OES Welcomes New ESO, David Davis

Contact: D. Davis

Meet David Davis the newest Emergency Services Officer for San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES). David has a rich background in emergency management and fire suppression. He came from Pasadena Unified School District as the Emergency Manager for the last six years and last four years as the Fire Chief of San Pasqual Fire Department in Northern San Diego County. Before that he was the Fire Chief of the Walt Disney Studios Fire Dept. in Burbank, Los Angeles, Glendale as well as Santa Clarita, Calif. He came from the City of Avalon Fire Dept. where he was a Fire Apparatus Engineer for 14 years and started his career at Orange County Fire as a Paid-Call Firefighter where he served two years. He grew up in Orange County where he lives now with his four children, Nicole 23, Natalie 21, Gilbert 6 and Natalie 4 and his wife Jody Davis. David is very happy to be a part of County OES.

Karen Page is Welcomed by OES

Contact: K. Page

Meet Karen Page, the newest Accounting Technician for San Bernardino County Fire, OES (Office of Emergency Services) Grants Administration Unit. Karen comes to County OES from Program Integrity where she worked as a Fiscal Assistant for two years. Before that she was Accountant in the private sector for 25+ years. She was born in San Bernardino and grew up in Alta Loma where she lives now. Karen also runs a karaoke business on the weekends. In her spare time she enjoys watching football and is a huge Denver Broncos fan. Visiting Mickey at Disneyland is also one of her favorite things. She is very proud of her two daughters, who both live in Texas, and are incredible teachers. She also has an eight year old grandson who is the light of her life. Karen is very happy to be a part of the San Bernardino County Fire, OES family.

OES Welcomes Grants Unit Member

Contact: K. Kehl

Kathryn Kehl joined County Fire in 2006 as an Account Representative for the Hazardous Materials Division working in billing and accounts receivables. In 2007 she promoted to a Collections Officer in the Fiscal Division, billing and collecting revenues for unpaid hazard permits, fire prevention permits, and cost recovery incidents. While in collections, Kathryn participated in the San Bernardino County MRA. Cohort working towards a degree in Public Administration from CSUSB.

Kathryn participated in the San Bernardino County MRA. Cohort working towards a degree in Public Administration from CSUSB. In 2012, she also promoted to a Staff Analyst I working with the fee program in the Hazardous Materials Division. Then in 2014, Kathryn was promoted to a Staff Analyst II as a special projects analyst preparing contracts, BAI’s and other miscellaneous projects in the Budget/Finance/Grants Division of County Fire. Kathryn is now looking forward to learning about Grant administration and contributing positively in her new role within the OES Grants Unit.

Kathryn is married with two daughters, one in college and the youngest in high school. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, baking, and watching a good movie.
November OACC Predicts Future

Contact: R. Lindsay

The day long slate of speakers for the November 2015 Operational Area Coordinating Council (OACC) meeting hosted by the City of Chino Hills was both dynamic and timely enough to draw the best attendance of City/Town jurisdictions in recent memory. A report from the County Department of Public Works on El Niño preparations and an FBI presentation on Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVE) in San Bernardino packed the house and provided valuable information that would be utilized all too soon in the San Bernardino terrorist attack and winter weather incident that followed in December and January respectively.

Center for Domestic Preparedness PIO Training

Contact: C. Nagy

Training is always a top priority in all fields. Recently Cheryl Nagy, Division Public Information Officer (PIO) for the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Claudia Doyle, PIO for San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (DPH) were selected to attend Advanced Public Information training at Homeland Security’s Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDFP) in Anniston, Alabama. Cheryl and Claudia joined a class of 35 PIOs from throughout California as they traveled to CDFP.

CERT Gets the Word Out About El Niño

Contact: M. A. Ramirez

San Bernardino County unincorporated CERT programs distributed thousands of informational El Niño preparedness packets to residents in flood prone areas, including Lytle Creek, Wrightwood, Phelan/Pinon Hills, Lucerne Valley, Angelen Oaks and the Morongo Basin. Working with local Battalion Chiefs and Captains CERT Members gathered their teams to assemble the packets. The information included tips on preparing for El Niño related flooding. The project was an outstanding opportunity to show the capabilities of CERT Members and their willingness to help the communities they live in.

Grants Update

Contact: M. Antonucci; K. Gonzalez; K. Page; K. Kehl

FY2014 Homeland Security Grant Program

The FY14 Fund Status Reports were due 2/1/16, therefore failure to comply may result in loss of funding which will be at the discretion of the HSGP Approval Authority. All projects must be 100% completed by the deadline of March 31, 2016. All projects must be completed and final reimbursement requests submitted to the Grants Administration Unit by April 10, 2016.

FY2015 Homeland Security Grant Program


County Fire obtained approval from Cal OES for the FY15 HSGP application 12/16/2015 and went to the County Board of Supervisors on 1/12/16 to accept the award. Subrecipients were contacted on 1/15/2016 with the required documents necessary to obtain an expenditure authorization which were due 2/1/2016 (unless prior approval was obtained). Failure to meet milestones will result in loss of funding or may affect future funding.

