

**Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition
WWW.PEP-C.ORG**

**Minutes for - Wednesday November 9, 2016
10:00 General Meeting
Location: District 5 Fire & Medic One, at
10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332**

PEPC Meeting / Attendees:

Abby Schofield – PEPC Treasurer, FICRA
Angela Lindsay – PEPC Member
Bob Grimes – PEPC Member, PCNET- Canterwood
Curt Scott – PEPC Chair, WPA, WAMA
Cherie Grimes – PEPC Member, PCNET- Canterwood
David Haycock – PEPC Member
Dave Watson - PEPC Vice-Chair
Don Lee – PEPC Member, 2017 PEPC EP Fair Chair, Chapel Hill
Elizabeth Haycock – PEPC Member
Eric Watson – – PEPC Member, Pierce Fire Department
Guy Allen – – PEPC Member, Key Peninsula Fire Department
Hugh McMillan – PEPC Public Affairs, Gateway, Key Pen News
Jane Olive – PEPC Member, Grants Committee Member
Jim Braden – PEPC Member, FICRA
Jim Goodwin – PEPC Member
Joan Hymas – PEPC Member, St. VDePaul, etc
Jonathan White – Pen Light/Guest Speaker – Back Up Power
Julia Bell – PEPC Member, Disabilities Response Planning
Mary Jordan - – PEPC Member
Steve Rees – PEPC Member
Thomas Smith – PEPC Member, Burley ARES Club

Next Meeting:
December 14, 2016
General Meeting: 10:00 a.m.
Location: District 5 Fire & Medic One, at
10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332
Conference Room – follow the signs

General Meeting: Convened at 10:00 am by Curt.

PRESENTATION: The guest speaker was Jonathan White, Pen Light, Back Up Power Specialist. Jonathan started by reviewing four major power failures of significant duration that occurred in our area over the past 25 years. These included the 1993 Windstorm (5 days), the 1996 Ice Storm (14 days), the 2006 Rain and Windstorm (7 days) and the 2011 Windstorm (3 days). White reported that Pen Light has been working to reduce the issues of power failures due to interference with power transmissions due to storms. He said the most significant action to prevent power outages has been to bury power lines – Pen Light has buried over 700 miles of power lines – only 300 miles remain above ground at this point, and the buried power lines have been very successfully in reducing power outage and allowing for more rapid power recovery when electric power does fail. The efforts to cut limbs and trees that might fall and disrupt power is an ongoing effort as well.

White then reviewed the many options that residents have available to prepare for power outages following the YOYO model PEPC has emphasized and will be a focal point of the upcoming 2017 Emergency Preparedness Fair September 30, 2017 (Place TBD – a decision will be made soon). White emphasized self-reliance as the most important component in surviving a major seismic event successfully and provided a great number of options for various types of backup power systems that residents could use to “fill the gap” between the loss and restoration of Pen Light power, with a brief description of the pros and cons of each type of backup power including batteries and battery options (there are many), solar power generation, gas and propane power generators and a short discussion on why one or another type of backup power might be the right solution.

White explained that the decision about what to use for backup power, and what systems and appliances to power, boils down to each person’s “level of comfort”. What, within each person’s existence requires power? Heat. Light. Electronics. Refrigeration. Those choices depend on individual needs, preferences and other factors including cost, where one lives, what else is available and how to make the backup power “work” for each site. White explained that each family and each residence, business, or place of operation had to make those decisions. He posed several questions to ponder - What do you need to live, and what can you do without, and for how long, and what can you afford to pay for backup power? After making those determinations, White explained how to go about choosing an emergency power source or sources that would meet individual specific needs.

The final step is to learn how to use backup power sources. The creators of the Pen Light power system have invested a great deal of time, effort and money to provide safe, efficient power. When using Backup power, individual users must approach creating and using backup power with that same focus on Safety First. Especially with larger backup power systems such as solar and backup

power gas and liquid propane generators, users must be very careful to not create additional hazards. Before connecting any backup power, users should consult with the power experts at Pen Light. NOTE that this approach requires pre-planning for, and perhaps practicing with using Backup Power generation BEFORE needing to use that backup power in a real emergency. With some power systems, incorrectly connecting backup power to an existing normal power network can create significant safety hazards. The greatest hazard is trying to connect an alternative power source to an existing Pen Light sources power box. Pen Light power transfer systems are not suitable for connecting directly to an alternative power source. There is much to learn.

Because Pen Light is concerned with Safety First, White encouraged all who plan to install and use backup power of any kind to contact Pen Light and talk to the power experts there for more information, before acquiring a backup power system. Pen Light wants you to be prepared when the power fails, but prepare safely. Then, when the power does fail, you know will know what to power, how to power and what not to avoid doing.

One of the more interesting points White covered was information about battery power storage devices which have been getting steadily better, lighter, safer and easier to use. Elon Musk (Tesla Motors) and others are pushing battery technology steadily and with good success. The Samsung 7 Cell Phone battery problem notwithstanding, there's been good progress in creating more flexible, more useable and more affordable battery power options, and these options are most especially applicable for small handheld emergency communications radios.

