

2009-Sept-16 General Meeting

Location:

Owatonna EOC

Attendees:

Craig Strand, Tom Karnauskas, Elizabeth Auppl, Karen Fountaine, Alysia Yeager, Lon Thiele, Mike Johnson and Shirley Woodfill.

Elizabeth called the meeting to order. She explained our June meeting was canceled due to weather, July meeting was canceled, and August meeting was canceled due to fair. May minutes will be approved in October.

Treasurer Report

There is no treasurer's report. There was discussion about concerns regarding poor accounting/bookkeeping practices. The Board appointed Elizabeth and Shirley to fill in until the office of Treasurer/Secretary is filled.

Agency Reports

Law Enforcement: Lon Thiele

- Scheduled for NIMS training 300 level Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

CERT: Shirley Woodfill

- CERT refresher training was held 9-12, 8:30 - 2:30 at the Steele County Community Center at the Fairgrounds. A medical refresher was held in the morning, a pot luck at noon, and a S&R exercise in the PM with ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) members. Approximately 30 CERT members and 7 ARES members attended. Four teams of 4 CERT members and 1 Radio person conducted a S&R for 3 victims in the Fairgrounds. The teams communicated back to the base with the IC and 2 radio people. A 2010 CERT class has been scheduled January/February.

Public Health: Karen Fountaine

- Public Health would be getting vaccine in next 2-3 weeks - mid to late October will target high risk for H1N1. MN CDC will identify who these people are in early October/November. They do not expect a lot of side effects. Expect 70 percent of cases will be under the age of 25 - pregnant women are getting hit hard. Majority of people making a complete recovery. The EOC is meeting regularly to pre-stage to respond.

Red Cross: Alysia Yeager

- Red Cross is also focusing on the H1N1 - community messaging out to community, one was at OFC a couple weeks ago. Pandemic Kits available. Want to be sure office members are taken care of.
- There is an Aviation Drill in Rochester, will have 100 volunteers, Alysia will be Job Director.

SKYWARN: Tom Karnauskas

- Dave gave a presentation to the residents of Skyline Gardens.
- Overall it has been a quiet summer from a severe weather aspect.

RACES/ARES: Tom Karnauskas

- Conducted a joint Simulated Emergency Test with CERT.
- Completed adding 4 new runs of coax into the basement. This will allow enhancements to communication capabilities.

- There is lots of discussion in the Amateur Radio community about EMCOMM professionals using Amateur Radio during drills and routine communications. FCC rules prohibit using Amateur Radio for the benefit of your employer. This could prevent emergency managers, hospital staff, NWS staff from using Amateur Radio during an emergency incident.

MNVOAD:

- No report

Hospital:

- No report

Gold Cross:

- No report

Steele County Emergency Management: Mike Johnson

- We were nominated for Joe Strube award - this region has won over the last few years
- Updating NIMS CAST IS 300, 400, 700 etc. -20 page on-line reporting system.
- S&R 3 weeks ago for a missing woman kayaking on the river. Law Enforcement and Fire Department grided area out. Officers converted (doing everything right) perimeter. Very close to calling out Posse, CERT, etc. Woman was found - had gotten lost and went to farmer's house.
- Flu Task Force formed - Organization Chart created to use resources efficiently - IC system. Public Health heading effort - working on agreement (mutual aid nurses, working on getting business and industry involved, continuity, Doctors/Clinics. It's impressive to see everyone working together.
- Just put out 21 weather radios
- City and County Employee Safety Fair scheduled October 26th. Will be giving influenza vaccines. OFD, Red Cross, Public Health, etc. can put out information tables.
- AHEM starts Sunday - Mike will be completing his President's term.
- CARE drill is on schedule for September 29th at the Medford School
- OFD Annual Chili Feed will be held Sunday October 4th 4-7 pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$6 or at the door for \$8 (5 & under free). Proceeds will go to CERT, Historical Society and MDA.
- NIMS 400 will be held November 9 & 10 at OFD 3rd Floor. Must register thru Homeland Security web site.
- Old Hospital will transfer patients to new hospital October 17th. Working on Radio issues.
- Looking at continuity of operations plans - resource management logistics - could be down 20 - 30 percent employees - changing guidelines and looking at supplies needed. Recommending staying home as much as a week - loose facilities - where else will you go, etc?

Recognition

Presentations were given to Craig Strand for his continued support (and friendship) to our CAER group:

- Mike presented Craig the Lifetime Citizen Corp Volunteer Award (lapel pin, certificate, letter signed by president) for the many hours of support over the last 15+ years to our group by attending most of our meetings no matter what the weather, on his own time/dime at times of budget restrictions, and being our liaison by sharing State information.
- Elizabeth presented Craig with a plaque for his 15 + years of distinguished service to CAER. He made Steele County look good and 'tooted our horn' at the state level for many years. We will miss him and wish him well!

Alysia moved to adjoin meeting - Karen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9.00 pm.

Our next meeting is 21st, 7PM at the Owatonna Fire Department 3rd Floor.