Public Works & Emergency Management
Lessons Learned – Keys to Preparation

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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.?”

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Emergency Management Cycle

1. Mitigation
2. Preparedness
3. Recovery
4. Prevention
5. Response

The cycle continues from entry to exit points.
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

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

Alternate 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

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