Sonoma County Fire Response

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
MARCH, 2018

TPW on a “normal” day

- Road Maintenance
- Integrated Waste
- Transit
- Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport
- Communications
Road Fire Response: Initial Response

- Cleared trees blocking evacuation routes
- Provided traffic control during the fires
- Used water trucks, road side sprayers, and airport fire fighting equipment to assist fire operations, including spot fires and refilling fire engines
- Cut back roads for emergency access to inaccessible areas

Road Fire Response: Opening Roads

- Opened approximately 90 miles of ‘burned’ roads
- Coordinated with CalFire, Bureau of Land Management, and National Guard for a fast and effective approach
- Hired $1.2 M in tree removal and erosion control contracts
Road Fire Response: Watersheds

- Staff and contractors stabilized critical slopes and installed erosion control measures in the right-of-way
- Installed filtration BMPs at storm drains
- Evaluated and replaced culverts

Road Fire Response: Road Repairs

- Replaced signs and traffic safety devices
- Preparing contracts for guardrail replacement
- Working on addressing pavement damage from debris hauling and construction with CalOES
Roads Fire Response: Trees

• Hired ACRT to assess trees that could threaten the 90 miles of roads in burned areas
• 10,733 trees were documented – 949 trees are above moderate risk
• TPW is working with FEMA to fund the removal of trees in our Right of Way.

Integrated Waste Fire Response: Debris

• Lead on the County Debris Task Force
  • Debris management options: Government Sponsored vs. Private Cleanup
    • Worked with Environmental Health and partners to enroll 3,731 properties in the Gov. program, and approve 1159 for private cleanup
    • Evaluating abatements for those who opted for private cleanup but haven’t started
  • Contractor Assistance
    • Assistance with challenges such as staging sites and vehicle management
    • US Army Corps managed the contractors, while the County assisted guiding them to local departments and permitting agencies
Integrated Waste Fire Response: Landfill

- Landfill Capacity and Operation
  - Completed a new cell before the fires, and have already started construction on a new cell
  - Estimate that we will lose a few years off the total life of our landfill. Prior to the fires we estimated 28 years left.
  - Worked with the County’s landfill operator to help them manage an increase of approximately 16 times the normal daily tonnage.

Transit Fire Response

- Evacuation shuttles
  - From Sutter Hospital, Kaiser Hospital, Sonoma State University, Sonoma County Youth Detention Center, and more
  - Suspended service while assisting with evacuations
  - Suspended fare collection from October 9th – 22nd
Airport Fire Response

- Provided generators to support county road operations, and CAL FIRE retardant pumps
- Airport fire fighting staff used an airport fire truck to fight fires
- Assisted the National Guard with supply deliveries
- Monitored flight actives which included the CAL FIRE air attack base
- Staff assisted members of the public whose flights had been cancelled
- Functioned with limited staff as a result of evacuated employees

Communications Fire Response

- Communications staff was assigned full-time in the Joint Information Center
- In one month, the Joint Information Center:
  - Managed 25,000 hotline calls from the community
  - Organized 40 community meetings
  - Wrote 65 press releases
  - Developed 45 sets of talking points
Lessons Learned

• Redundancy in:
  • Communications
  • Staff training and contact information
  • Generators
• Update on call procurement contracts and landfill agreements
• Learn your Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and colleagues’ roles
• Know your community partners