



DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
October 27, 2010, 5:30 p.m.
SanTan Conference Room

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Committee Chair Andrew Fritz called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. The following people were in attendance:

Committee Members:

Andrew Fritz, Committee Chair	Queen Creek Resident
Nancy Diab, Committee Vice Chair	HUSD - Vice Principal, Cortina Elementary
Bruce Barnes	HAM Radio/QC CERT/QC Resident
Chris Clark	Queen Creek Resident/HOA Rep
Gordon Mortensen	Queen Creek Resident
Jason Gad	Queen Creek Resident

Town Staff:

Van Summers	Fire Chief
Joe LaFortune	Emergency Management Coordinator
Keith Lloyd	Battalion Chief
Angie White	Sr. Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Nick Hansen	Queen Creek Firefighter
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Absent:

Bill Lehman	Queen Creek Resident/QC CERT
Dr. Gary Smith	QCFD Medical Director/QC Resident

2. Public Comment:

No public comments were made

3. Items for Discussion

A. Discussion and possible approval of September 22, 2010 meeting minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Committee Chair Andrew Fritz and seconded by Chris Clark to approve the minutes dated September 22, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Response District Development

The DMC discussed the development of a Response District. Chief Summers stated that this group will represent the Overhead Team, and that they will get called out just like the people who work for the Town will. He said at the district level there will be a hand full of individuals who will be significantly involved in shelter management. He said leadership will manage the CERT volunteers.

Chief Summers explained who will make up the District Teams; they include Radio Operators and CERT Volunteers. He described the roles of the District Teams which include assessment, shelter management, base logistics, field command operations, and volunteer/donations centers. He said after meeting with Bruce Barnes, that he discovered that we have a good size HAM radio operator club here in Queen Creek. Chief Summers said that we may involve them under the CERT umbrella to form this group.

Chief Summers asked Andrew Fritz to describe HAM organizations on the east coast. Mr. Fritz responded that they are used for events and mobilizations for emergencies. He said they are used more often at county or community events where there are large groups of people.

Chief Summers asked Bruce Barnes to describe what he has discovered relative to the potential of recruiting HAM operators. Mr. Barnes stated that some communities such as Goodyear have affiliated their operators with their CERT program. Once they complete the CERT program, they put them through amature radio training. He said the training is merely on how to use the radios, but not to certify. Mr. Barnes provided the committee with proposed recruitment sources, and people he has met with. He stated that these are people who work in emergency response.

Mr. Barnes explained that there are people that live outside the Town who are operators that are willing to respond. He said that it is his understanding that the Town wants their own set of operators. He pulled a list from the FCC's website, and 94 names were generated that live within Queen Creek zip codes. He mentioned the amature radio club here in Queen Creek that meets monthly. He said that he thinks it would be a good idea to invite them to Town events to allow them to practice. Chief Summers responded that Horseshoe Park has frequent events and they are relatively large. Chris Clark mentioned using them for the Holiday Parade. Andy Fritz stated that Schnepf Farms has large events, even though they are not Town sponsored, that would be a good place for them to practice.

Jason Gad, drawing on his military background, stated that having frequent exercises helped to keep people motivated in the military. He suggests as part of our program, we have some level of exercise on a frequent basis. Chief Summers commented that we will have regular meetings with them, and include them in Town special events.

Chief Summers explained that we will have the radio operator's complete CERT training, then Bruce Barnes will introduce training specific to radio users. He said he would like to exercise these people in the EOC, as well as in the districts. He stated that it is critical to see if the communications work. Gordon Mortensen commented that we will have naturals in every district that we will have on our list, just like we have people who have military background.

Chief Summers stated that we might start training our CERT volunteers in the individual districts. He said we will look to HAM operators to bring along CERT volunteers to respond along with them.

Jason Gad asked Chris Clark how the Neighborhood Watch programs recruit people. He stated that there might be something we can learn from these programs, and maybe we could recruit at the same time.

Discussion ensued on volunteerism. Andy Fritz stated that we need to do a reality check about volunteerism. He said that retention on the east coast was the biggest challenge. Chief Lloyd explained that volunteerism isn't really in our culture now days. Nancy Diab suggested getting this out to the kids in school, such as the seniors. Gordon Mortensen responded that we could build a fairly large database of volunteers to include boy scouts, veterans, and HOA boards. He said we should have them in the database with addresses geographically. Chris Clark explained that we can get volunteers if we are very specific about what the need is, where, and what time.

Chief Lloyd explained that when we've held trainings for current CERT members, only a few of them showed up. Chris Clark stated that using a phone tree is something we should think about, he said he thinks it's about ten cents a call.

Bruce Barnes stated that the HAM community is alive and well, even though you don't know they are there. He said that people are involved in multiple facets. The Town would just be one more thing they would be involved with.

Nancy Diab asked if the Town has thought of hiring a volunteer coordinator. Chief Summers explained the Town's economic situation and stated that we won't be doing any hiring, and that we will have to figure this out differently. He said it is his intention to use the people on the DMC, and assign a district to them. Andy Fritz responded that the Citizen Leadership program is a good resource if you're looking for leaders. He said it would be a good idea to add CERT information to part of their curriculum.

Nick Hansen, a Queen Creek Firefighter who is currently a member of the department's Emergency Management Committee, explained that they are working on revising the current CERT registration form that will be sent out to CERT members to obtain information on individual skills and update contact information. Once the data has been collected, it will then be imputed into a database currently being created by Town staff.

Chief Summers discussed the roles of the District Teams; he stated that we will train in these areas including assessment, shelter management, base logistics, field command operations, and volunteer/donation centers. He said that we plan on training in a way that can bring them out of districts, and that we can customize training based on how we want to put this plan together.

Chief Summers explained the difference between emergency response and recovery. He said we will set up a volunteer/donations center and train our CERT volunteers to support in the recovery phase of a disaster. Gordon Mortensen responded that we should try to keep people home who can sustain themselves. Chief Summers said that people who can flee will flee. We will have sheltering in place for those who cannot.

Chief Summers commented that reverse 911 is already in place, and we already have the capability to speak to people via LAN lines, he stated that Joe LaFortune is looking into cellular as well. He commented that we have to consider the disaster; a chlorine tanker overturned is a more likely scenario, or influenza or some other type of infection. Battalion Chief Lloyd responded that if we have a disaster that is out of our capabilities, we will first need to obtain a declaration of emergency, we could then get the assistance we need.

Jason Gad commented about the District Leadership list, and stated that he agrees to have a very decentralized list, and to have defined rules for each position. Chief Summers mentioned an idea Bruce Barnes and he had is to have a book of rules for each specialist. He said we will train everyone in each of the positions. Chief Summers mentioned again that this group will come and support the Overhead Team for the Town. Each of the DMC members will be assigned a district. Bruce Barnes responded that we need to begin organizing the HAM's without waiting for approval.

C. Information Needs for Writing Plan

1. Contact information for all church's identified as potential shelter locations
2. Contact information for all public or private schools identified as potential shelter locations

D. Schedule future Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday November 15, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

4. Announcements

No announcements

5. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Passed and approved on _____

Andrew Fritz, Committee Chair