White also cautioned, by citing lessons learned from several Pen Light disaster exercises, that planning should include conducting exercises to see if the backup power plan you have in mind will actually work when power fails. Common sense things like avoiding putting supplies and emergency equipment in place where you will not be able to access those supplies and that equipment should a building collapse. This was one lesson Pen Light learned from a recent exercise Pen Light conducted. Having the emergency food in an attic space or at the very back of a basement might not be a good idea if you can't go into the house when the house is unsafe and in danger of collapsing to retrieve those critical supplies. Disaster exercise practice can reveal those kinds of planning errors and can be true life-savers when the real disaster occurs

Regular Business

Minutes from previous meeting approved, seconded and accepted by all in attendance. Curt encouraged all present to read the minutes on the PEPC webpage prior to the meeting, which saves meeting time and costs to duplicate copies of the Minutes.

REPORTS:

PEP-C Treasury Report for September 2016:

No changes since last report

Balance as of 11/9/2016 \$1430.39

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- HAM Radio Training – Starting January, Place and exact Days to be determined, Tow hour class – 6 to 8 weeks – CONTACT TOM SMITH – 253. 853.1603 for details
- Radio Operations Training – Pierce County DEM Ops Center, 1800 hours, Thursday Night 11/10/16 2-hour training session, Contact Peggy LevelFord, Pierce County DEM 253.798.2209 for more information.

Disaster phone list: Still in review, almost complete – should be ready by start of 1/2017

PEPC MARKETING PLAN

The group held a short discussion about the PEPC Marketing plan. Curt briefly reviewed the four components – Product, Place, Price, Promotion

- **Product** – The “product” PEPC offers is information and training.
- **Place** –
 - INFORMATION – The PEPC Webpage, Facebook, Twitter, Handouts and Flyers, Radio Spots on KGHP, and possible TV Spots (Public Service Announcements, as well as Newspaper Articles and possibly a monthly PEPC column.
 - TRAINING - Local venues, there are many, Schools, Churches, Fire Departments, and Food Venues such as Round Table pizza, Subway, El Publito, and others, that have space and can be suitable for conducting training
- **Price** – Price will vary depending on the materials for information, and PEPC will strive for “free” as much as possible. For training, each type of training has some inherent costs, possibly for books, such as the ARES Radio Training that uses specific books to prepare students for the FCC Ham Radio Operator’s Technician Test, but again, PEPC will strive for “free” wherever possible.
- **Promotion** – PEPC must exploit the available resources including PEPC Webpage, Facebook, Twitter, Handouts and Flyers, Print News, Radio and TV Spots, and explore funding to create more avenues to reach the target audience.

The discussion focused on what PEPC could do internally to provide training with the idea that, within PEPC, we have members who have existing skill sets, and we should look at both creating more skill sets (Train the Trainer) as well as delivering training (Train the User) in order to proliferate Emergency Preparedness YOYO skills into our neighborhoods. (YOYO – You’re On Your Own). To that end, there will be an effort ongoing to identify skill sets that members have, and that members would consider

being a trainer for that skill. See **Committee Meetings** at the end of the Minutes for more details on training.

NEXT SPEAKER

For the December 2016 Meeting, Curt is working on getting a speaker from one of the large food store chains to present on Grocery Logistics so that PEPC members have a better understanding of how items on local grocery store shelves get there. He cited the statistic that any single item that is on the grocery shelf traveled an average of 1200 miles to get there. That fact means the logistics tail of a grocery operation is extensive and how that system would respond in an emergency is an important planning piece to recovery and reconstitution following a disaster.

For the January 2017 Meeting, Hugh is working on getting a speaker from the Pierce County Sherriff's office to present on how Law Enforcement responds to disasters and what we can expect when the major quake happens.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOTE – ANY INTERESTED PERSONS CAN ATTEND THESE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Emergency Preparedness Fair Planning Committee meeting - November 16, 9 AM, 0900, at Chapel Hill – Contact Don Lee for information,

Grant Committee Meeting – not set yet, probable date is Monday November 21 at 3 PM (1500 hours) at the ESC – this date and time needs to be confirmed, so for now this is a TENTATIVE Date, Time and Place, Contact Jane Olive or Kathy Wehmiller for information

Marketing Committee has not set a date and time to meet, but will try to get at least one meeting completed between now and the next regular PEPC Meeting on 12/14/2016

Training Committee - Curt is requesting that PEPC form a Training Committee to plan and execute a Training Schedule starting as soon as possible – ideally, PEPC can start offering training classes beginning in January, and at the latest, in February of 2017. Anyone who is willing to step up and join the Training Committee, please contact Curt at 253.380.7240. The steps to do are to accomplish a very quick canvass of existing PEPC members to learn who can teach skills, and which skills each PEPC member can teach, then work on creating a schedule of training that PEPC can broadcast to the local communities

The PEPC Regular meeting concluded at 1115

Find PEP-C newsletters, meeting info & updates on social media and on the web:

PEP-C on Facebook - fb.me/PEPCGigHarbor

PEP-C on Twitter - twitter.com/PEPCGigHarbor

PEP-C Website - www.pep-c.org

Reminder - the 3rd Planning Meeting for the PEP-C 2017 EP Fair will take place on **Wed, Nov 16**. All are welcome, and volunteers to help with planning are needed. This month's meeting will be held in the board room of Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, 7700 Skansie Ave, Gig Harbor.