

Upper Uwchlan Township Emergency Management Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 26, 2019 6:30 PM

I Call to Order

Byron Nickerson called the EMPC meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The following members were also in attendance: Richard Ruth, Kevin Cook, Julie Hearn-Nicely, Tom Kelly, John DeMarco and Jamie Goncharoff. Tony Przychodzien (Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES), Kathi McGrath, Mike Heckman, Nora LoGiudice (Malvern Borough EMC), Harold Hallman (W. Pikeland EMC) and Erika Wolfe of the American Red Cross were also in attendance.

II Approval of Previous Minutes

Julie Hearn-Nicely made a motion for the Draft Meeting Minutes to be approved. Richard Ruth seconded the motion. The motion to accept the meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

III EMPC Meeting Guest Introductions

Byron introduced Nora LoGiudice (Malvern Borough EMC), Harold Hallman (W. Pikeland EMC) and Erika Wolfe of the American Red Cross for a special presentation.

IV Red Cross Presentation

Erica Wolfe, Disaster Program Manager for the American Red Cross stated she has 2.5 years of experience with the DAT (Disaster Action Team). They have 50 regional offices in 17 Pennsylvania counties. They strive to be onsite within two hours of first contact (800-Red-Cross). The call center has been outsourced to OnStar. There are 30 volunteers in the Chester County DAT.

The three areas of DAT's concentration are Preparedness, Response (most frequently home fires), and Recovery (immediate needs – primarily the first 48 hours). The greatest time spent is in the preparation phase - educating people about disaster preparedness. Erica stated 90 percent of their workers are volunteers. They give out smoke detectors and do widespread neighborhood sweeps to educate the public of the importance of having working smoke detectors.

Erica said they frequently work with the schools to solicit volunteers and mentioned West Chester University has been a big supporter and helpful in the past.

Erica discussed the response efforts when called out for an emergency, which frequently is done by the incident commander. The Red Cross will provide funds for temporary housing at local hotels and provide additional financial assistance, as necessary. If faced with a disaster, impacted people can always call 211 and a resource (United Way, American Red Cross, etc.) will help in any way possible depending on the situation and disaster. For larger scale disasters the Red Cross has a pre-inspected national shelter system. If needed, their services may also include spiritual and mental health counseling.

V Fire Services Report

Richard Ruth reported Lionville conducted water safety and boat safety training. They also did tanker training at the Coatesville training center. Richard reminded the commission of Fire Prevention week (beginning September 30th).

VI Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report

Byron mentioned he did an inventory of the EOC storage room and has requested that Mike Heckman put a lock on the door. The work is currently underway.

VII County Report

- The County Report was distributed to the commission. Tony Przychodzien reminded the Commission that the Knowledge Center communication tool has been replaced by WebEOC April 1, 2019.
- The Coatesville Training Center was without water so emergency port a pottys were brought in, all classes were cancelled. Tony reported on MS1 Training exercise, W. Pikeland was the first to do the 3-hour training. Radiological victims were taken Brandywine Hospital. York County assisted with decontamination helping Chester Co. with mutual aid.
- Limerick Drill training for the EMPC will be October 24th and the actual Drill will be November 19th.
- Tony mentioned there are multiple county positions open in the EMC if the commission knows of anyone looking for a job refer them to the county website.

VI Training Officer Report

- Byron Nickerson encouraged EMPC members to suggest any ideas they have for emergency management training.

VII Chairman/Coordinator Report

- Limerick Drill – reminded the commission to be present for the next EMPC meeting October 24th.

VIII Old Business

Byron stated to the commission if the members had any ideas for table top exercises, to let him know.

IX New Business

Nothing to report.

X Round Table

Julie Hearn-Nicely made a motion to adjourn and Tom Kelly seconded the motion.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary