

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 8, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

**1. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

In attendance were:

Chairperson Osby  
Commissioner Grossman  
Commissioner Miller  
Commissioner Perett

The Commission excused Commissioners Leap, Manning, Milliman, and Stanley. This meeting did not have a quorum. No action was taken on agenda items.

Chairperson Osby welcomed Commander Michael Grossman, Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, to the Commission. Commissioner Grossman replaces Commissioner Hutchens.

**2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS**

The audience made self-introductions.

**3. ACTION TO APPROVE JULY 13, 2005, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005, AND JANUARY 11, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

The Commission accepted and filed the above minutes as written.

**4. PRESENTATIONS: "HURRICANE KATRINA SEARCH AND RESCUE LESSONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CALIFORNIA"**

- \* Captain Lawrence Collins  
Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 103
- \* Los Angeles County Fire Department

The USAR 103 team was deployed to Mississippi to manage Federal search and rescue operations. Even though the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has substantial resources, they were overwhelmed by Katrina. The Federal system does not take over operations of a disaster. Federal teams support the incident commander by establishing a unified command and taking care of issues that are presented to them. Today's Federal system allows coordinated response efforts of inner agency teams during disaster operations.

Strikingly, the damage of Hurricane Katrina aftermath is similar to damages of tsunamis and catastrophic earthquakes. The timing and warning are the main differences between hurricanes and other natural disasters. Most disasters have little or no warning. Hurricanes do give significant warning time. A video was shown of damage similarities and the team's rescue efforts on hurricanes, tsunamis, and earthquakes. Mississippi had over 80,000 structures that had to be searched, marked, and identified. Because there were no land marks, street signs, and maps, the teams faced many new challenges during their rescue efforts. FEMA deployed 11 taskforce teams. Due to NIMS and the ICS system there was an unprecedented cooperation across the nation. There is now world-wide standardization of emergency taskforces.

Operations in Mississippi were successful because they seem to be familiar with the National Response Plan and were willing to work with the federal teams.

(A more detailed summary of this presentation is being prepared under separate cover.)

**5. SUMMARY REPORTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2005 PRESENTATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND DISASTERS, AND JANUARY 11, 2006 PRESENTATION ON CHALLENGES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND ORANGE COUNTY DISASTER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAMS IN THE GULF COAST, (ACTION), CARLA MAHLER**

The Commission accepted and filed the above presentations as written.

**6. EPC 2006 WORKPLAN, (ACTION), CARLA MAHLER**

Commissioners will review the plan and provide Ms. Mahler with comments.

**7. EPC SEMINAR REPORT, (INFORMATION), COMMISSIONER MILLIMAN**

Bryan Cook, Commissioner Milliman's Assistant, provided an outline for the May seminar and requested the Commission's input. The proposed theme for the seminar is "Making the Best Better". Although California has the best integrated disaster planning and management system in the United States, Hurricane Katrina presented new challenges. Proposed topics include the County of Los Angeles' Ability to Respond to a Large-Scale Disaster, inter-jurisdictional evacuation planning; the new mission and organization of the EPC; and a technology panel.

Commissioners will review the proposed seminar and also consider having the seminar in June instead of May to allow more time to develop the program.

**8. EPC AD HOC COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL, (INFORMATION), COMMISSIONER MILLIMAN**

This item was deferred.

**9. EPC CHAIR'S REPORT, CHAIRPERSON OSBY**

Chairperson Osby shared his experience participating in the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative. Fifty emergency managers throughout the nation brainstormed the National Preparedness Plan, NIMS, and lessons learned in recent disasters. Commissioner Osby said it was invigorating and encouraging to be with fifty emergency managers.

Commissioners are to submit their reports on their 2005 accomplishments and achievements, and their goals and objectives for 2006 to Ms. Mahler. Commissioners are to also review the proposed 2006 Workplan and forward their revisions to Ms. Mahler.

**10. STAFF REPORT, CARLA MAHLER**

Ms. Mahler announced Commissioner Perett's retirement from the County of Los Angeles. Thanks and appreciation to Captain Frawley for his continued support with the EPC meetings.

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perett informed everyone that, in spite of the horrible devastation from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the current federal budget reduces the emergency management performance grants. She also spoke on the County Chief Administrative Office's analysis on the Federal budget. The document shows how local services will be affected by the budget cuts. Commissioner Perett has an extensive e-mail list that she forwards information to. If you would like to be on this list, please leave your business card.

## 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

## 13. MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA TO BE DISCUSSED AND (IF REQUESTED) PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION.

None.

## 14. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

15. The Brown Act provides an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Commission on any item of interest to the public, before or during the Commission's consideration of the item. If you wish to speak regarding an agenda item, please notify the Staff Assistant who will forward your request to the Chair. If you wish, you can also address the Commission on an item not listed on the agenda.

16. **ADJOURN:** The next EPC meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at the City of Glendale, Council Chambers, 613 East Broadway, Second Floor. Please call Carla Mahler, EPC Staff Assistant, at (323) 980-2262 for additional information.

TM:CM