



**SEPA VOAD Full Business Meeting**  
**Monday, July 27th, 2015, 4:30 – 6:30 pm**  
**Bux-Mont Baptist Church**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Total Number in Attendance: 24

Organizations in Attendance:

- 2-1-1 SEPA / UWGPSNJ
- American Radio Relay
- American Red Cross
- Bucks County Health Department
- Bucks MH/ DP
- Chester County OEM
- Delaware County Emergency Services
- KCIT
- Liberty Lutheran Disaster Services
- Montgomery County DPS
- OPC Disaster Relief
- PA Department of Human Services
- Philly OEM
- PSEC UCC
- The Salvation Army
- Southern Baptist Disaster Relief
- Team Rubicon
- UMCOR

**NVOAD Conference**

- Ten SEPA VOAD members—including a majority of the Council—attended the NVOAD (National Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster) Conference held in New Orleans from May 11-15.

**Train Derailment**

- On May 12, 2015, an Amtrak train running from Washington, D.C. bound for New York City derailed and crashed in the northeast corridor of Philadelphia resulting in 8 deaths and over 200 injured.
- The Red Cross and The Salvation Army both responded; a number of other HHS agencies reached out offering assistance. NY OEM worked and coordinated with Philly OEM.
- A Friends & Family center, providing mental care, was opened. A secondary center was opened at 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station once it became clear most injured passengers simply wanted to treat their injuries and continue home.
- The City will be holding a formal “after-action” meeting with local partners. Amtrak will be doing a separate after-action at a later date.

**Philly OEM – Volunteer and Donations Management Plan**

- The City of Philadelphia’s Volunteer and Donations Management Plan was finalized and distributed in June. This is considered the first phase of revising the City’s overall Response Plan.
- The Volunteer and Donations Management Plan seeks to provide the City with a clear understanding of voluntary agencies’ capabilities, establish a process for accepting spontaneous volunteers and donations, and identify potential volunteer roles to support disaster response and recovery, such as debris removal, canvassing,



damage assessment, etc.

### DelCo Storm

- June 23<sup>rd</sup> thunderstorm was a no-notice disaster. Rolled in with straight-line winds of up to 85mph.
- Aston and Brookhaven were overwhelmed early on; Chester, Chester Heights and Middle Heights also among areas most affected.
- Team Rubicon was called to respond. On their 100<sup>th</sup> deployment, TR filed 33 work orders completed by 46 members. There is still considerable damage to be cleaned up—lots of downed trees, despite there still being crews working fulltime.
- Mold remediation continues to be an unmet need. Anyone with the ability to provide assistance in this area, please contact Ed Kline at [EKline@delcodes.org](mailto:EKline@delcodes.org).
- SEPA VOAD was contacted to help identify an organization to provide food assistance—Red Cross, Operation BBQ Relief, and LDR through St. Timothy's Lutheran Church responded. While need was met, questions arose regarding best procedure to handle such requests moving forward. The SEPA VOAD Council will revisit the issue and solidify proper chain of contact.

### Regional Mass Care Project Update

- Project is not a plan for all 5 counties, but rather an assessment of current procedures. Consultants, hired using funds from the SEPA VOAD Task Force, will be reviewing all Mass Care plans.

### National Preparedness Month

- September is National Preparedness Month. Sponsored by FEMA, National Preparedness Month aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.
- Current events open to agencies for information-sharing and tabling include:
  - Preparedness Fair – *Amtrak will provide 1 table and 2 chairs per agency.*  
When: Wednesday, September 9 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm  
Where: Amtrak's 30th Street Station
  - Preparedness Fair – *The Franklin Institute will provide 1 table and 2 chairs per agency.*  
When: Wednesday, September 16 from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Where: The Franklin Institute

Contact Theodore Harkness at [Theo.Harkness@Phila.gov](mailto:Theo.Harkness@Phila.gov) by August 7<sup>th</sup> if interested in attending either or both of these events as a representative for your organization.

### Agency Updates

- VOAD support is not, at this time, anticipated to be needed for the papal visit. There may still be opportunities for volunteers in the city and within the surrounding counties through HHS organizations.
- Two tool trailers, housed in Bethlehem, were purchased using a UCC Ministries grant
- Southern Baptist Disaster Relief hopes to have a donated disaster relief recovery unit online and ready to use by late fall. In need of flood buckets—currently running low.
- The PA VOAD/PEMA Conference previously scheduled for August has been postponed.



