



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee
held at the

St Johns Ambulance Sub Centre
Mount Barker Road, Mount Barker
5.30pm Tuesday 1 February 2011

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Meeting declared open by the Chairperson at 5.30pm

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present:

Cr Sue Etherington (Chair)	Shire of Plantagenet
Gary Wann	State Emergency Service
Rob Clarke	St John Ambulance
Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Jeff Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Andrew Buchanan	Shire of Plantagenet
Murray Wills	Plantagenet Bush Fire Service
Allan Keogh	Mount Barker Police
Andrea Rees-Carter	Department of Corrections – Pardelup Prison Farm
Alanna Robins	Department of Health
Ruth York	Department of Health
Adam Smith	FESA

Apologies:

Sarah Evans	Department for Child Protection
Barry Cross	State Emergency Service
Nicole Selesnew	Shire of Plantagenet
Eric Howard	Shire of Plantagenet

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Jeff Drage, seconded Murray Wills:

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held 2 November 2010 be confirmed.

CARRIED

4 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER REPORT

Location / Address: N / A
Name of Applicant: N / A
Author: Andrew Buchanan
Date of Report: 7 January 2011

Emergency Preparation

The Shire of Plantagenet is well catered for in emergency response, we have a very strong Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and a good population of responders. However we must never overlook an opportunity to work together and find ways to improve our level of preparedness. Emergency Management Australia (EMA) conducts a number of emergency management courses throughout the year. Most of these are held in Victoria however a number of the courses are starting to be delivered locally. An Introduction to Recovery Management course is being held in Albany later in this year and I would encourage anyone who is interested to attend this or any similar course that becomes available. If anyone does attend these or any other courses relevant to the LEMC, it would be good if you could deliver a short presentation to this group aimed at sharing some of the knowledge you gained from the course. If anyone is interested in attending or would like more information please give me a call on 9892 1149.

Westplan Bushfire

After a number of years and several draft copies, the State Emergency Management Plan (Westplan) Bushfire has been approved. It has been developed by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA). The document outlines the management arrangements, responsibilities and procedures for organisations involved in bushfire Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. If anyone would like a copy of the document, please contact me on 9892 1149.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS / MATTERS ARISING

Mount Barker Police

Due to recent storm events across the state, a number of local police stations are looking into flood risk to roads, properties and the community. It may be beneficial to form a working group to identify flood risk in this Shire and any potential impacts to essential

infrastructure including the resources required to form a response to a flood event. FESA is currently analysing flood threats to communities and preparedness across the region as such may be able to provide a great deal of information in the coming months. Pending the information provided to the LEMC, a working group may be formed to ensure a holistic flood response plan for this Shire is developed.

The LEMC is due for a major exercise. An exercise was planned for October 2010 but due to the early onset of the bushfire season, it has been postponed.

Action:

Jeff Drage and Andrew Buchanan to plan a major multi agency exercise.

Shire of Plantagenet Bush Fire Service

After an early start to the bushfire season, things have cooled off in recent months with only a small number of fires. The recent threat from Tropical Cyclone Bianca caused a Total Fire Ban to be imposed across the South West Land Division including this Shire. Lighting strikes caused two small fires over the course of the weekend however they were both quickly extinguished. Good rainfall figures ensured that any undetected fires caused by lighting strikes were also extinguished.

Department of Health

During the recent Cyclone alert, the District Emergency Management Committee met as an Operational Area Support Group (OASG), meeting regularly throughout the event. In a number of Shires within the Great Southern Region, LEMC's met to discuss the level of preparedness and also threat to the communities. It was noted that the Shire of Plantagenet LEMC did not meet and that if a similar event should threaten this Shire, the LEMC should be called together to discuss any issues and share information. In future, the LEMC can be activated as an OASG and contacted via the Shires existing SMS notification.

Action:

All LEMC members to notify Andrew Buchanan of the mobile phone numbers of key persons in their organisations to be notified if the LEMC needs to be activated as an OASG.

Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service

The Hospital recently conducted an evacuation drill that proved that the hospital is well prepared for an evacuation but identified a number of areas for improvement. The greatest issue identified was the large

amount of equipment required to support evacuees from the hospital. Another issue identified from previous emergency events is that the public expect to be able to get information from the Hospital not only relating to existing patients but also any injuries relating to an incident. This puts strain on staff as the Hospital is not set up to receive a large number of calls. These issues are anticipated to be resolved through ongoing evacuation drills and further development of the evacuation procedure.

Mount Barker Fire and Rescue Service

The Brigade has been very quiet with only a HAZMAT incident in Denmark and a request for support from the Police to an incident north of Albany. The Brigade also helped with the evacuation drill for the hospital.

St John Ambulance

The Mount Barker Sub-Branch received 35 calls for assistance last month which is around the average for this time of year. There has been a noticeable lack of motor vehicle accidents over the Christmas and New Year period which has been good to see. The Ambulance service currently has 13 members and there is proposal for a Paramedic to be employed in the region covering a number of shires. It has not been decided where the Paramedic will be based but it is likely the position will be based in Denmark. The Sub Centre is undergoing renovations and it is expected that works will be completed in the next 12 months.

Pardelup Prison Farm

A Western Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN) Radio has been installed in the Pardelup Fire Truck (Pardelup 3.4) and Officers recently undertook training in its operation. Officers and Inmates also undertook Water Bomber Reloading training at Karri Oak Airstrip.

State Emergency Service (SES)

The SES has recently undertaken a land search for a missing hiker in the Stirling Ranges. The Unit also had a number of members who undertook the Water Bomber Reloading Training taking the number of qualified members to six. The Unit keeps a store of sand bags at the Mount Barker Depot however should more be required, a larger cache is kept in Albany.

Tropical Cyclone Bianca

On 28 January 2010 Tropical Cyclone Bianca appeared to be following a path that would eventually affect the Shire of Plantagenet. Advice from the Bureau of Meteorology suggested it would reach land near Bunbury as a Category 1 Cyclone with the potential to reduce intensity to a severe rain bearing depression as it travelled inland. Weather warnings suggested flash flooding, strong winds and thunderstorms. The FESA Albany Regional Operations Centre (ROC) was activated to manage the event, managed by the Regional Duty Coordinator. The greatest concern for the FESA ROC was the potential for severe to catastrophic fire weather ahead of the cyclone impacting this and surrounding Shires. This combined with two fires running concurrently near Esperance totalling 11,000ha. On Friday 28 January an OASG was formed of representatives of the DEMC and met at 1430hrs.

A number of severe thunderstorms were experienced along the western coast from Geraldton southwards and eventually impacting York and Northam as well as a number of other smaller towns including Katanning. The thunderstorms passed over very quickly typically impacting areas for 20 to 30 minutes but brought very strong winds and significant rainfall. This caused damage to a number of houses, properties and essential infrastructure. It is important to note, these thunderstorms were not part of the cyclone system, rather the effect of warm moist (tropical) air being drawn south by the cyclone.

On Saturday afternoon the cyclone deteriorated to a rain bearing depression and the main front passed over this area some time in the late afternoon. By the time it impacted this area, the strong winds and rain had abated and no damage was reported.

The towns impacted by the severe storms are now in a recovery phase and are experiencing a number of difficulties with this including availability of resources, reporting of damage and in smaller towns, a lack of media attention. The storm damage has been declared a natural disaster and as such people and local governments affected are eligible for assistance payments through the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA).

LEMC Promotion

The group discussed writing regular articles for the Plantagenet News aimed at educating the community that the LEMC exists and some of the functions of the organisations represented on LEMC. The following roster was developed to ensure that each organisation has time to write the article.

Closing date for Articles	Organisation
17 February	LEMC-Executive Officer
17 March	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
28 April	SES
26 May	Mount Barker VFRS
23 June	St Johns Ambulance
21 July	Pardelup Prison Farm
18 August	Mount Barker Police
29 September	Mount Barker Red Cross
29 October	Department for Child Protection
27 November	Plantagenet Bush Fire Service
8 December	LEMC-Chair

6 NEXT MEETING

5.30pm Tuesday 3 May 2011 at the Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service (Mount Barker Hospital).

7 MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting closed 7.00pm

CONFIRMED:CHAIRPERSON_____DATE:___/___/___