



Central Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

Meeting Notes February 14, 2019

Attendees:

Alan Ford – Presb Church USA	Izadora Martinez – Red Cross
Andrea Forte – Central TX Action Response	Kay Garza – United Way
Annie Harton – TARG	Kye Tavernier – Austin Public Health
Bob Andrews – Austin Bapt Assn DRT	Matt Bisacca – Red Cross
Cathy Norman – Ch of Scientology DR	Mike Jones – Hays County
Charles Baker – TX Bapt DR	Pierre Nguyen – Texas Conversation Corps
Ching-Chiang Liu – Tzu Chi Found	Roger Wines – ARES/REACT
Dan Knauft – Red Cross	Sara Record – DRTx
Dick Perrone – TARG	Shelby Thomas – OneStar Foundation
Eric Carter – Travis Cty OEM	Taylor – OneStar Foundation (phone)
	Tim Dale – ADRN

Dan asked Andrea Forte to introduce herself and her organization.

Disaster Action Response Team/DART – based out of Killeen. Organization is a group of search-trained volunteers. Instructor corp that teaches ICS courses. Primary instruction group is assists in EOCs. Work primarily in the Central Texas COG; also in Williamson County. Partner with multiple fire departments in Killeen and Copperas Cove, Heart of Texas, Salvation Army.

Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2018.

Motion to approve: Bob Andrews; 2nd: Matt
Minutes were approved unanimously.

Dan introduced Mike Jones – Hays County – as a guest.

New Business – Communication Issues – Dan Knauft

Dan discussed the following topics and robust discussion followed (see notes). Asked if we wanted to maintain our current state of organization, or ramp up to be more organized and prepared when disaster strikes.

What do we want to do moving forward?

Communication Pre-Disaster

What can we do to be more organized/structured?

EOC Staffing – rotate staffing, volunteers, vetting of volunteers

Identification of each organization's operations leaders and how to best contact them.

Weather emails to keep us ready

What resources are available?

Communication During a Disaster

Sharing operational activities between VOADs

Sharing operational activities between VOADs and Emergency Managers

Discussion:

- Roger: A citizen corp that used to be in place has recently resurfaced. Also, looking at bumping up amateur radio up a notch.
- Bob Andrews, Texas Baptist Men. Local org is part of state org. We work with the chain of command from the State. Would not be able to participate in EOC.
- Cathy: Challenge in getting more organized is the understanding that VOAD is not operational. "Ask, but not task." Readiness state of being. This is one factor. Maybe should expand matrix/grid to have narratives for people who can't participate at EOC.
- Sara: We need to work now to be prepared so we are ready in disaster.
- Emergency Management Office – Eric Carter. Interested in how we can leverage the community here to impact the citizens of Travis County as members of the state of Texas. We want to continually improve. "All disasters are local" – we can't lose sight of this. We must have a relationship locally to be effective. There are many organizations in VOAD. Would like to see a framework so we have a way to pass information to this group, and how you can find a resource to meet a need.
- Cathy explained that "not operational" does not mean "not functioning" – it's a coordination of functioning agencies. The communication factor is important. We are talking about a "readiness" level. Staffing EOC – how do they know what organizations can do, how can we communicate? Issues: We wear out the people working in the EOC, so we need more people who can effectively hold that seat, but they need info from all of us.
- Pierre: If we know what our orgs do, we can source the issues. (Like a communication board.)
- Kye, Austin Public Health: Is there a way to have a quick sheet of info?
- Dick: Need up-to-date information.
- Dan: We can get info out to orgs and see if they can respond
- Pierre: We need to know the operational leader in each org. Have we done a tabletop exercise?
- Charles, Tx Bapt Men: This group is a mini-tabletop. It could be the EOC asking questions.
- Eric: As you are discussing, you coordinate response to disasters and requests, and you have a bunch of organizations. Why does the EOC exist? It's not the EOC for the sake of the EOC – it's orgs coming together to coordinate because they don't work together on a day-to-day basis. To represent for VOAD, we'd need 1-2 individuals that would be able to efficiently coordinate an appropriate "ask"; this is challenging at best. It's overload. From City/Cty, they are dealing with tons of departments. You need to decide if it works. As a response sector – public works, law enforcement, VOADs, you should consider some form of committee / group that goes active in a disaster. Doesn't mean that everyone has to show up at all times, not 24/7. You need a planned period of in-base collaboration. Give a response time. If you only work until 5, I need to get my request in by when you leave.
- Cathy: There are conference calls in bigger disasters. We need to improve our processes in a direction that works. And train people who are knowledgeable.
- Dan: Communication during disasters: Once it strikes, we currently have a call where people say what they can do. Seems archaic. Would we be able to access Web EOC to put our info in there?
- Eric: It can be used – via a separate board or Sit Reps. The more challenging piece is handling the ask/task requests and putting the resource to it. The faster, the better.
- Andrea, DART: If you put VOAD into Web EOC, we could pull resources.
- Eric: Didn't mention the Star. As a tool, it could be used; haven't used.