Foundation Status Report

All jurisdictions need to continue with the update of their internal records of where all grant funded equipment is located or distributed for federal audit purposes. Please keep in mind grant funded equipment must not be deployed until reconciled with the Grants Unit. To expedite the process please contact Louie Camacho as soon as the equipment is received to schedule an appointment for verification of items, photographs and tagging (if necessary).

Contact info:
Louie Camacho - Fire Equipment Technician I
Phone: (909)387-5561
Email: lcamacho@sbcfire.org

Connecting California Tribes to Local Government

Contact: M. Peren

The California Tribal Epidemiology Center from the California Rural Indian Health Board has reached out to Marc Peren, Emergency Services Officer, to participate in an advisory group. This group has been developed by the Robert Wood Johnson Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing Agreement research project, to guide the development of a toolkit that will assist on how to efficiently build relationships, mutual understanding of capacities, cross-jurisdictional development, and execution of those agreements between Tribes and Local Government. The ultimate goal is to distribute this toolkit across California with the end goal of helping tribes and counties come together for emergency management. This opportunity has been provided to San Bernardino County Fire due to its long-standing relationships with Tribal Nations and the new tribal relationships brought to the Division.
So Cal READI and SWMHE 5-Day Exercise

Contact: M. Peren

The 2015 Southern California Regional Exercise for Anthrax Disaster Incidents (SoCal READI) and the 2015 California Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE) was combined this year by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to tie set of common program priorities to exercise for the first time using a multi-phased exercise to test medical and health coordination; request procedures; and overall response mechanisms that will provide life-saving medication to respond to a release of a weaponized biological agent.

The exercise scenario was that terrorists have executed a wide-scale aerosolized anthrax attack in Southern California, utilizing multiple releases of dry anthrax spores dispersed by aircraft achieving maximum dispersal within the Los Angeles Basin and surrounding counties. The activities that were set to be tested were numerous and important to a real-life incident.

Activities such as detection and notification were practiced. Regional decision-making by Health Officers in Southern California have been practiced. Requesting processes from local health jurisdictions for Medical Countermeasures through the Strategic National Stockpile were placed under scrutiny. The utilization of regional public information was placed into practice. Finally, the use of protocols defined in the California Public Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual was put to the test.

The San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) participated in the full-scale exercise by activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the High Desert to keep EOC Responders out of harm’s way due to aerosolized anthrax exposure that according to the scenario affected the West End of the County.

Participating agencies that reported to the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services High Desert Emergency Operations Center included California Department of Public Health Credential & Licensing, California Office of Emergency Services, San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, Human Services, Inland Counties Emergency Management Agencies, Department of Public Health, and The City of Hesperia. Most EOC Responders were new to their EOC role, but the veteran responders and OES staff provided a positive learning environment for all novice players to thrive in their roles.

The full-scale exercise allowed for a full test of all the capabilities of the High Desert Emergency Operations Center facility. By activating the High Desert EOC facility we are providing familiarity for EOC Responders and keeping the capabilities of the County response sharp in order to provide the best response services to the residents and visitors of San Bernardino County.

Let It Snow

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weekend and all the snow bunnies are headed to our Winter Wonderland.

On Saturday, just as power was beginning to be restored, a call came regarding a phone system outage in Forest Falls for landline and 911 services. Additional coordination now needed to place into practice. Finally, the use of protocols defined in the California Public Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual was put to the test.

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Valley Region

El Niño Ready!

Contact: R. Lindsay

As with other regions in San Bernardino County, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinated the Valley Region El Niño Collaborators Meeting. The event was gra-ciously hosted by the City of Rancho Cucamonga, with the purpose of bringing all key cooperators together that might have a responsibility to respond to potential El Niño winter weather issues. The three major El Niño themes our presenters focused on were public safety, flood control and debris man-agement. The presenters included representa-tives from NOAA/National Weather Service, San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino County Sheriff, San Bernardino County Depart-ment of Public Works, the City of Rancho Cucamonga and the County Office of Emer-gency Services.

Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford welcomed an estimated crowd of 200 that attended the El Niño Public Awareness Meeting directly after the Collaborators Meeting and congratulated them for their proactive interest and preparations for El Niño weather events. Brief subject matter was provided to the attendees to facilitate the day’s purpose.

Bringing CERT to the Outer Reaches of the County

Contact: M. A. Ramirez

While all Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs recognize that profes-sional responders may be overwhelmed for a time during a major disaster, for some commu-nities that time may be longer than others. That reality means that an active CERT is vital for the well-being of the community. One such place is the Chemehuevi Tribal Reserv-ation and the surrounding community of Havasu Landing. In early December the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) in partnership with the San Manuel Fire Department provided a CERT Basic Training for Chemehuevi Tri-bal members and employees of the tribe. Emergency Services Officer, Michael A. Ramirez, Captain Mike Russ, San Manuel Fire, and CERT Volunteer Coordinators Ed and Bonnie Ross, Wrightwood CERT, provid-ed the three day course at the tribal commu-nity center. Participants learned about local hazards and began to realize the importance of the role they could play in an emergency. County OES hopes to continue its relationship with the tribe and will continue to take steps to support the development of a viable CERT program in that community.

