SDVOAD IN THE RESPONSE CYCLE OF DISASTER

THE MODEL

If tasked with the command of a firestorm, the Incident Commander establishes not only an Incident Command Post (ICP) but also a Fire Camp where his attack will be based.

Every 10 o'clock at that Fire Camp, the I.C.'s Liaison Officer conducts an interagency meeting. (You can set your clock by it). At that meeting, the Liaison Officer orchestrates the cooperating agencies in a discovery of who's doing what, who's got what, who needs what, who's the Primary Point of Contact (POC) for each agency, etc. Reports are brief and to-the-point; key points and Contacts are dropped into the Incident Action Plan.

Federal, state, and local government agencies dispatch to these meetings their relevant representatives. A key NGO like the American Red Cross will follow suit. The Incident Commander, like his Liaison Officer, understands that these entities are not under his command and control but are truly cooperating agencies in charge of their own resources.
At the same time, these agencies appreciate and respond under the extraordinary emergency powers and responsibilities of the I.C., the commanding general in the field of battle.

THE ADAPTATION

SDVOAD will predetermine that 72 (or even 48) hours into a disaster, representatives from member agencies will meet at 10 a.m. at a pre-designated site. If the primary site is unavailable, the representatives will convene at the pre-designated fallback site. A conference call-in number will also be available.

SDVOAD will e-blast, text, and post on the website the meeting date and site to guard against mistakes in time or place.

A SDVOAD Officer, or a Liaison Officer tasked by SDVOAD, will act as the facilitator in discovering who's doing what, who's got what, the primary POC for each agency, etc.

SDVOAD respects that the meeting is informational and cooperative, not operational or authoritative. SDVOAD thus achieves its objectives while staying within VOAD guidelines.
It has not confused command and control with coordinating cooperating agencies.

That same day, the SDVOAD Secretary will email meeting minutes with Contact list to all interested parties. Daily summaries will be emailed as long as necessary.

SDVOAD will assist the Long Term Recovery by helping to transition these meetings to the Community Recovery Team (CRT), who chairs the Long Term Recovery Committee and Unmet Needs Sub-Committee.

*During the response phase, phone queries of SDVOAD go to a SDVOAD member agency not involved in the initial response—an agency specializing, for example, in preparedness or recovery. This agency, like the meeting sites, will be predetermined and voted upon every two years.