

**Waluga Neighborhood Association
Emergency Preparedness Meeting
January 20, 2016, 7:00 pm**

Notes on a talk by Kathleen Elliott, Red Cross Volunteer

Present at the meeting:

Frank and Irene, Jill, Leslie, Zach, Ann Newcomer, Susan from the church, Elenya, Kristin, Jan, and me.

Site Selection: RC does not divulge its sites to the public. The institution that owns the site volunteers to become one. In this case the church called the RC and offered to become an emergency site, and after investigating it using our own criteria, the RC accepted. The criteria include, for example, size (big enough to array many cots), presence of showers and toilets, kitchen facilities, etc. In other cases RC may call an organization after a disaster and ask if RC can use their site for a shelter. Once RC chooses a site, they take full responsibility for manning it using their own volunteers, sometimes flown in from outside the region.

Cooperation with the neighborhood organization: The RC does not plan to cooperate with WNA and its Emergency Prep group. RC never makes such plans, although RC welcomes your members to the shelter if a disaster occurs. RC brings in their own staff and asks the facility if they want to provide staff. RC asks how many people the staff will likely be able to serve. RC has to investigate all volunteers and staff beforehand to assure safety and competence. So it does not divulge in advance who has access and how to contact them. Nor are any supplies or tools needed or pre-positioned onsite.

RC Brings in Everything: When an emergency occurs, RC brings in trailers full of equipment and supplies. They are prepositioned and supplied with blankets, cots, paperwork, comfort kits (including tooth brushes, feminine hygiene products, adult diapers but no children's diapers), cell phones, computers, satellite dishes, ham radio (with operator), and generator. (Susan, the church representative, at this point inserted that the church is planning to buy its own emergency generator.) The Baptists also bring in trailers to feed people, and they provide laundry services. If possible RC will buy food locally.

Example: two weeks ago when a landslide threatened an apartment complex in Oregon City, RC used a nearby school for a shelter for the people living in the apartments that were affected. In this region, in contrast to the Mid-West, people are reluctant to use shelters. Of nearly 100 people who had to evacuate the apartments threatened by the landslide, only 23 showed up at the shelter.

Services: the RC feeds people in the shelter 3 times a day plus snacks and provides information from their radio contacts once a day. The shelter might have day care if possible, but no pets are allowed except service animals (limited to dogs and ponies). So everyone needs to think about

their pets. [Ed's note: she actually said that.] Sometimes the Humane Society will bring a pet shelter to the site.

Access to the sleeping area is always open, although everyone has to sign in and out. People are free to come and go at will.

What to Bring if you Come – if you can: blankets, pillow, toothbrush, food (optional), medications. But if you have nothing, RC will provide these things- except prescription drugs. Not allowed: guns, alcohol, and visitors
RC is Not Responsible for personal possessions such as your purse or laptop.

Medical Care: A professional health services person will be on site at all times – registered nurse or EMT – as well as a licensed Mental Health professional – all cleared in advance by the RC. Local medical personnel will not be recognized or allowed to contribute, since the RC has no way to conduct background checks on them in advance.

About our Local School – Suggestions: It might make sense to use this shelter for the kids at Lake Grove Elementary. Susan reported that since the bus drivers are using the church parking lot, church staff are in a conversation with the principal and might be able to suggest this. Other potential contacts: CERT members could contact the school and Kristin is a member of the PTA and might be able to make the connection. [She also volunteered that at their previous school in California, every child was required to bring an emergency kit to school containing extra clothing, water bottle, snacks for 3 days, and a photo of the child's parents.)

Expectations for the local community: use the facility.
RC will accept limited help from neighbors who volunteer when the time comes. The church could also send us a list of volunteers to be trained in advance by the RC to work alongside RC staff in the event (minimum of 12 people to form a class).

Donations to the RC are welcome: the RC would be happy to accept donations of money from all who want to support this program. It will not accept, however, donations of *things* such as blankets, cots, food, etc. It will only purchase items that meet its standards, and it insists on providing standard things to all people in shelters; everyone receives equal treatment, no variation.

Reactions: Irene shared that, given the realities that are likely to prevail around transportation, access, etc., it seems essential that the neighborhood should plan to take care of itself for at least several days after a significant earthquake, although in case of a snowstorm or similar event, the RC scenario might be helpful.

Discussion: lively and covered in these notes under each topic.

Submitted by Jim Newcomer, Co-Coordinator, WNA Emergency Preparations Team