

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: *Disaster Preparedness in Marin: Are You Ready?*

Report Date: June 21, 2011

Response by: Marin County Board of Supervisors

FINDINGS

- We agree with the findings numbered: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13,
- We disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 5, 9, 10, 14

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation number 4 has been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
- Recommendations numbered 1, 2, 3 will not be implemented.

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Number of pages attached _____

FINDINGS

- F1. Following a disaster, residents will be initially responsible for their own survival.**

Response: Agree.

- F2. Although some municipalities in California have residency requirements for first responders, Marin does not.**

Response: Agree. However, the County's ability to impose residency requirements upon its first responders is severely constrained by relevant case law interpreting the California Constitution's limited exceptions to provisions prohibiting residency requirements for county, city, and public district employees.

- F3. 70-80% of first responders live outside of Marin, some as far away as Kern, Butte, Sutter, and Nevada Counties.**

Response: Agree.

- F4. 30-33% of first responders are on duty at any one time in Marin.**

Response: Agree.

- F5. Follow-up training for personnel expected to staff the EOC is neither mandatory nor effectively accomplished.**

Response: Partially Disagree. Although training for EOC personnel is not mandatory, a large portion of assigned EOC staff participates in either regular trainings or annual exercises.

- F6. OES no longer maintains an electronic database of CERT-trained volunteers.**

Response: Agree.

- F7. OES does not maintain an electronic database to track the training of EOC management and staff.**

Response: Agree. The Department of Human Resources maintains records of all those EOC managers and staff who attend trainings. In FY 2010-11, 47 staff completed EOC trainings.

F8. OES and other entities could expand the use of volunteers in their disaster preparedness activities.

Response: Agree. Although the County currently utilizes volunteers for a wide range of disaster preparedness-related activities, OES and other governmental entities should always examine the extent to which additional volunteer resources can be used to provide effective assistance in the area of disaster preparedness. In addition, the County currently maintains a memorandum of understanding with the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership of Marin (CVNL) in order to retain and coordinate volunteer assistance during emergencies.

F9. The mandate of the OES under Marin County Code 2.99 is broad but not fully realized and enforced.

Response: Partially Disagree. OES fully complies with its mandates as required by County Code Section 2.99. The County now requires all newly-hired employees to attend EOC orientation training. Nearly 400 employees have also completed the Disaster Service Worker training sessions that have been held throughout various County departments. In addition, the County allocates over \$648,000 annually in General Fund operating support to the Office of Emergency Services.

F10. San Rafael OES is requesting that the County OES take responsibility for funding and implementing Marin County CERT in 2012.

Response: Disagree. The City of San Rafael has confirmed that they have not requested, nor do they intend to request that County OES take responsibility for funding and implementing Marin CERT in 2012.

F11: In 2011, Marin County CERT training was reorganized and standardized throughout the County.

Response: Agree.

F12: Mill Valley has developed a model emergency preparedness program.

Response: Agree.

F13: The Disaster and Citizens Corps Council serves only as an advisory council to the Board of Supervisors.

Response: Agree.

F14: Although Marin County has many individual organizations focused on emergency preparedness, there is insufficient interagency collaboration.

Response: Partially Disagree. In recent years, the County of Marin has substantively increased the level of collaboration with its partner organizations and agencies in the area of emergency preparedness and associated training. Nevertheless, the County also recognizes that there is always room for improvement and will continue to work with these organizations to explore ways of further enhancing collaboration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. The County OES establish an electronic database to track EOC training required of managers and staff. In addition, OES develop written protocols for EOC managers to use which would require their staff to attend annual follow-up EOC training.**

Response: The first recommendation will not be implemented. As with all County training programs, the County Department of Human Resources currently maintains an electronic database to track EOC training of managers and staff.

The second recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The County already requires ongoing EOC training and a large portion of EOC managers and staff regularly participate.

- R2. County OES take over the management of Marin CERT in 2012, and continue to fund the program annually.**

Response: Will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The City of San Rafael OES currently manages the CERT program and was successful in its first year of obtaining funding and providing training. The City of San Rafael has confirmed that they have not requested, nor do they intend to request, that County OES take over management of this program.

- R3. The County OES update and keep current the electronic database of CERT-trained volunteers.**

Response: Will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The CERT program is managed and operated by the City of San Rafael. Therefore, maintenance of the database tracking CERT volunteers should be maintained by that agency.

- R4. The Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's department review the mandate of OES to ensure that programs for disaster preparedness are given the highest priority.**

Response: Has been implemented. The Board of Supervisors and County Administrator have worked closely with the Sheriff's Office to ensure disaster preparedness programs are given the highest priority. OES maintains a staff of dedicated professionals who work diligently to accomplish the task of disaster preparedness throughout the Marin community.