## Discussion and Information Sharing

- Bob Myers of The Salvation Army recently returned from deployment to Nepal, where he had been working in response to the earthquake that affected the area earlier this year.
- Brian Buhman of Team Rubicon welcomed baby boy Grant Thomas Buhman (20 inches, 7.9 lbs) into the world on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Noëlle Foizen of Philly OEM is currently expecting her first baby in August. If you have any outstanding business with the HHS Program Manager needing to be resolved before she takes leave, schedule it now!
- American Red Cross offers a 24-hour report on activities, released daily. To be added to the distribution list, please contact Kevin Bone at [Kevin.Bone@redcross.org](mailto:Kevin.Bone@redcross.org).
- American Red Cross is revising the list of resources provided to clients (provided by county). To add your organization to the list, please contact Kevin Bone at [Kevin.Bone@redcross.org](mailto:Kevin.Bone@redcross.org).
- Chester County is in need of assistance in clearing remaining downed trees that occurred as a result of last month's storms. If able to lend a hand or provide volunteer group(s), contact Janet Zeis at [JZeis@chesco.org](mailto:JZeis@chesco.org).

## Upcoming Trainings and Events

- **Logistics Exercise** – *This is a big annual logistics exercise where tents and other equipment are checked to ensure proper working order. All volunteers will be treated to a FREE bar-b-que lunch provided by Operation BBQ Relief.*  
When: Saturday, August 8, 2015 from 9 am to 1 pm  
Where: Delaware County 911 Center, 360 N. Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063  
Registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xt69YIM2IKqdknbTey6s1cnlhKAoTR4XJH5qL4sxKEM>
- **County Hospital MCI Exercise** – *A countywide exercise of EMS and hospital Mass Casualty Incident capability. Volunteers are needed to be victims for this exercise and ride in an ambulance. Light breakfast refreshments will be served.*  
When: Thursday, August 20, 2015 from 8 am to noon  
Where: DelCo Emergency Services Training Center, 1600 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill, PA 19079  
Registration: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SdPq\\_OrXfCoVpV1k7Lv\\_ObhZYYYI6NR7XrcsLfsBDml](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SdPq_OrXfCoVpV1k7Lv_ObhZYYYI6NR7XrcsLfsBDml)
- **Psychological First Aid and Responder Safety & Preventing Collective Violence; Group, Crowd, Mob**—*Taught by Steve Crimando. Funded by OMHSAS, opportunity offered free of cost to the southeastern counties for training in preparation for the Papal visit in September.*  
When: Saturday September 12, 2015 from 9am to 5pm  
Where: Delaware County Intermediate Unit, 200 Yale Avenue, Morton, PA 19063  
Registration will be handled by OMHSAS and has not yet been set up.
- **Mental Health First Aid** - *The Office of Behavior Health is providing this program that introduces individuals to risk factors and warning signs of mental illnesses, build understanding of their impact, and overviews common supports. As disaster volunteers responding to various situations having this training to add to their tool box would be an asset to those they are serving.*  
When: Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 9 am to 5 pm  
Where: Delaware County 911 Center, 360 N. Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063  
Registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1k-9de5Nu63ROHmxd1LMTOrRKVvz6CnjxqMGxZfH-sOo>



- **KCIT Basic Crisis Response Training** – 25-hour course providing training to qualified individuals to work as a team with the goal of helping people in crisis cope with the physical, emotional, and behavioral reactions to trauma in the aftermath of a community crisis. Note: there is a \$200 training fee.

When: October 13-16, 2015

Where: Best Western Hotel and Conference Center, Bethlehem, PA

Registration: Contact Michelle Kern at [Michelle@novabucks.org](mailto:Michelle@novabucks.org)

### Action Items

- SEPA VOAD Council will revisit protocols for resource needs communications and first response agencies.
- Future funding sources for disaster equipment pod to be discussed and explored.
- Organizations are encouraged to keep SEPA VOAD aware of their current resources. Methods of keeping and updating this information will be explored at the next meeting.