

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: October 6, 2009 Time: 3:00 pm Length: 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Clackamas County Sheriff & Fire Swiftwater & Flood Rescue Team

Department: Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

Presenters: Sheriff Craig Roberts, Lt. Graham Phalen, Sgt. Steve Thoroughman, Ken Murphy: State EOC Director

Also present: Captain Joe Pelletier (Clackamas Fire), Lt. Don Maxwell (Clackamas Fire), Battalion Chief Brian Sherard (TVF&R) Captain Joe Voeller (TVF&R),

POLICY QUESTION: Will the Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners endorse and support the Swiftwater and Flood Rescue Team?

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

During disasters and other emergencies involving water, a resource trained to rescue persons and animals, and in other ways mitigate and prevent loss of life is a valuable resource to the citizens of Clackamas County, the state of Oregon and throughout the nation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and many other state agencies have identified this as a needed resource and have specifically classified and defined this resource as a Type 1 Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team. Clackamas County has experienced many floods in the past and an experienced swiftwater and flood rescue team would undoubtedly be a tremendous asset when these events occur. We have consulted with the Oregon State EOC Director Ken Murphy regarding this team and he agrees Oregon has a definite need for and a lack of resources in this area. He agrees this team would be a valuable asset to Oregon and his agency would support this effort.

In addition Oregon is a member state of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) which makes this team available to other member states in crisis situations. EMAC provides for reimbursement to contributing agencies for personnel and equipment costs and assures that the state borrowing this team from Oregon will be liable for the team while engaged in emergency activities in that state.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Clackamas County Sheriff's & Fire Swiftwater and Flood Rescue team is to provide specialized swift water and flood rescue services first to Clackamas County, second to the state of Oregon, and third to other states during water disasters.

TEAM MINIMUM CAPABILITIES

An EMAC Type 1 Swiftwater and Flood Rescue Team will be able to conduct search and rescue operations in all water environments including swiftwater and flood conditions. In addition the team should be ready to depart for deployment within 6 hours of notification and be self sustaining for up to 72 hrs. Teams are deployed during a federal emergency for a minimum of 18 days and commonly up to 21.

The recommended team is comprised of the following:

Personnel	Team Composition	14 member team to include 2 managers (1 in overall command); 2 squad leaders, 10 personnel
Personnel	Minimum # technical animal rescue	2
Personnel	Minimum # Advanced Life Support (ALS)	2
Personnel	Minimum # Helicopter/Aquatic Rescue Operations	4
Personnel	Minimum # Power Boat Operators	4
Personnel	Minimum # SCUBA Trained Support Personnel and Equipment	4
Personnel	Number and level EMTs	14 EMT Basic; 2 EMT Paramedic
Team	Sustained Operations	24 hour operations
Team	Capabilities	Manage Search Operations; Power Vessel Operations; Helicopter Rescue Operational; Animal Rescue; HazMat; ALS; Communications Logistics
Team	Specialty S&R Capabilities	In-water contact rescue; Dive rescue Technical Rope Systems
Team	Training	Class 3 paddle skills; Contact & self-rescue skills; HazMat; ICS; Swiftwater Rescue Tech; Divers to have 80 hours formal public safety training; Helicopter operations awareness Technical Rope Rescue
Team	Certifications	ALS; Advanced First Aid & CPR

Proposed members of this team have already exceeded the minimum training requirements necessary to put this team together. It should be noted that although this is a 14 man team when deployed, a minimum of 20 and up to 25 persons should be designated and trained to deploy. Twenty to Twenty five personnel to draw from would ensure the availability of the 14 member team at all times.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office is in an ideal position to take the lead in forming this team. We are already a member of the Clackamas County Regional Water Rescue Consortium consisting of CCSO Marine and Clackamas County Fire Departments including Clackamas Fire, Lake Oswego Fire, Gladstone Fire, Canby Fire, Sandy Fire, Estacada Fire, Molalla Fire and Tualatin Valley Fire. Personnel, equipment and financial resources can be contributed by each participating agency spreading costs. In addition CCSO Marine, Clackamas Fire, Lake Oswego Fire, and Tualatin Valley Fire have trained together in the past and have made plans to continue training for water rescue in the future.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

The majority of the list of needed equipment was compiled from "FIRESCOPE" California's swiftwater/flood ICS recommendations. The FEMA web site suggested "FIRESCOPE" as a resource. Many of the items are already owned by the proposed agencies and the cost of the remainder can be spread equitably to reduce budgetary impacts.

After talking with several persons who responded to Hurricane Katrina it was found that sometimes it is difficult to predict the equipment needed in all situations. After the team is formed, a committee of members will be convened to create a more complete list of equipment.

ISSUES:

Reimbursement:

One of the major hurdles we have encountered in forming this team is the initial expense. While deployment costs are reimbursed, it is often as long as one year before costs are recouped. An EMAC deployment of 3 weeks can run up to \$500,000.00. Discussions took place with Acting County Administrator Steve Wheeler in August, 2009. Included in this proposal are these points:

- The \$400,000 needed per year for a full deployment will be provided by Clackamas County. An additional \$100,000 will be provided by the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and Clackamas County Fire; each contributing \$50,000. In the event of an incident involving other partners, the contributions will be distributed equally. All of these payments will be reimbursed at 100% by FEMA.
- Funds from Clackamas County will not be set aside prior to needing this reimbursement. Funds will be provided when needed after a deployment.
- The Sheriff's Office will be responsible for filling out the FEMA paperwork for reimbursement
- At the end of five years, the program will transition to the Sheriff's Office. Reimbursement funding will be funneled through the Sheriff's Office
- If requested, the Sheriff's Office will work with County Counsel to come up with a written agreement within 30 days to include the points included in this proposal.

There is great benefit to Clackamas County in having a Swiftwater and Flood Rescue Team. This team will receive experience dealing with rescues and bring that "know how" back to Clackamas County. In addition, having a team experienced in federal disasters will give us the tools to deal with the federal government, know how to request additional aid and how to make it easier to help our citizens when incidents of this type occur in our county.

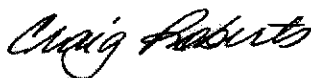
QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Will the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners support Swiftwater and Flood Rescue team?**
2. **Will the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners authorize reimbursement up to \$400,000 to member agencies until funds are received by FEMA and other governments using this team?**

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is requested that Clackamas County provide funding for the Swiftwater and Flood Rescue Team incidents to an amount specified by the BCC and to be reimbursed by FEMA.

SUBMITTED BY:



Department Director/Head Approval: _____
County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact:
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