

Note from Paul on Shelter Team Representatives Meeting

Paul Bedard attended a Red Cross meeting for shelter team representatives on Saturday, October 4th. There was a good representation of shelter teams in attendance. The purpose was to share the Red Cross vision for expanding shelter operations in the Richmond area to include ways to improve response times to emergencies by involving more shelter teams, expanding training opportunities for volunteers and ways of involving and developing volunteers. The Red Cross also shared information on opportunities to help with disasters outside our area. Paul Hundley, the disaster services manager, has five major initiatives that are listed below.

- Goal #1: Create an "On Call Schedule" that pre-identifies teams which have developed a listing of available team members.
- Goal #2: Create and implement a training calendar that provides updated trainings to ALL sheltering partners.
- Goal #3: Hold our third annual Shelter Exercise March 9-14, 2009.
- Goal #4: Enroll interested shelter partner team members into the chapter's volunteers data base and provide opportunity for them to enroll into the Red Cross's national data base for out-of-area deployable human resources for large scale disaster relief operations.
- Goal #5: Recruit from our current partner interested individuals who are willing to play a role on our Mass Care Committee.

Our training exercise on September 27th was both successful in proving us an opportunity to work on our shelter communications and internal procedures. We have an enthusiastic and dedicated team. We still have a ways to go to be as proficient as we want to be, but we are definitely in good shape as a team. So we very much need to determine what we want to do over the next year.

Thanks!

Paul

PS: My new work email is paul.d.bedard1@us.army.mil.