OES QUARTERLY REPORT
CERT Comes to Highland

Contact: M. A. Ramirez

The San Bernardino County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) family continues to grow. The City of Highland hosted its first CERT Basic Training on January 22-24 at the Highland Police Headquarters. San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Service Specialist Lisa Henley worked closely with the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) to coordinate the course. The class was taught by Michael A. Ramirez, OES Emergency Services Officer, Shannon Kendal Emergency Services Coordinator from East Valley Fire and Wrightwood CERT Volunteer Coordinators Ed and Bonnie Ross. The class was eagerly welcomed by Highland residents who have been waiting for the important training in their own community. The program will be administered by the Sheriff’s Department with assistance from Cal Fire firefighters who service the city. In an effort to assist jurisdictions that desire to bring CERT to their communities OES will help jurisdictions with their first CERT Basic Training class. Contact ESO, Michael A. Ramirez at (909) 356-3998 for more information.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

With all the attention and emphasis on rain and flooding, let us not forget the other effects of El Niño

Contact: C. Cruz

The New Year started out with much of the Southern California region, including the San Bernardino County Operational Area (SBCOA) and surrounding OAs, either on high alert or activated for the first El Niño winter storm event. However, just as our neighboring OAs were ramping down, the collateral impacts of El Niño targeted the mountain areas, specifically the unincorporated community of Forest Falls.

What started out as a “routine” power outage on January 5, rapidly escalated into a six-day County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation with multiple agencies, responding to multiple incidents with several moving pieces...in the SNOW!

Wednesday, Jan 5 – Once Southern California Edison (SCE) crews were able to complete their initial damage assessment, the call came in advising that the “routine outage” with an estimated restoration time of 48 hours now had an “extended” restoration time of five days impacting 1,100 customers. The snow had severely damaged SCE infrastructure and all four circuits in the Forest Falls area were offline.

Thursday, Jan 6 — Monday, Jan 11 — During this time frame a significant coordination effort took place to ensure that the needs of the community were met. The primary issues included notifications to the community of the extended restoration time and the availability of Red Cross services. Coordination efforts involved daily conference calls with all the stakeholder agencies including SCE Business Affairs, SCE Incident Management Team (IMT), SCE field crews supported by County Public Works crews for road clearance; American Red Cross teams on standby for sheltering needs, County Fire who provided equipment and knowledge of the community, County Sheriff for road closure support, and the CAD’s office. Keep in mind that it’s the start of the

CONTINUED ON P6

CERT Ready to Fight!

Contact: M. A. Ramirez

CERT volunteers from throughout San Bernardino County participated in Emergency Flood Fight training in preparation for possible effects from El Niño related flooding. The two courses, coordinated by the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services, were taught by instructors from the California Department of Water Resources. The December course was hosted by the City of Hesperia CERT and held at the city’s public works facility. The second class in January was hosted by the San Manuel Tribal Emergency Response Team and conducted at the San Manuel Village. Both classes filled quickly and even with a collective attendance of over 125 participants there were still people on the waitlist.

The first portion of the day was spent indoors learning important tips on being properly equipped as well as the best methods for reducing damage to property from flooding. As always, safety was at the forefront of everything taught. The second part of the day was conducted outside and provided CERT volunteers the opportunity to practice the construction of various flood fighting structures. This included basics like how to properly fill, pass and set a sandbag as well as the more complex construction of a wave wash protection barrier.

These skills add another layer of preparedness among CERT volunteers and increase their ability to protect themselves, their families and their communities for the possible effects of El Niño.

Meet OES Newest Employee,
Rosemary Alford

Contact: R. Alford

Rosemary came from County of San Bernardino Transitional Assistance Department (TAD) in Hesperia where she started in 2001 as a Public Service Employee for a new Child Care Provider position in day care facilities inside of TAD offices. After six months of supporting the position, the department decided that there was a need for child care services in every TAD facility. Rosemary applied for the newly created permanent position and became a full time County employee where she developed the pilot program for the TAD child care facilities, creating rules and regulations and setting up all High Desert offices.

She held this position for 10 years while also learning clerical to advance within the County. In 2011 she promoted to Office Assistant II with TAD, where she worked for the last 15 years. Rosemary wanted to promote further within the County and learn a new department and she became interested in emergency services upon completing a CERT class and getting CERT certified. This newfound interest led her seek out positions in the field.

Rosemary started as an Office Assistant III for County OES in January. She has 3 children, Alexis 18, Issac 14 and Leyara 10. She was also blessed with her first grandson on Christmas Eve 2015. Rosemary is happy to be able to stay within the County and learn everything she can about the OES division.