- Charles asked for clarification of these terms. Dan: Web EOC to me would be for communication with ourselves. The community is a separate issue. For those participating in response activities, you can set up something in Web EOC.
- Pierre: With LTR in Harris Cty, they have a group messaging system that works well. You can create a group.
- Eric: The message here is that there are several tools – you can figure out what works. The documentation for us is that we would generate a request and capture in Web EOC. How you process internally is up to you. You all have to *use* the tools to make them effective.
- Roger: Motion to form a committee and put all the ideas out. Figure out a suggested plan. Dan said it needs to be an ad hoc committee with deadlines. Cathy: 2nd Discussion: Eric said they would want to participate in that. Everyone agreed. Dan said he would form a committee over the next few weeks.

Recruiting – Dan:

Would be great to have a way to share what we are doing to recruit more orgs.

Mike Jones, Harris Cty, suggested to send press release to the County. We want to promote what you are doing. Even after the MARC, you are still active.

Announcements:

1. Sara – Emergency Packets that were developed by ReDiscovery are available for those who didn't get last meeting.
2. Cathy: We will elect new officers in April – if you are interested in helping or co-chairing membership, let me know. Would love to have a few more people. We need to look for members and recruit new resources.
3. 211 – point of contact for disaster response.
4. Andrea, DART – we work mostly out of your area, but wanted to be here to see what we can do.
5. Charles, Crestview Baptist - continuing to respond to LTR in LaGrange.
6. Alan Ford – Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee: Had our first meeting. Interesting cross-section of people who represent different factions of people. Would be great to have someone else dealing with mental health issues. Mike with Hays Cty wants to be involved in the next committee meeting. Dick trying to get Jim Ellor, State Emotional/Spiritual Care Chair, to come to meeting. He is part of the Disaster Response Team.
7. Alan, Presbyterian Church - acquiring supplies/tools so we can be a responder similar to Baptist Men.
8. Shelby – Communications Chair – would love to help out in any way I can. Website Twitter, FB, etc.
9. Would like to have a Communications person for each organization in case you are on the ground in a disaster. Send her names she can use.
10. Bob Andrews – Terry Henderson, State Lead for Texas Baptist Men, retired. New Director for State is Duane Carter. May 3rd we are holding a training. 8-9 specialty trainings on Saturday. Check TBM.tx.org for trainings. Only cost is a background check cost - \$30.
11. Eric Carter, Travis Cty OEM: Updates – continuing to plan. Time to update the sheltering annex. We'll be bringing you more on this as it develops. CAP COG – Chair of resiliency and recovery committee. Just getting going. Did a grant application through HSC to do workshops. Soonest: Oct 1. Looking at bringing in groups over the next few months to talk about different areas. Would like to have many of you participate in our group. Will be reaching out.
12. Mike Jones – Hays County
 - September 14 – 2nd Annual Emerg Responder Fair. Cost for vendor booth for VOAD is free.

- 10 am – 4 pm. Get in front of public In Hayes County.
 - March 26th: Hays Cty CERT training – held in Wimberly. 2 weeknights and a full Saturday. Cert trainees are trained in MARCs.
 - Tabletop Exercise – Kyle Fire Dept – March 28th
 - April 13 – CERT Training will have CASH-P training.
 - Sign up through Hayes County Website if you are interested in any of these (or other) trainings.
 - Partnering with faith-based orgs.
 - Mike Jones: 512-618-0302 – call if you have ideas.
13. Annie – TARG. Working with Dan and Public Health for MARC training. Working with Amplify Austin to do some fund raising.
 14. Dick Perrone – TARG – 11 homes in full process of being restores. Another 8 in preliminary process. Feb. 28 we go to watershed council to purchase the last 50 homes in Onion Creek. Park is finished – 9.2m from half of the land that was purchased. Balance of property will be a greenbelt. Annie: May return some of the land to farmland (community gardens, etc.).
 15. Ching-Chiang Lu (Andrew) – Our int’l mission is to help people in disasters. First response and LTR. Served 6,000 in Mexico earthquakes.
 16. Tim Dale – ADRN: Robert Vidaurri is Donations Mgmt Chair. Right Gift was going to present on online donations management. Will come another time. Explained the RG program. ADRN used during the floods for targeted donations management.
 17. Roger Wines – Austin CERT: The program is no longer existent – going back to “Ready Program” via a neighborhood. ARRL – Radio Program. National Field Day for last weekend in June to make contacts around the world to test efforts in a portable situation.
 18. Matt Bisacca – Will be getting EOC trainings together. Let me or Dan know if you are interested.
 - Red Cross has some trainings coming up. April will be Save a Life – fire alarm installation. You will receive a meal and t-shirt. 78723 zip code canvassing. REDISCOVERY training.
 19. Isadora – Red Cross. Will be at EOC day and night. Will work closely with anyone who volunteers. Red Cross will have Concepts of Government Ops Training and Gov Fundamentals training soon. 9-3 on February 23rd. All classes are free.

Dan thanked Mike Jones and Eric Carter for attending the meeting.

Next Meeting: April 11th

Meeting adjourned: 11:47