



OPERATION WEATHER SURVIVAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 17, 2006 – 2:30 p.m.
Conference Call

Attendees:

Dr. Adams – St. Louis County Department of Health
Valda Croskey – City of St. Louis Department of Health
Debbie Fagin – United Way of Greater St. Louis
Robert Hardy – St. Louis Fire Department/EMS
Linda Hiette – St. Louis County Department of Health
Jackie Hutchinson – Human Development Corporation
Brandi Koziattek – Mid-East Area Agency on Aging
Jim Kramper – National Weather Service
Rich Krueger – Community Action Agency of St. Louis County
Molly Martin – Ameren
Joan Murphy – Jefferson County Health Department
Ellen Sherman – St. Louis County Office of Family & Community Services
Anneliese Stoeber - St. Louis Area Agency on Aging
Gloria Thirdkill – Laclede Gas Company
Becky White – American Red Cross

Meeting called to order by Jim Kramper at 2:35 p.m. Debbie asked for a roll call of those participating in the call. Jim had e-mailed an agenda for everyone.

Weather Report

Jim provided an update forecast for winter weather in the Metro area. A moderate “el-nino” should provide for a normal winter weather pattern. But, this being Missouri, we could be wide open for anything.

Excessive Heat Plan

There were a few requests for changes to the OWS Excessive Heat Plan. Debbie will complete the changes and forward a copy to all members.

Cold Weather Response Plan

Jim noted that the current “Cold Weather Plan” was written in 2004 and contained a great deal of information. He asked if everyone agreed that we should attempt to trim it down and make it similar to the heat plan. Gloria agreed that this plan should be consistent with the Hot Weather Plan.

Areas of discussion:

- What is our “response”? In the summer, we activate cooling shelters and insure that fluids are available. What do we do when an advisory or warning are issued in the winter?
- Shelters? Jackie indicated that there are no shelters “per say” strictly opened when the temperature drops to a certain degree. HDC had operated as an “over flow” site for homeless persons in the city to go to for overnight shelter. There no longer is any funding for this, however and she did not know what the City Homeless Division plan was for possible drop in centers.
- Existing Homeless Shelters? Catholic Charities – Housing Resource Center has the City/County contract to maintain a list of Homeless Shelters, providing referral and tracking activity. Debbie noted that HRC struggles on a daily basis to find enough bed space for the need and thought that when the temperatures dropped this would be an even bigger challenge.
- Mobile Outreach? There was some discussion of a mobile outreach program but it wasn’t clear who was responsible for this program, if there was any funding for it, or if there was any formal agreement set up with the agency. (HRC and St. Patrick’s Center?)
 - Anneliese and Debbie agreed to work with HRC to add what this agency does during the winter for people needing shelter.
 - Anneliese and Bill Siedhoff will attempt to contact the City Neighborhood Stabilization Group and get a member to attend OWS meetings.
- Health Department Surveillance. Valda and Dr. Adams noted that both the City and the County Health Departments monitor morbidity and mortality numbers on a routine basis. Heat related illness and/or death are reportable conditions. Question: What about cold?
- Much of the OWS Winter Plan consists of Outreach and Preparedness. Everyone agreed that having a consistent message was important.
 - Gloria will work with Laclede’s Corporate Communications Department and the Health Departments to update winter safety tips and other brochures, etc.
 - Kent Erhardt with Channel 4 was OWS partner in the summer. Jim recommended that OWS provide all the TV stations with information on winter safety/preparing for the cold/tips for working outdoors, etc.
- Temperatures? Currently responses are triggered based on the wind chill. Currently using:

- Wind Chill Advisory: wind chill temps. of minus 14 to minus 24 degrees F
- Wind Chill Warning: wind chill temps. of minus 24 degrees F or lower
- Currently nothing in the plan about flat temperatures. How cold does it need to be to present a health threat from exposure? Suggested Health Departments and Antoinette Tripplett (St. Louis City Homeless Services) determine what OWS should use.

Missouri Winter Weather Day

Jim told everyone that November 15, 2006 was Missouri Winter Weather Day. Suggested that OWS try to have a press release for that day with winter weather tips.

Energy Updates

LIHEAP currently the only funding for heating assistance.

OWS Web Page

Jim asked if everyone had a chance to view our web page. Can be accessed via www.weather.gov/stlouis. It was suggested that Jim add links to Ameren, Laclede, Community Action Agency of St. Louis County and HDC. Also add information about telephone reassurance programs being offered by CORP and SLAA and the City of St. Louis RUOK.

**Next meeting: October 21, 2006 at Society for the Blind (2:30 PM)
There will be NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debbie Fagin
Director – Information and Referral Services
United Way of Greater St. Louis
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