



OPERATION WEATHER SURVIVAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006 – 2:30 p.m.
St. Louis Society for the Blind Building
8770 Manchester Road

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
Linda Hiette – St. Louis County Department of Health
Brandi Koziatek – Mid-East Area Agency on Aging
Jim Kramper – National Weather Service
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
Becky White – American Red Cross

Meeting called to order by Jim Kramper at 2:30 p.m. Introductions made around the room.

Storm Overview

Jim talked about why the storms in July were so destructive. The combination of excessive heat and the formation of cluster thunderstorms produced straight line winds or downbursts which went against the natural growth of trees causing them to snap. Wind speeds of between 70-80 mph were recorded. Over 500,000 were without power.

Group discussed the intricacies of St. Louis County. Each municipality is responsible for their residents but can ask St. Louis County for assistance. Due to liability issues the County cannot intervene without being asked. Dr. Adams noted that Gov. Blunt was trying to get a law passed to cover liability in the event of a disaster.

It was agreed that OWS should pursue getting the County Municipal League around the table. The Municipal League represents most of the 91 municipalities in St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis.

Valda asked if anyone knew of a “standing list” of nurses (RN’s, LPN’s, etc.) that could be activated in an emergency. Jim suggested that OWS act as a “think tank” for ideas to address problems encountered.

Debbie updated everyone on the Long Term Disaster Recovery effort to formalize a COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters). It is important that each of our agencies have an emergency plan in place and that staff have plans for themselves should a disaster occur. If our staff are unable to come to work after a disaster, our agencies/organizations cannot help others who are affected.

Anneliese noted that SLAAA has a “Providers Network” that they are working with to insure that they are prepared in the event of an emergency. Emergency generators, medical supplies and medicine, and food sources for the senior housing units are all being worked into the plans.

Jim suggested that for our October meeting we concentrate on preparing for cold weather by reviewing the Cold Weather Plan.

Web Page

Jim indicated that he would develop a web page for OWS that could have meeting minutes, cold and hot weather plans, etc. It was agreed that this would be excellent.

Other

Dr. Adams advised everyone that The American Red Cross, Washington University and the Health Departments are very concerned about a Pandemic Flu outbreak.

Jim expressed his thanks to Molly and Ameren UE for all the hard work in getting the power back on. The availability of the map of outages was very helpful.

Next Meeting Date: October 17, 2006, 2:30 p.m. via conference call

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debbie Fagin
Director – Information and Referral Services
United Way of Greater St. Louis
(314-539-4089)