

Public Works & Emergency Management

Lessons Learned – Keys to Preparation

ROBERT NEWMAN

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

Major Events in Santa Clarita



Major Fires:

- Sand Fire
- Placerita Fire
- Calgrove Fire
- Rye Fire

Major Flooding:

- Iron Canyon Creek
- Placerita Canyon Road

Protecting Our Communities

The City must focus on protection of lives and property

We need to focus our efforts through:

- Strict fire codes in new communities
- Retrofitting of older communities
- Enforcement of proper defensible space regulations
- Examining best practices of other fire prone regions (e.g. Australia – under-eave/rooftop sprinklers)

Far less costly than the 9.4 billion wildfire-related claims submitted statewide in December 2017

Think: “How do we protect lives and property”, **NOT** “How do we stop wildfires/flooding/etc.?”

Emergency Management Cycle



Use Special Events as Preparation

- Paul Walker Funeral
- AMGEN Tour of California
- Santa Clarita Marathon
- Annual Fourth of July Parade
- Wings for Life World Run



Public Works Preparation

Pre-meetings – Public Works/Citywide

- Determine response prioritization

Preventative Measures – Examples

- Traffic control measures in place
- List of hot spots
- Debris clearing and disposal
- Tree and storm drain maintenance
- Street sweeping

Logistics of Response

- Response during work hours vs. non-work hours
- Mobilization of equipment, personnel, and materials



Emergency Management Tools

Emergency Notification

- Internal/External
- Emergency Services Coordinator

Social Media

- Mass communication
- City emergency blog
- Local radio



City of
SANTA CLARITA

EMERGENCY UPDATES

Purchasing Policy

- Know your policies
- Consider: Who has authority and what are the limits. Does it change during a disaster?
- Reserves for overtime and equipment rentals
- Pre-established contracts
 - Debris removal
 - Grading

Vehicle Maintenance

- Fuel reserves
- Fueling policies
- Vehicle maintenance

Interagency Coordination Partners

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
(LASD)

Los Angeles County Fire Department
(LACFD)

California Highway Patrol (CHP)

California Department of Transportation
(Caltrans)

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
(CalFire)

Army Corps of Engineers

California Department of Fish & Wildlife

American Red Cross Public Health

Los Angeles County Public Works

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Where are your EOC's?

- Primary and secondary
 - City Hall
 - Transit Maintenance Facility

Stocked and prepared

- Map of the area/GIS mapping
- Identified hot spots
- Forms for documentation

Alternative power source

Back-up phones in field/command

- Satellite communications
- Satellite phones



Documentation – Key to Reimbursement

Document, document, document

Cost Tracking Document

- People, equipment, supplies, building/infrastructure

Photo Documentation Process

- All buildings, equipment, and infrastructure
- Receipts
- Hours/mileage
- Materials used/purchased/or pulled from stock
- Rentals

Volunteers in Emergencies

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Amateur Radio Operations

American Red Cross/Salvation Army

Faith based organizations

Community Services Programs



Additional Resources

American Public Works Association (APWA)

California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

Operation Area – Los Angeles County

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Questions

Robert Newman

rnewman@santa-clarita.com

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – CITY OF SANTA CLARITA