

Bay Area UASI



Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative Quarterly Newsletter

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Regional Catastrophic Planning Needs Highlighted

Power distribution within California is dependent on electric lines strung over thousands of miles on vulnerable wooden poles. Following the disastrous fires of 2017-18, Cal Fire officials blamed transmission lines owned by the state's largest public utility, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), for the deadly North Bay and Paradise fires. In an effort to avoid the future ignition of wildfires during periods of high winds and dry conditions, the company developed the Public Safety Power Shutoff Program.



Residents flee the flames and embers from the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County.

In the last month, PG&E has turned off power to over 1.5 million residents, sometimes for days at a time. Despite these actions, at approximately 9:20 PM on October 23, a fire at the Geysers in Sonoma County was reported. Now known as the Kincade Fire, over 77,000 acres across

northern Sonoma County has burned, destroying almost 100 structures. Currently, thousands of firefighters from 10 different states are working tirelessly to contain the blaze that threatened the cities of Windsor, Healdsburg, and Santa Rosa. Smaller fires have also broken out across the region, causing additional firefighting efforts.

In addition to the fire, evacuations and poor air quality have also affected residents throughout the Bay Area. Over 200,000 residents, the largest number in Sonoma County history, were forced out of their homes and further highlighted the need for shelters throughout the region. Additionally, smoke from the fires has entered heavily populated areas of the Bay Area, reducing air quality to dangerous levels.

Bay Area UASI work groups have developed a number of toolkits to aid local governments in their efforts to respond to these large scale events. Descriptions and links can be found on the pages of this newsletter.

A recent grant from DHS/FEMA will continue assisting the Bay Area in its disaster preparations. A \$1.4 million award from the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) will allow the region to continue improving its logistics and supply chain management by increasing the number of planned Commodity Points of Distribution sites around the region from 30 to 100. These pre-planned sites will obtain supplies and services including food, water, medicine, and temporary shelter equipment. Advanced planning will allow for streamlined operations and increase regional capabilities as we continue planning for disasters.



Recently Released Toolkits

Work groups within the Bay Area UASI have been developing a number of products to assist during critical events. On the next two pages, transportation, air quality messaging, and access and functional needs toolkits are described with links to the Bay Area UASI website.

Critical Transportation PIO Toolkit



The Bay Area UASI Emergency Management workgroup has recently completed a Critical Transportation Public Information Officer Toolkit. Comprised of resources designed to assist public information officers tasked with providing information and updates to the public during critical events, it includes guidance

documents with an overview of services and infrastructure as well as identifying potential partners. A second section provides resources to be used during an event, including checklists for developing sample messages, messaging people with access and functional needs, commonly asked questions from the public, and sources for message translation and interpretation. The toolkit is available at: www.bayareauasi.org/criticaltransportation/pio

Paratransit Guidance Toolkit Released



The Bay Area Paratransit Toolkit provides guidance and multiple resources to support all-hazards emergency planning efforts for both planned and unplanned events, including, accidents and incidents, acts of nature, hazardous material releases, technological emergencies, criminal activity, and terrorism. It is intended to support paratransit agencies in the development and updating of Emergency Operations Plans, policies, and response capabilities. The toolkit is available at:

www.bayareauasi.org/criticaltransportation/paratransit



Critical Transportation Planning for Agencies

The Critical Transportation Planning Toolkit provides guidance and considerations for critical transportation planning following an incident. A comprehensive set of topics for local governments to consider in their critical transportation plans is provided. Examples from existing critical transportation plans and modifiable templates for jurisdictional adaptation are included. A Plan Evaluation Checklist and Mutual Aid guidance documents are included. The toolkit is available at: www.bayareauasi.org/criticaltransportation/planning

Air Quality Messaging Toolkit



The Regional Air Quality Messaging Toolkit serves as a unified resource for public information officers to plan, create, and deploy messaging related to air quality incidents occurring in the region. The toolkit provides overall guidance for air quality messaging, templated messages based on Air Quality Index levels, pre scripted templates for social media, press releases, and school districts, and strategies for communication with hard to reach populations. The toolkit is available at: www.bayareauasi.org/aqi

Bay Area UASI Updates

Fleet Week Exercise



Each year during Fleet Week, the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management hosts an exercise to test coordination between local, state, and federal agencies. This year, the exercise focused on coordination efforts

between local agencies and the Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)- the process by which US military assets and personnel can be used to assist in missions normally carried out by civil authorities, including responses to natural and man-made disasters. The focus of this exercise was the successful identification of priority routes within San Francisco that would be needed to allow for disaster debris management and the logistical support required to reopen these routes.

