



Cuyahoga County Community Organizations Active in Disaster

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COAD Connect #11 March 31, 2018

1. Preparedness Committee

- a. Several functions have been added to the Preparedness Committee. See new functions chart attached.
 - Funding: Not actively pursuing funding opportunities but should be alert for possibilities.
 - Equipping: This currently pertains to Volunteer Registration Centers but is a generic function.
 - Facilities: This is also a generic function and can pertain to Volunteer Registration Centers and pet shelters.
- b. *Training & Exercises*
 - Work continues on the workshops for Faith-Based Organizations (see FBO Subcommittee).
 - OH197 *OH-197 Planning for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs in Disaster* will be held at Mayfield Heights Fire Department on May 16-17 (see flyer).
 - SKYWARN, which will train individuals to observe and report weather conditions, will be held at Independence Civic Center on April 19 (see flyer). **Pre-registration not required.**
 - *Tornado Awareness* will be held on April 26 at the American Red Cross (see flyer). **There are only a few seats left.**
 - COAD is participating in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise on August 14-15 at Burke Lakefront Airport. NDMS is a federal process to evacuate disaster survivors to cities where they receive medical care that is unavailable in the disaster-affected area. Cleveland is an evacuation city because of its wealth of medical facilities. COAD will be testing its Volunteer Registration Center plan. We will need 130 volunteers to act as patients and to perform NDMS tasks. Stand by for more information.

2. Mass Care Committee

- a. Nothing pending

3. Emergency Assistance Committee

- a. *Evacuation and Re-entry*
 - Waiting for an instructor to become available in 2018 for the *Evacuation and Re-entry Planning* course.



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b. *Repatriation*

- Waiting for the State and Cleveland to complete their repatriation plan, so Cuyahoga County can develop a consistent plan, and COAD can determine its role.

c. *Functional Needs Subcommittee*

- The OH-197 *Planning for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs in Disaster* course will be held at Mayfield Heights Fire Department on May 16-17 (see flyer).

d. *Animals Subcommittee*

- As yet there has been no response to our request for volunteer veterinarians to work with the Animal Decontamination Group.
- The Animals Subcommittee will continue to identify organizations to fill roles and responsibilities that were identified in the Animals in Disaster Plan. The Subcommittee will need to develop its public awareness campaign, which will inform the public about pet preparedness and sheltering.
- Sharon Nicastro is researching the elements of a pet shelter. A meeting of the Animals Subcommittee will be scheduled to begin work on a pet sheltering plan and operations guide. When completed, we should have the information we need to prepare our public awareness campaign.
- The City of Cleveland is also developing a pet sheltering guide.

e. *Faith-Based Organizations Subcommittee*

- FBO Objectives:
 - Prepare congregants for disasters.
 - Plan for the continued operation of the organization.
 - Enhance security at houses of worship.
 - Extend everyday ministries to disaster situations within the congregation and in the community.
 - Implement security measures at the house of worship.
 - Network and coordinate with other FBOs, community organizations, and local government.
 - Connect with the national/state/regional disaster response group within the faith.
 - Learn emergency management principles and operate within the emergency management system.
 - Receive planning guidelines, training, resources, and technical assistance.



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- Workshops are being created to address emergency management principles, the planning process, personal preparedness, continuity of operations, organizational security, and disaster ministry.
- Because Cuyahoga County does not have email addresses for the list of FBOs that we are developing, we will need to send recruitment notices by U.S. Postal Service.
- Geauga County Disaster Services (EMA) has joined COAD to participate in the FBO project. There will be a meeting of Geauga County's FBOs in April. Lake and Ashtabula Counties are not participating at this time.

f. *Volunteers Subcommittee*

- The Subcommittee objectives will be to
 - Network organizations that can provide volunteers or will need volunteers for a disaster response;
 - Integrate voluntary organizations into the county emergency management system;
 - Plan for the operation of a Volunteer Registration Center;
 - Credential volunteers according to FEMA guidelines; and
 - Provide training.
- The Volunteers Subcommittee has not officially launched, but research is in progress and volunteers will be recruited for the NDMS exercise (see Preparedness Committee, Training and Exercises above).
- The Subcommittee will be engaged in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise in August 2018 (see Training and Exercises above).

4. Human Services Committee

- a. Planning for a long-term recovery group will need to begin in 2018. This will be an extensive project that will require the collaboration of many organizations. There are four models long-term recovery groups from least formal to most formal: (1) Unmet Needs Committee; (2) Long-Term Recovery Committee; (3) Long-Term Recovery Organization; and (4) Community Coalition for Recovery. We will focus on the first two models because they are the one most likely to be needed in our area. We will be examining the roles of governmental and non-governmental organizations and integrating them into a case management system. We will be following the FEMA and VOAD models.
- b. On April 5, Sharon Nicastro will be meeting with representatives of the County's social service agencies to explain the disaster recovery process and enlist their aid in creating COAD's recovery plan. Thanks to Noelle Tsevdos and Kerry McAllester of the Board of Developmental Disabilities for facilitating COAD's appearance at this meeting.



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- c. Last week you might have heard about the Garden Valley apartment fire in Cleveland. The fire destroyed all units and displaced all residents. It is unlikely the residents will be able to salvage any of their belongings. The Red Cross was there to assist, and the social worker for HUD called in other organizations to assist as well. The result was a mini-MARC (Multi-Agency Recovery Center) where residents were able to talk with representatives of multiple organizations at one location. This is a concept that is consistent with COADs functions, so we will need to develop this concept further as we proceed with our recovery plan.