



Stanislaus County Operational Area Council



October 22, 2015
Meeting Notes

I. Call to Order

Chief Skiles called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Roll Call/Introductions

JPA Members: Stanislaus County, City of Turlock, City of Riverbank, City of Patterson, City of Waterford.

Partner Agencies: Turlock Irrigation District (TID), Health Services Agency/Public Health, Stanislaus County Ag Commissioner, Mountain Valley EMSA, Advancing Vibrant Communities, CSU Stanislaus, Latino Emergency Council (LEC), Congressman Denham's Office, United Way, E & J Gallo, PG & E, Turlock Police Dept., San Joaquin OES, Denair Fire, Modesto Irrigation District, NWS Sacramento.

Chief Skiles introduced Fire Chief Jeff Breasher from Patterson Fire and Dennis Cordova, from the County Sheriff's Office assigned to OES. He noted that this is Roy Wasden's last meeting as he is retiring in December.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2015 Operational Area Council meeting was made by Roy Wasden and seconded by Matt Erickson. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Presentation

a.) National Weather Service

Cindy Matthews, with the National Weather Service in Sacramento, provided a power point presentation discussing the current weather conditions, El Nino, precipitation and drought information. We have experienced four years of drought. The water year is from October to September and last year we were at 78% in our rainfall. Out of the last 10 years, 7 have been below average for rain. A 9 year drought is not unusual and we will probably still be in a drought next year. In addition, because of the drought, our forest trees are stressed and there has been an infestation of bark beetles and that has impacted the fuel and fire conditions. There have also been more downed trees which have created power outages. El Nino is here and strong. It increases our potential for above normal rain the longer it hangs around. Right now it is predicted to hang around until spring. Cindy noted that the 1997 floods were not related to El Nino. Chief Skiles noted that Cindy

Matthews had received a National Award for her work with the National Weather Service.

- b.) Rocky Fire – Disaster in Lake County: video
Chief Skiles showed a video about the Rocky Fire and noted that it was a good introduction into the question “What is Emergency management?” The State of California is a leader in this area with the Fire Service developing ICS and SEMS and FEMA taking what we have developed to a National level.

VI. Agenda Items

No Action Items Noted.

VII. Informational Items – Office of Emergency Services

- a) EMMA Requests:
Chief Skiles reported that the Emergency Mutual Aid Program is out of Sacramento and they coordinate the requests and reimbursements. Requests can come from multiple channels. Response is made using SEMS. FEMA requires specific documentation for reimbursement. Agencies can check with our office for verification regarding the mutual aid requests and response.
- b) Hiplink Notification Policy:
Chief Skiles noted that when another agency sends out a notification the OES phone number is listed. The new policy is for cities to let OES know when they send out a notification and for them to also list a contact number on their message so that phone calls go to them. It is important to list the most important information in the first 5 seconds of the message. OES is looking at other emergency notification methods. If we change, we will make it available to the Operational Area.
- c) Flood Preparedness Planning:
Chief Skiles noted that this is a discussion for unincorporated areas of the county and involves debris managements and conversations with the Department of Water Resources. Because there could be rivers stopping up at bridges, we want to work with OAC agencies through conference calls and special meetings if needed. We will also coordinate with San Joaquin County. OES has been awarded a grand for long-term flood planning which will include reclamation districts and management for levees. Coordinated response training will also be provided through the grant.
- d) Temporary Water Assistance (TWA) Program:
Melba Hibbard provided an update on the TWA Program reporting that Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) provides water tanks and water to those with dry wells. To date the County has received 58 applications for a tank. There are 86 dry wells in Stanislaus County that have been reported through the County Department of Environmental Resources (DER). There have been 37 tanks installed with 45 locations receiving water – some locations already had tanks. SHE delivers water each week and works with the homeowners on long-term solutions including new wells or connecting to city water. Currently it is taking between a year and 18 months to get a new well.

There are no specific trends for dry wells. They are located all over the County. Melba stated that she will send out a map of the areas impacted. Most of the wells that have gone dry are in the 40 to 80 foot depth and were drilled over 40 to 50 years ago. If you are a landlord with renters, you are required to install your own tank and then water will be delivered by SHE.

e) EOC Management Team:

There are two kick off dates for the EOC Management Team training: December 9 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Harvest Hall, and December 17 from 10:30 to Noon at Harvest Hall. This provides mutual aid within the County. Email Dave Funk at dfunk@stanoes.com with any questions.

f) City Emergency Operations Plans:

All Cities adopted NIMS in 2005/2006, which requires that they update their EOPs. Chris Holmer will assist the Cities with their updates. All cities are encouraged to participate.

VIII. Operational Area Discipline Reports

a) Public Health

Jim Ferrera reported that the Medical Reserve Corps deployed to the “Valley Fire” in Lake County. Four volunteers as well as the MRC Coordinator (Aaron Wilson) were deployed to answer phone calls from the public to help fire victims get connected to available services. There were there for 5 days.

For the Flu season, Public Health is piloting a phased plan (similar to the Heat Contingency Plan) that will be used to monitor hospital emergency crowding during the winter (flu) season.

For the statewide exercise, Public Health is working with hospitals and CSU Stanislaus to exercise running “closed PODs” at their locations. A “closed POD” is a “Point of Dispensing” that is not open to the public and is designed to quickly provide prophylaxis to a designated group within a facility or organization. This will include communications and resource requesting both horizontally and vertically.

b) Fire

CERT – the Latino Emergency Council has graduated 145 Spanish speaking students. Modesto and the LEC is looking to offer a CERT class in January. Chief Breasher from Patterson/West Stanislaus noted that they have a CERT program.

Chief Skiles noted that through Homeland Security funds there is \$7500 for 2016-17 for the next cycle. We can increase that amount in future years if requested.

c) Law Enforcement

Dennis Cordova reported that there were multiple deployments to the Lake Fire. Twice they deployed 10-15 personnel. A team of six was deployed to the Butte Fire. During Fleet Week, they assisted the Coast Guard Air with two deployments to Tuolumne County and two were just dispatched to Calaveras County.

d) Agricultural Commissioner

Dan Bernaciak reported that CDFA and the State Veterinarian are involved with the Avian Influenza Emergency training before winter as our county is located on the Pacific flyway.

- e) Public Works
Nothing new to report.
- f) Cal OES
Not available.
- g) Partnering Agencies
Jason Carkeet with TID noted that our water runoff is only at 31%. We need 130% of precipitation to have normal runoff. We are still looking at a deficit of surface water on the Tuolumne River.
Chief Skiles discussed the PG & E tour of their Operations Center which showcased how they manage and control the system.

John Austin from San Joaquin OES reported that San Joaquin County has been busy with the two fires. He spent two weeks at Calaveras County serving as the Plans Section Chief. San Joaquin filled 70 EMMA positions including PIOs, Emergency Managers, Law Enforcement, Ag Commissioner and Environmental Health.

Kelly Marshall from CSUS asked how they would request counselors if needed in an Active Shooter incident. She was directed to contact OES for more information.

IX. Roundtable/Announcements

Dale Skiles noted that Dave Funk is teaching a NIMS executive Course ICS 402 on Thursday, December 17, 2015 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Turlock City Emergency Operations Center. Class size is limited to 25-30 students. Register online at stanoes.com.

The next meeting will be held January 21, 2016 at Harvest Hall at 1:30 p.m.

X. Meeting Adjourned – 3:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Chris Holmer