

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE

August 4, 2015 – 5:00 pm – Council Chambers – Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AGENDA ADOPTION:

1. Bi-Monthly Emergency Management Report – Bryan Rush
2. Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company Report
3. Tide Gauge Update
4. Committee Member Comments

ADJOURN:

TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BI-MONTHLY REPORT

**Submitted by Bryan Rush
July 28, 2015**

PLANNING

AVIAN INFLUENZA

The Eastern Shore Disaster Preparedness Coalition is working with the Eastern Shore Health Department, Perdue, and Tyson to establish a sub-committee to incorporate the Delmarva Avian Influenza Plan here on Virginia's shore. Avian Influenza is currently located in 15 states and has affected 50 million birds. The sub-committee will help educate and disseminate information to the local poultry growers as local agricultural support is lacking. Avian influenza could have a very negative financial impact.

ANTARES

Orbital Sciences has announced that the next Antares launch is scheduled for April 2016. A hot fire test will be held in February 2016. The hot fire test will be used as an exercise to address after action issues identified during the failed October 2014 launch.

HAZZARD MITIGATION

The group working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan is waiting on FEMA to finish the HAZUS model run for the Eastern Shore, at which time the risk analysis can begin.

FIREWORKS

The annual July 4th Fireworks celebration occurred on July 6th as the originally scheduled night was postponed due to weather. Issues addressed in last year's after action report made the postponement a much easier process this year. The after action report for 2015 has been completed and only includes some very minor changes for next year.

EXERCISE

A planning committee for an Eastern Shore exercise has been formed. The committee consists of members of the Eastern Shore emergency management agencies, Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service. The exercise will be designed to test communications abilities of the shore's EOC's. The exercise will focus more on recovery than response. The exercise is tentatively scheduled for the February/March 2016 time frame.

LOGISTICS

HAM RADIO POWER SUPPLY

A new power supply has been purchased and installed in the EOC for the amateur radio. The old power supply failed during testing.

TIDE GAUGE

The tide gauge for Chincoteague is currently logging data. The Town signed a five year agreement with the USGS to provide \$3,000 a year for five years toward maintenance of the gauge. Supervisor Thornton in support of a gauge for Saxis, VA., in Accomack County, proposed the County should also fund the gauge on Chincoteague. Supervisor Thornton was successful in her motion and Accomack County Emergency Management will now be funding the gauge, saving the Town \$15,000 over five years.

VDEM CHANGES

Re-organization of VDEM is occurring. A more local concept is being developed. In the changes, Wallace Twigg Region 5 Coordinator retired as of July 1. Bruce Sterling is currently serving as interim Region 5 Coordinator. Also, Hurricane Planner Stewart Baker retired July 1. The Hurricane Planner is being absorbed into planning in Region 5. Patricia Chappell will serve as Planner.

TRAINING

BASIC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COURSE

FEMA in cooperation with VDEM will be offering a Basic Emergency Management Academy in October. The course is presented in a two week format where the student will spend a week on-site, return home for two weeks with assigned course work and then return for a week to finish the course. VDEM and FEMA pay all costs except for a \$360 meal plan. Emergency Management Coordinator Rush with assistance from Town Manager Ritter submitted an application for Kevin Holloway to attend. Currently, the Town does not have redundancy in the emergency management area; this will help to achieve that. Acceptance to the program should be forth coming.

CODE RED REFRESHER

A refresher training, on the Town's Code Red system (emergency notification) was held via webinar on June 17, 2015.

OPERATIONS

DAILY WEATHER MONITORING

Daily weather monitoring is on-going, with situational awareness emails sent to department heads as necessary. In the period June - July there has only been 2 weather conference calls and those were direct calls with Wakefield to determine the extent of weather impacting the fireworks. Additionally, 4 weather briefings were sent to department heads in reference to the potential for severe weather.

PONY PENNING

The Pony Penning IAP was distributed to all departments and agencies assisting with Pony Swim activities. Virginia State Police, Accomack County Sheriff's Department, Northampton County EMS, Oak Hall Rescue, Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Company, Parksley Volunteer Fire Company, Accomack County Schools, Town of Chincoteague Police, Town of Chincoteague Public Works, Town of Chincoteague EMS, and Town of Chincoteague General Government, and many volunteers participated in event operations.

At the time of this report, the event was ongoing. An after action report will be developed to assist in future planning for the event.

EBOLA

Continued Ebola monitoring is ongoing by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health. No active cases within Virginia at this time. Plans are being continually updated and revised to facilitate an emergency response if needed; however, this planning is being scaled back as the Ebola crisis seems to be waning.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

PREPAREDNESS

Disaster preparedness information will continue on the Town's web page, information kiosk in the office, and on the quarterly newsletter.