It was not supposed to be a big or necessarily strong storm, according to the National Weather Service. They in fact walked back predictions of heavy rain or snow. Then Mother Nature reminded us that she makes the decisions. The daytime storm started out hard, snowing in all the surrounding mountains, trapping most people there for multiple days. The County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated and the Fire Department went into high gear with extreme call loads for assistance. The day went on with power failures, trapped tourists, and roads being closed.

Even the Mountain Hospital needed to be evacuated. All agencies responded quickly and in strong coordination to battle the storms. Caltrans opened most roads and the Sheriff responded with snow cats and resources and even had to help the crew and staff at the local reception center, as they were trapped. San Bernardino County Fire had multiple families at several firehouses and provided shelter to many, as the people were trapped and displaced. The new Fire Chief Dan Munsey actually helped Southern California Edison (SCE) with providing several cords of wood, dump trucks, and camp crews to supply local residents with firewood, as many were without heat. The power was out in many areas of the mountain communities and SCE requested aid throughout the weekend and was helped at all angles and received areas to stage equipment and respond from and even priority road clearances by County Special Districts and Caltrans as well as County Public Works. The response was successful, as the county plans for these disasters, has handled them in the past and also trains and works well with all stakeholders.
CalOES Visits Airports in San Bernardino County

Contact: John Ferdon

The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Logistics Branch recently partnered with San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (County OES) to reach out to key airports within the county to explore the possibility of forward deploying certain disaster logistics packages as part of pre-deployment strategy.

After completing site surveys and meetings with airport officials, the CalOES Logistics Team are preparing a final report and recommendations. Once completed, County OES will coordinate with the Logistics Team to assist in completing the deployments.

California For All

Contact: John Ferdon

A new year and a new name, but still the same wonderful opportunities for the residents of San Bernardino County, the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and LISTOS programs. The California for All Grant Program has been re-branded the LISTOS California Grant Program by the Office of the Governor of California.

The rebranding does not affect our outreach efforts or grant awards, which are being utilized to acquire new equipment and materials to benefit our communities. San Bernardino County was awarded two grants, one a targeted grant and one a CERT/LISTOS Capacity Building Grant. As part of these grants, County OES and our County Partners will have new tools to leverage preparedness messaging to the whole community. Make sure to look for us at various community events coming to a neighborhood near you!

Run. Hide. Fight

Contact: David Davis

Surviving an Active Threat: Run. Hide. Fight. or PER 375, aims to train non-traditional first responders, including civilian employees, students, faculty, staff, patrons, and any other person who lives, works, or visits any location where an active shooter incident may occur. The course focuses on the various components of the Run. Hide. Fight. Response paradigm, which is widely accepted and taught as one of the primary response paradigms regarding active shooter incidents. Participants learned about the ways in which the Run. Hide. Fight. Response paradigm can be applied in any active shooter incident, regardless of the location or other factors involved.

During the course, participants discussed the three primary tenets of the response paradigm, evaluate how the paradigm can be incorporated into existing building emergency action plans, complete a practical exercise in which they demonstrate the response options, and become familiar with notable case studies in which the response options were either implemented or could have been implemented to prevent or mitigate the attack. The course showed the students barricade techniques that were useful as well.

The Lowdown on Listos

Contact: Michael A. Ramirez and Irma Herrera

Congratulations to our San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (County OES) Listos Instructors Irma Herrera, Oscar Limón, and Cindy Torres who were selected to be part of the inaugural cadre of Listos State Master Trainers. Master Trainers have the ability to teach Listos Train-the-Trainer (TTT) courses and equip others to teach Listos in their own communities. These Master Trainers are excited to share their extensive knowledge and train instructors throughout the State of California.

On January 18, 2020, the County OES Listos Instructor Team conducted an eight-hour Listos Course for the El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center (El Sol) Staff. El Sol is a fellow recipient of the Listos - California For All Grant (County OES is a recipient of the Target County and CERT Capacity Building Grants). Grant funds are provided to increase preparedness among vulnerable populations in California. Graduates from this class then attended a State-sponsored Listos TTT hosted by the City of Chino on January 24-26, 2020. El Sol Instructors are now better equipped to prepare vulnerable populations throughout San Bernardino County.

For more information on how you can bring Listos to your community, contact Supervising Emergency Services Officer, Michael A. Ramirez.