



AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The Ad Hoc Committee on Disaster Preparedness was established to assess how well the County was prepared to handle disasters.

County Risk Management was reviewed, as was their manual. The manual was comprehensive in outlining how to handle all types of emergencies and how to train people to react. It was determined that no further action was required.

The Central Courthouse was reviewed with the Sheriff, who has jurisdiction over emergency procedures. There are periodic drills conducted to maintain a high level of alertness and, based on the interview, it was determined no further action was required.

The Office of Emergency Services, and its Emergency Operations Center were visited and reviewed. The total operation appears to be maintained at a very high level. There is one condition that is addressed in the report that follows.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

BACKGROUND

“The mission of the San Bernardino County Fire Department/Office of Emergency Services (OES) is to help prepare the communities and citizens of San Bernardino County Operational Area for the impacts of emergencies and disasters both natural and man-made. Emphasis at OES is placed on education of the public, coordination and communication of essential information, proactive customer service, and effective planning measures for response, recovery and mitigation from disasters.”

FINDINGS

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) has what is called a “unified command”, wherein each agency involved in an incident manages itself, but works through the coordinator if there are needs for assets elsewhere.

Assigned personnel from County departments staff the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when an incident occurs. The personnel are notified by phone or pager, depending on the time of day, to staff the EOC. The EOC may provide logistical support to an incident depending on the needs of agencies such as County Fire, Sheriff, the Road Department, etc., working an incident.

RECOMMENDATION

03-78 ESTABLISH A CENTRAL COMMANDER/MANAGER TO ENSURE THAT ALL AGENCIES INVOLVED IN A DISASTER/EMERGENCY RECEIVE DIRECTION FROM ONE SOURCE.