

## **Growing Needs of the West Tisbury Emergency Management (WTEM) Department**

In the space of a few short weeks, WTEM has gone from a part-time position that plans for and networks to support response to emergencies to an active Agency implementing and adjusting those plans. It is today a full-time operational, resource, and media management position. As this situation develops, WTEM is growing to fill gaps with the Town's need for additional staff that were an annoyance in January, and dangerous now. It is suggested that this become a full-time position for the duration of the event and re-evaluate the position and its full-time status after the event has passed.

### **Increased Workload:**

- Work with Board of Health to review and recommend WT response/policy based on the development of COVID-19.
- Work closely with PD, FD and Emergency Managers (EMS) to insure protocols and procedures are updated. Also insure that these departments are well supplied with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other needed equipment to respond to continue daily operations under new guidelines and send out requests to Department of Public Health (DPH) or Mass. Emergency Management Association (MEMA) as needed.
- Keep all town department heads informed of all new information from MEMA, Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the Governor's office
- Work with other Emergency Managers, EMS, Boards of Health (BOH) from all towns to centralize coordination Island-wide for this event.
- Work with other EM's, EMS, BOH, and Hospital from all towns to insure flow of supplies, shelter equipment and volunteer labor
- As Board Chair of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), this has become active in the support system to the Hospital and EMS across the Island. MRC is now a logistics branch working to supply the Hospital and EMS with additional staffing and supplies.
- Although there is no central (regional) structure the task of unifying the efforts of various volunteer and uniformed agencies, that task has not gone away. We now work with MV Community services on outreach and support during this crisis
- As Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Regional Emergency Management Committee, I compile and disseminate important and creditable information to the public and all Island Agencies

### **Previous Work to Continue**

- Update Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Update the Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
- Continue to do training and outreach to the community
- Organize volunteer labor for MRC, Red Cross and Salvation Army
- Plan for future events and continue to work with agencies to do so