

August 1, 2007
VOAD Meeting

Phil Adams, county VOAD coordinator, called the meeting to order at 10:03 and asked Jack Gregory, First United Methodist Church minister from Independence to offer an invocation. About twenty agencies were represented and about seventy people attended.

Three forms were distributed and Phil Adams carefully explained each form. The first was a graph of the long-term recovery functional tasks related to construction management/coordination.

The second was a Sequence of Assistance graph showing the way FEMA Disaster Human Services Programs work. The first step is for the individual to contact their insurance company. If the resident had insurance but no flood insurance and their claim is denied, then the next step is to register with FEMA. That leads the individual to the SBA Disaster Loan program, with low interest loans up to \$200,000 for real property, \$40,000 personal property loans and \$1,500,000 business loans. Applicants must return the SBA loan application and receive a loan denial because of a failed income test to be eligible for “ONA” (other needs assistance) SBA dependent assistance.

If it is apparent that the applicant cannot qualify for an SBA loan, they will immediately be referred to the “ONA” assistance for medical needs, dental needs, funeral needs, non-vehicle transportation needs and other expenses.

There are also other government programs such as crisis counseling, legal assistance, IRS assistance, veteran’s assistance and USDA/HUD assistance.

The maximum financial assistance in housing assistance under “ONA” is \$28,000.

Long-term recovery will be dependent upon voluntary agencies, interfaith organizations, a long-term recovery committee and unmet needs tables.

The third handout was a list of agency contact persons for specific needs.

American Red Cross	Aaron Phillips	888-460-1050
Community Access Center (VRC)		620-331-5115
FEMA	Larry Belmont and Cathy McCue	202-412-2597
Salvation Army	Jerry Eden	620-251-2686
Small Business Administration (SBA)	Dave Mar	916-847-4040
Building Inspector – Coffeyville	Jim Hayes/Larry Trotter	620-252-6149
Building Inspector - Independence	Richard Williams	620-332-2504
Building Inspector-MG County	Scott Barnhart	620-330-1190

VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster)
VOAD Coordinator – Coffeyville

VOAD Coordinator Independence
VOAD Coordinator – MG County Phil Adams
VOAD Coordinator Rural (other than Indy. And Coffey.)

2 month temporary
620-714-0344

- For all questions concerning debris removal, tear out, rebuilding or contacting volunteer agencies to do these things for you, call the VOAD coordinator for that town.
- For help in determining whether or not to rebuild a home, contact the local building inspectors office to determine your options.
- To find out when you can start rebuilding, apply for a building permit and they will be able to answer your questions.

Janie DeVore Gillis volunteered to help locate a VOAD coordinator for Coffeyville before next Wednesday's meeting.

Phil reminded the group that some people will say they do not need a building permit to rebuild but down the line when their insurance comes due and they have not gone through the proper channels and fulfilled all the requirements to rebuild, they may get the insurance cancelled or the utility companies may refuse to hook up the utilities to their new construction.

Those wanting to re-build in the flood zone A will need to raise the first floor of the property 12 inches above the flood zone. Anyone designated with 50% or more damage to the home or business. This is the same flood plain that was established in the past but was not widely observed.

The bottleneck on volunteers coming to assist those with flooded property is that it's sometimes impossible to find the renter or owner to gain access to the property and get a release.

Cathy McCue, from FEMA, spoke to the temporary housing (Direct Housing Program) questions. She reiterated that before temporary housing from FEMA could be brought in to the area, utility hookups must be connected and cities must waive, at least temporarily, their ordinances prohibiting temporary housing within their city limits. No temporary housing can be set in a flood zone. Temporary housing is an 18-month commitment by FEMA. The tenants must have a housing plan of their own developed by then. After about 8 months, a FEMA representative will call on them to help them develop their plan. Again about 16 months into the term, FEMA reps will again contact the tenant to review their housing plan. At 18 months, FEMA's contract is over and the temporary housing will be picked up unless the tenant should commit to purchase the home. At that point, local zoning restrictions apply. Whenever FEMA owns the property, FEMA will pick it up and move it to their storage facilities to be renovated for the next use.

All work done within the county should have a work order before it is begun. Any contractor will need to register with Phil and get a work order, Phil Adams will contact the resident to get a signed waiver form and then the volunteer agency will prepare to do the work. The volunteer will work under the direction of an affiliated volunteer agency. There are 9 or 10 volunteer agencies ready to clean out homes but residents are difficult to find.

Americore has been doing the case management but they will be leaving the area very soon. So case managers will need to be trained to take over from them. Lutheran Disaster Response (Rocky Meese) trains case managers. Case managers are needed to help residents determine that they are utilizing all the resources available out there. Case managers also can try to find renters and homeowners who have left the area.

A Long Term Recovery Committee is needed immediately for legal reasons as well as for the long term recovery planning. There should be 4-5 on the executive committee for this and a dozen or so on the larger committee.

A woman from Church World Service also spoke and said that organization also trains case workers and another of her concerns was the lost playground equipment in the park area.

After a question and answer period, Phil adjourned the meeting until next Wednesday in Independence at the Community Access Center at 10:00.

Margie Miller
Secretary/treasurer
Coffeyville Ministerial Alliance