



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority

From: Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Resiliency and Recovery Project Manager (Interim)

Date: February 13, 2014

Re: Item 6: 2013 Yellow Area Command Mass Fatality Exercise Summary

Staff Recommendation:

Discussion only

Action or Discussion Item:

In 2013, Urban Shield added Yellow Area Command to their annual regional exercise. This command was designated as the Office of Emergency Services (OES) Area Command. It focused on operational coordination between multiple EOCs and affiliated responding agencies, such as Fire, Law Enforcement, EMS, American Red Cross, and other public and private sector agencies.

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, Yellow Area Command exercised the Regional Mass Fatality Plan and Regional Catastrophic Earthquake Logistics Response Plan. It was a four hour functional exercise in the morning and a four hour Disaster Mortuary Operations and Family Assistance Center (FAC) demonstration in the afternoon. The scenario was a train accident with over 400 casualties and 150 fatalities, which required a regional response and disaster mortuary operations. This included a portable field morgue and the establishment of a Family Assistance Center (FAC).

The exercise focused on five (5) regional core capabilities:

1. Operational Coordination
2. Public & Private Services and Resources
3. Public Information and Warning
4. Fatality Management Services
5. Situational Assessment

The exercise included over 300 participants from 56 agencies who participated in the functional exercise and/or afternoon demonstration. The lead responding agency was Contra Costa County Sheriff, Coroner and Emergency Services Divisions, with supporting response from Alameda County Coroner (Law Enforcement Region II Mutual Aid Coordinator), San Francisco Department of Emergency Management, San Francisco Office of the Medical Examiner, San Mateo County Coroner, San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services, Marin County Coroner, California Coastal Region Office of Emergency Services, American Red Cross, Amtrak, and the Oregon State Police.

The After Action Report found the following regional strengths:

- The region successfully conducted operational coordination through the CalOES Coastal Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC).
- Coroners successfully identified needs and coordinated response to the mass fatality incident.
- Coroners & Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff successfully coordinated mutual aid resources.
- The Operational Area Public Information Officer (PIO) successfully coordinated local media needs.
- Contra Costa County provided excellent operational focused intelligence to responders and regional partners.

Opportunities for improvement included:

- Increase OA participation by moving exercise to a weekday.
- Training on transition from day-to-day operations to EOC-coordinated response.
- Developing a regional capability to deploy a Portable Field Morgue.
- Developing regional and/or local Family Assistance Center (FAC) plans.
- Training on regional information sharing requirements.
- Developing a Joint Information Center (JIC)/Joint Information System (JIS) capability in the region.

Planning has begun for the 2014 Urban Shield Yellow Command. A 3-5 year strategic plan forecasting what capabilities, jurisdictions and agency partners might participate in Yellow Command will provide a sustainable approach for exercising all of the regional catastrophic plans, as well as strengthening bay area response and emergency management operations in the years ahead.