Cybersecurity Tiered Training Program



To improve cyber resilience among government agencies throughout the Bay Area, the Cybersecurity working group will be kicking off a tiered Cybersecurity Training Program. This program will create a robust, comprehensive, and customizable cybersecurity training curriculum that will help improve all three levels of an organization's cybersecurity posture (end user, IT administrator, and executives). Some of the courses available in this program will provide phishing training licenses for end users; classroom and online- based courses for IT administrators; and peer-to-peer information exchange and networking opportunities to executive management.

UASI Regional Training & Exercise Program

The Bay Area Regional Training & Exercise Program is currently in transition. However, an interim website has been established and a limited number of training opportunities, primarily in Radiological & Nuclear Detection, are available for appropriate personnel.

For more information on available courses, please visit: www.rteportal.org



Access & Functional Needs Planning Toolkit Released

Recognizing the need to address community members with access and functional needs during times of catastrophic disasters (e.g. wildfires, earthquakes, or terrorist attacks), the Bay Area UASI's Emergency Management workgroup has released a toolkit designed for local emergency managers and public safety planning personnel. The toolkit, designed for incorporation in their emergency plans includes: a needs plan & assessment tool; ADA website compliance tool; shelter supply cache tool; inclusive planning guides, MOU guidance, and a spontaneous shelter guide.

The materials are available on the Bay Area UASI website at: www.bayareauasi.org/afn



Compliance Corner & Management Team

Approval Authority Updates

Marin County Sheriff's Office Captain Dave Augustus announced his retirement in August 2019. He will be replaced by Marin County Sheriff's Office Captain Rick Navarro.

Management Team Updates

The Bay Area UASI Management Team welcomes Wendy Suhr onboard as an interim Project Manager for the Emergency Management Workgroup. Mrs. Suhr has extensive experience in providing consultancy services for local governments in Emergency Management areas.

Compliance Corner:



This quarter's Compliance Corner focuses on a new federal grant requirement. According to the FY 19 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), recipients and sub-recipients of FY 19 grant funds are required to complete the 2019 Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR). This assessment will assist your jurisdiction in benchmarking and measuring improvements to your cybersecurity posture.



The 2019 NCSR has 141 questions and takes approximately 2-3 hours to complete. Open from October – December 2019, the guidance requires completion of the form by the CIO, CISO or equivalent for each sub-recipient jurisdiction. If there is no CIO or CISO, the most senior cybersecurity professional should complete the assessment.

In order to meet the new NCSR grant requirement and allow the UASI to provide proof of completion to DHS in a timely manner, all Bay Area sub-recipient jurisdictions must submit a proof of completion certificate to Regional Project Manager Mikyung Kim-Molina at Mikyung.Kim-Molina@sfgov.org by December 6, 2019. For any additional questions or if you further information, please call Mikyung at 415-353-5230.

NOTE: Failure to complete and submit this assessment may result in the suspension or termination of your UASI grant award.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

- 11/05-11/09: PRND Team Operations Course
- 11/14: Approval Authority Meeting
- 11/15: 2019 NOAA Alert & Warning Exercise
- 11/20: Critical Transportation Workshop

DECEMBER

- 12/06: IPAWS Public Information & Warning Exercise
- 12/17-12/20: Radiation Operations Support Specialist Course

FY20 UASI Project Proposal Process

The FY 2020 project proposal submissions began on September 20, 2019 and closed on October 16, 2019. The Management Team received a total of 189 applications amounting to \$37.2 million dollars, \$14.5 million more than the anticipated funding allocation.

Proposals will be reviewed for fiscal and programmatic compliance prior to being forwarded to the Hub Voting Members. The four hub prioritization meetings have been scheduled for January 2020 and applicants will be notified if they are needed to attend.

For more information on the FY20 Project Proposal Process, please visit: www.bayareauasi.org/proposals