

## **Damascus Emergency Preparedness Team Meeting of 26 July**

The meeting opened with a report from George Moy on his successful efforts to acquire the EOC. His recommendation was that everyone read the first 35 pages of the overview and that the relevant committees take on the appropriate appendices. *You all have received access to this document on the web link made available at:*

<http://home.earthlink.net/~geomoy/data/DEPT/EOP/>

Doug Noble next delivered the Communications report, which was so thorough and complete as to require a separate report of its own. Doug has made contact with the local REACT and MADXRA organizations, which provide local emergency radio communications in times of disaster and/or emergencies. Similar efforts are underway in other communities, as, for instance, Middleton Valley is trying to sign up local communities and homeowners associations into a citizens emergency radio network. Such community self-organizing is advanced in California communities, and Doug displayed a diagram of a typical emergency radio network that included a well thought out organization of differing radios and the frequencies they would use. *Doug has now set up a Communications Committee web site at:*

<http://hometown.aol.com/duganbuddy/myhomepage/index.html>

The current status of the arrangements for the Damascus CERT training was given in which Bill Delaney is still seeking to coordinate available trainers with available times at the Damascus Library. *(It has now been confirmed that Chief Long has made both Damascus Volunteer Fire department facilities available, so there should be no problem with venue.)*

As Fred Schroeder and Doug and Rita Noble are enrolled in a current CERT training class, some time was spent discussing their interesting and favorable reports.

Fred Schroeder has volunteered to take on the task of public relations and there was discussion of how to best communicate with the community our efforts and any informational results. He will consider posters and visiting Damascus businesses. A report was received that the Damascus Gazette was not favorable to giving much coverage to our effort, and it was resolved to contact the Frederick Post. Suggestions were made as to how to involve the churches, the scouts, and other volunteer organizations. The high school counselor will be contacted for approval that working with DEPT be accredited as Community Service Hours.

The Food Committee (in the person of Rita Noble) reported that discussions are still ongoing regarding the possibility of obtaining a backup generator for the refrigeration units of Damascus Help.

John Miller volunteered to undertake outreach to local day care centers to determine the extent to which they might be prepared with disaster plans. A template of such a plan can be seen at: <http://accem.org/daycareplan.html>

There was much discussion about local shelters... about procedures, capacities, staffing, equipment, and food supplies. It seems that high schools are the designated county shelters, have backup generators for this purpose, and are part of a comprehensive County plan. Skip Lanham was amazingly knowledgeable about these things and promised to bring a complete report to the next meeting.

The question was raised regarding whether the effort should continue as a committee effort under the auspices of the Damascus Citizens Alliance, or whether a separate legal, not for profit entity should be established. The consensus in the room was strong that we had embarked upon a project that was larger than first imagined and that in some form the Damascus Emergency Preparedness Team (DEPT) "would always be around." The question was deferred so that everyone could think about it before the next meeting when a decision can be made:

**Monday, August 2, at 7:30 at the Damascus Library.**