



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:00pm-5:00pm  
Via Zoom Teleconference

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Called to order by Kevin Padian at 15:05

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian

Public Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss

Staff: General Manager Bill Hansell

Consultant: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela

Public Attendees: Chris Hilliard

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin announced that Linda Spath passed away about an hour before the meeting. We observed a moment of silence in her honor.

Danielle Madugo reported that there are "tons of brush" on the Olde School Trail. There is also a tree with a broken branch that is hanging over the trail. Bill said he would notify the FD to see whose property it is on.

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of September 23, 2021 (Approve)

**MOTION:** Moss/Madugo to accept the minutes as corrected.

Motion adopted by consensus.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Update and Discussion on NOAA/NWS radios and their possible utility**

Kevin said that NOAA/NWS radios are likely not going to be of much assistance in an emergency. The bottom line is that none of the radio experts in town (Hal Graboske, Kevin Jaynes, Don Simon) think these radios will be useful. For example, the radios are tested every week and residents may not tolerate having these tests. Also, the information is not

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fine-grained enough and there is too much marine information. Many of the frequencies are heavily maritime and that information is not terribly useful to us in an emergency. It is also not clear how the County OES would provide information to NOAA/NWS for broadcast, and whether it would be fine-grained enough to make much difference to Kensington. For most people is this an advantage over a battery-powered AM/FM radio? Larry Nagel noted that Santa Rosa is buying many weather radios for residents and asked if we could check with them.

Peter Liddell wanted to make a pitch for the radios. He stated that we should check on how many residents are elderly and not very mobile. Peter suggested that we check with El Cerrito and Berkeley about their FM radio stations.

Danielle Madugo said that she also was in favor of the radios. She noted that the radios also have AM/FM bands. Danielle also suggested we look into GMRS radios that also can receive AM, FM, and weather.

Peter Guerrero noted that he has been researching weather radios. Peter noted that the Eton X comes with solar cells and can charge in a few hours of sunlight. We can advocate that residents buy these radios without needing to subsidize the radios except for a small group of residents. Peter noted that some radios can be programmed to handle county and other local information (SAFE).

Larry Nagel noted that we should be talking about warning systems for fires, not weather. He feels that the combination of local radio and television stations and apps that are available on cell phones are more than adequate for weather alerts.

Lisa Caronna suggested a subcommittee be formed to study the need for weather radios.

Katie Gluck noted that not all radios are created equal and that we need to survey the available radios to see if any of them fit our needs.

Kevin asked Johnny Valenzuela to weigh in. Johnny's experience was that his fire district wanted to provide radios to the community and the residents were resistant to having the radios because they already felt they had sources for local information. Johnny felt that radios could be included into a training program for Emergency Preparedness.

Paul Moss offered his opinion on radios having an annoying sound. He doesn't think this is a legitimate reason for not having a radio. Paul has a NOAA radio that cost about \$25 and has lasted forever.

Peter Guerrero noted that weather radios are one component of a mix of emergency warning systems that we need to implement.

**b. Update and Discussion on possible procurement of an outdoor Public Address System**

Kevin proposed tabling the discussion of Public Address Systems

**c. Update and Discussion of possible priorities for community education and awareness**

Kevin noted that organizing the neighborhoods and holding community events should be a top priority, working with CERT organizers where they still exist but not centering efforts on them. This is where we raise neighborhood awareness about people who need help, evacuation routes, parking configurations, and emergency equipment.

Johnny suggested that we can organize the school for presentations in the Multi-Purpose room at the Hilltop School. The children will bring the parents, and Johnny feels this is the most effective way of reaching the community. Johnny described outdoor events with lights for the children and found them to be very successful.

Larry Nagel noted that we need to explore methods of reaching our elderly population who are a substantial portion of our population and are very vulnerable in emergencies.

Paul Moss noted that we need to recruit block captains and organize the community block by block. Johnny noted that the response to the EPC Workbook was a little disappointing and we need more one on one contact.

Chris Hilliard noted that about 60 people responded to the survey in the Workbook. Chris noted that we have a start on block parties that we can build on. Chris also noted that we have distributed about 30,000 gallons of water storage. This program could be extended to distribute radios. Chris is using El Cerrito/Kensington CERT funds to purchase GMRS radios for CERT members. He suggested that he could buy about 20 radios as a pilot program to see how they are accepted.

**5. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Danielle Madugo noted that she really appreciated the signs around town.

Lisa Caronna noted that she really appreciated the flier that was mailed to all residents.

Johnny noted that he helped with the Emergency Supplies distribution at the El Cerrito Public Works Yard.

Johnny noted he has created a lot of handouts for public service events.

Johnny also noted that he is preparing training materials for block party style events.

Johnny will be presenting at the KIC Town Hall Meeting on November 6.

**6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Lisa Caronna reported on the paths. Berkeley organized a pedestrian evacuation drill. The work to acquire the paths is progressing with the next meeting in November.

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Danielle Madugo reported a successful Shake Out drill at the Hilltop School. The teachers now have two-way Motorola radios for organizing emergency drills.

Bill Hansell reported that the first meeting on the WUI JPA will be in December. Bill also asked all members of the EPC to read Bill's report and become familiar with the report.

**7. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District falls on November 25, 2021, which is Thanksgiving. The next regular meeting after that falls on December 23, which is two days before Christmas. It was decided to cancel both the November and December Regular EPC meetings and instead hold a Special Meeting of the EPC on Thursday, December 2. at 3:00pm via Zoom Teleconference.

Adjourned at 5:11 PM by Director Kevin Padian in memory of Linda Spath.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on December 2, 2021.

Attest:

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**Emergency Preparedness Committee Member**