



Cuyahoga County Community Organizations Active in Disaster

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COAD Connect #12 April 30, 2018

1. Administration

- a. June 30, 2018, will be Sharon Nicastro's last day as President of COAD. The 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents will remain in their current positions, so COAD is looking for a new President. The position is open to all representatives of voting members. Please notify Sharon Nicastro (snicastro@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested or if you have questions.
- b. A general meeting will be held to elect the new President. All voting members should attend. Date/time/place are to be determined.

2. Preparedness Committee

- a. Several functions have been added to the Preparedness Committee.
 - 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*
 - Tom Vencl of Geauga County Disaster Services is working with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to determine if their workshops will serve the training needs of our FBO Subcommittee. In the meantime, Sharon Nicastro is still working on the original plan for COAD's workshops.
 - *OH-197 Planning for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs in Disaster* will be held at Mayfield Heights Fire Department on May 16-17.
 - **Attendance at the SKYWARN class was estimated to be 100.**
 - 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. **Serena Steele will be managing this project.** Stand by for more information.



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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.

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 drafting a *Pet Sheltering Operations Guide* to be reviewed and revised by the Animals Subcommittee. Date/time/place of the next meeting to be determined.**
- 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.



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- 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.
- Workshops are being created to address emergency management principles, the planning process, personal preparedness, continuity of operations, organizational security, and disaster ministry. **Tom Vencl of Geauga County Disaster Services is determining if workshops available from UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) will meet our needs.**
 - **Rather than trying to mobilize all FBOs in Cuyahoga County at one time, which is proving to be problematic, a plan is being considered to work with FBOs city-by-city.**

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).

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.



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- b. Sharon Nicastro and Serena Steele met with representatives of Cuyahoga County's social service agencies to explain the disaster recovery process and enlist their aid in creating COAD's recovery plan. No commitments were made.
- c. Serena Steele has assumed management of this project and will be assisted by Mike Arthur of the American Red Cross in Cleveland.