



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council

Date: Thursday, September 15, 2005
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: COG Board Room-Third Floor
777 North Capitol Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

AGENDA

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes
(2:00-2:05)**

*Bruce Williams, Councilmember & Mayor Pro Tem,
City of Takoma Park, Maryland
Chair, Emergency Preparedness Council*

Recommended Action: Approve July 2005 minutes.

**2. Hurricane Katrina – National Capital Region Impact and Response
(2:05-2:35)**

*David Robertson, Executive Director,
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments*

Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath have had a devastating impact on the New Orleans region and a large portion of the Gulf Coast. On September 8 regional leaders held a conference call to discuss how local jurisdictions might collectively reexamine individual and region wide preparedness plans to account for potential delays in federal support. The Council will be briefed on three issues relevant to the National Capital Region: 1) National Capital Region aid to stricken areas and support for evacuees; 2) regional coordination concerning energy supply and conservation; and 3) guidance to reassess emergency plans at all levels.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing, discuss proposed efforts to revise regional and jurisdictional plans, and outline the EPC role in this effort.

3. NCR Strategic Plan Update and Next Steps

(2:35-3:05)

*Tom Lockwood, Director,
Office of National Capital Region Coordination,
US Dept. of Homeland Security*

On September 9 the final regional forum was held, involving key stakeholders from various local, state and federal agencies and organizations, to finalize the National Capital Region Homeland Security Strategic Plan. The forum produced a number of proposed follow up actions, through which the region's leaders will look to develop and define specific, measurable initiatives for implementation over the coming weeks. Mr. Lockwood will brief the Council regarding proposed next steps to achieve and implement the strategic goals and objectives of the plan and to integrate the NCR plan with individual jurisdiction plans.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discuss next steps.

4. Preparedness for Special Needs Populations

(3:05-3:20)

*Hilary Styron, Director
National Organization on Disability's Emergency
Preparedness Initiative*

The terrorist attacks on the nation in the fall of 2001 and the devastation brought forth by Hurricane Katrina have reinforced the need for all residents to prepare in advance for emergencies, both man-made and natural. Preparedness planning that is inclusive of the concerns and requirements of individuals with special needs and disabilities must be integral pieces in every individual, jurisdictional, regional, and national emergency plan. Ms. Styron will brief the Council on programs initiated by the National Organization on Disability to address the concerns and contributions of the special needs community.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing, formulate steps for including special needs populations concerns in NCR preparedness planning revisions, and refer follow up to the appropriate ESF.

5. Report on Outdoor Warning Systems Study

(3:20-3:35)

*Robert Griffin, Emergency Manager, Arlington County

Laura Olson, The George Washington University*

The issue of outdoor warning systems, sometimes referred to as sirens, has been of ongoing interest to the Council and the general public. While emergency management officials have generally been moving in the direction of new technologies to alert the public to emergencies and incidents, many have suggested that sirens be revisited as an outdoor warning option. COG's Emergency Managers Committee previously prepared a brief assessment of outdoor warning systems for the Council's review. COG later obtained approval to undertake a best practices study on outdoor warning systems, which is now complete. The Council will be briefed on the outcomes of the study.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and refer follow up to the appropriate ESF.

6. Private Sector Updates
(3:35-3:55)

*Bob Peck, President,
Greater Washington Board of Trade*

*Chuck Bean, Executive Director, Nonprofit Roundtable of
Greater Washington*

*Linda Mathes, President, American Red Cross of the National
Capital Region*

*John Childers, President, Consortium of Universities of the
Greater Washington Area*

The Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington, the American Red Cross of the National Capital Region, and the Consortium of Universities of the Greater Washington Area have been integral private sector partners on preparedness initiatives undertaken in the National Capital Region. Representatives of each organization will provide updates on accomplishments to date as well as planned activities with regard to further initiatives.

Recommended Action: Receive briefings.

7. Wrap Up and Adjournment
(3:55-4:00)

Chairman Williams

The Council is scheduled to meet next on November 3, 2005 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.