentations in order to enable groups of people to be prepared in advance of a disaster.
 - The team has developed a series of letters and forms, one of which is an application for this presentation, which will be initially mailed to HOAs, and Manufactured Home Parks.
 - Later Condo associations and other groups will be approached.

- As of this time, the Preparedness Strike Team has already distributed approximately 300 packets which explain MYN and provide some necessary written materials.
 - Presentations have been made to more than 1,000 people.
 - Mr. Brandon went on to review the second of our Hurricane Expos which was again very successful and brought more awareness to the general public for the need of advance preparation for potential disasters.
- David Heald, Chairman of the Response and Recovery Strike Team, reported the following:
- Over the last few months, this team has worked to implement a Volunteer Reception Center Plan to accommodate volunteers responding to a disaster here in Volusia County.
 - We developed a relationship with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – the Mormons – through COAD and LDS member, Jim Pillow.
 - As a result of this collaboration, Frank and Linda Lewandowski, also members of the LDS church, joined our COAD and, in concert with the local LDS church and the DeLand Stake of the church, under the leadership of President Lawson, have developed, supported and implemented a computerized method of operating a VRC.
 - Another member of the LDS church, Jefferson Romney, has written the program and helped set up the equipment and stations necessary to accommodate spontaneous volunteers who respond following a disaster.
 - A full-scale VRC exercise was held on 26 May, 2015. The objectives were:
 - To develop the skills to operate a VRC
 - To validate the VRC Operations Plan
 - To integrate community participation in planning

- The exercise was evaluated by James Ryan, former director of the Volusia County Emergency Operations Center.
- Two After-Action Report (AAR) meetings were held to identify strengths and weaknesses.
- A future goal is to “package” the VRC software together with user instructions and hardware recommendations to be used by other counties, VOADs, COADs, and faith-based institutions or jurisdictions throughout Florida and around the country.
- Mrs. Lowe gave the treasurer’s report in lieu of LaDell Crookston who could not attend.
 - There have been no new expenditures.
 - The bank balance = \$ 144.33
- Mrs. Lowe next introduced the guest speakers, Ken and Anne-Marie Poulin, owners of “First Response Disaster Team” who are experts in restoration and clean-up in both commercial and residential areas following serious problems or when actual disasters have occurred.
- Major points in Mr. and Mrs. Poulin’s presentation were:
 - Their primary focus is on damages from water, mold, fire and smoke.
 - 60% humidity, which is common in Florida, is the critical point for the development of mold.
 - Smoke is the hardest thing to get rid of.
 - Nicotine is the most difficult by-product to eliminate.
 - To remove mold, it is probably necessary to use an air scrubber. Dry wall and insulation usually must be removed.
 - The question was asked about how we as COAD members can protect ourselves from mold when responding to an emergency situation. Mr. Poulin answered that if the situation is severe, a respirator, body suit and gloves may be necessary. Everybody is different in tolerance levels.
 - The discussion on mold continued with a question on responsibilities of determining the severity of the problem in a rental property. This varies from state to state.

- General tips to prevent a problem:
 - Never fog the air conditioning system.
 - Keep valuables and memorabilia at least one or two feet off the floor.
 - When going away, even for a few days, turn off the hot water heater and the water to the house.
 - If you are cleaning up a mold problem, be sure to also clean out your vacuum cleaner and take the hair dryer outside and run it for a short while.
 - The next question referred to specific tips for COAD responders:
 - The most important pieces of equipment are rubber boots and rubber gloves.
 - Respirators are good items to have.
 - The most important thing is to remember that if it is a toxic situation, unless the responder is actually saving a life, he/she needs to get out of that situation as quickly as possible.
 - Eye protection can be critical.
 - If it is necessary to touch a toxic area, get cleaned up as quickly as possible, even if it's only to use a bar of soap.
 - If the disaster has involved a fire, the number one thing to be aware of is that the structure itself probably has been weakened. Our COAD responders should not go into this situation unless it has been tested.
- Next on the agenda, Mrs. Lowe introduced Jim Judge, Volusia County Emergency Management Director. Mr. Judge spoke about National Emergency Preparedness month in September. He went on to discuss the effects of El Nino on our local weather patterns.
 - Ms. Lowe reminded everyone about the next meetings, and that the November General Meeting would include election of officers.
 - The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.