

Bay Area UASI



Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative Quarterly Newsletter

VOL 04 / ISSUE 01 / NOV 2017

North Bay Firestorm

On the night of October 8, a red flag warning for the North Bay was issued by the National Weather Service for high winds and extremely low humidity. This was not an uncommon warning, since the typical westerly winds off the ocean give way in October to hot, very dry winds out of the North. But on this particular night, it would prove devastating.

Multiple fires were soon burning in Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties. With winds gusting up to 75 miles per hour, the blazes spread quickly, bringing devastation to entire neighborhoods. During the conflagration approximately 100,000 people were forced to flee for their lives, many under harrowing and life-threatening conditions.

By the time all the fires were contained, over 8,000 firefighters had battled 21 wildfires that claimed 43



lives, destroyed approximately 8,400 homes and buildings, and blackened more than 245,000 acres. The City of Santa Rosa was among the

hardest hit. Governor Brown has requested and received a major disaster declaration approval from the President, making FEMA disaster assistance tools and programs available to the affected region.

Agencies from around the Bay Area initially rushed to provide mutual aid assistance to Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties. Later, agencies from as far away as Australia provided assistance. In Sonoma County alone, officials set up a “mega” commodity point of distribution site and opened 23 mass care shelters. To provide additional emergency management staff to local EOCs, Cal OES activated “EMMA” (Emergency Management Mutual Aid), a plan originally developed with UASI funds, to deploy personnel trained in EOC operations. Equipment, such as communications assets, mobile operations centers, and recovery supplies, were also sent to the impacted area.



The Bay Area UASI region has been developing plans and procedures for various catastrophic events for a number of years. As described in the regional THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment), the massive number of people impacted by this catastrophe, the destruction of public utilities, and the coordination of mutual aid public safety responders have all been components of the wildfire scenario. In the months and years ahead, the region stands with its neighbors as challenges are faced, capabilities and gaps are reviewed,

Bay Area UASI Updates



Urban Shield 2017

The 11th annual Urban Shield full scale training exercise was held across the Bay Area from September 8 - 11. Over two hundred partner agencies tested their abilities to plan and respond to critical public safety incidents during this nationally-renowned training exercise. Participants included, 36 Tactical Teams, 17 fire agencies (HazMat, Urban Search and Rescue, and Water Rescue/Maritime), 8 Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams, and over 5,000 volunteers.

The 53 unique scenarios are designed to mimic real world events. This year, many law enforcement scenarios focused on “active shooter” incidents, such as attacks on: theaters (Aurora, CO), nightclubs (Orlando, FL), and concerts (Las Vegas, NV). Fire/Urban Search and Rescue scenarios provided critical opportunities for first responders to practice rescue techniques that would be utilized just weeks later in the Santa Rosa and North Bay hills firestorm. Land-based HazMat teams tested capabilities in the area of radiation and biological agents, chemical warfare attacks, toxic leaks, and oil by rail accidents, while maritime-based HazMat teams conducted ferry emergency, boom deployment, vessel towing, and victim recovery drills.

The event concluded with an awards ceremony hosted by Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern and a keynote speech by John Mulligan, Deputy Director of the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC).

Urban Shield 2017 Top Teams TOP SWAT



First Place: Sacramento Police (pictured); Second Place: Oakland Police; Third Place: San Francisco Police

TOP EOD



First Place: Sacramento Police (pictured); Second Place: Alameda County; Third Place: Travis Air Force Base

TOP HAZMAT



First Place: Santa Clara County FD (pictured); Second Place: Contra Costa County; Third Place: Alameda County

TOP MARITIME



First Place: Alameda County FD (pictured); Second Place: Southern Marin FD; Third Place: Oakland Fire





Vigilant Guardian Tests Radiological/ Nuclear Capabilities

“Vigilant Guardian”, led by CBRNE project manager Chief Phil White, was conducted in several different locations in the Bay Area from October 23-28. This full scale radiological/ nuclear training exercise evaluated first responder preparedness and response capabilities in the event of radiological terrorism.

The training event featured a pre-explosion scenario known as “left of boom” and a consequence management scenario for post explosion or “right of boom”. Local, state and federal agencies participated such as: SFPD, SFFD & SFDEM, CalOES, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, Department of Energy, the FBI, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, United States Coast Guard, and the Department of Defense.



During the After Action Review, exercise directors will identify capabilities and gaps in information gathering and sharing; forensic analysis; the inspection of vehicles and aerial radiation detection; notification procedures between local and federal entities; local first responder response to a radiation emergency; and hospital response to receiving and treating contaminated patients.



UASI Regional Training & Exercise Program

To learn more about the program or to register for available courses visit: www.bauasitep.org.

Upcoming Courses

- 11/29: Workplace Violence & the Active Shooter
- 11/30: ICS/EOC Interface Workshop
- 12/18: Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks



Fleet Week 2017

A parade of ships under the Golden Gate Bridge kicked off San Francisco’s Fleet Week 2017. In conjunction with the San Francisco Fleet Week Association, the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management facilitated numerous community centered events around the city, including “Humanitarian Village” at Marina Green. The Village, an interactive demonstration of U.S. Military and Civil capabilities in responding to a disaster, included educational programs on Mass Care and Shelter, Power and Utilities, Community Response & Rescue, and Environmental Management & Decontamination.

CESA Conference

Bay Area UASI Management Team members Corinne Bartshire and Amy Ramirez attended the California Emergency Services Association (CESA) annual training conference from October 11-13. Amy presented on strategies for keeping emergency plans relevant and operational and Marin County’s Woody Baker-Cohn received an award for his efforts to integrate WebEOC into CalEOC.

Compliance Corner & Management Team

Approval Authority Updates

Sonoma County Emergency Services Manager Christopher Helgren has been appointed as the Approval Authority Member for Sonoma County.

Additionally, Oakland Emergency Services Manager Cathy Eide has announced her retirement. Oakland Fire Department Chief of Staff Angela Robinson Pinon has been appointed to replace her.

Compliance Corner:

Compliance in the Project Proposal Process

After a successful kick off meeting, Bay Area agencies submitted 147 FY18 proposals by the October 13 deadline. The project compliance review was conducted to ensure that proposals had a clear “nexus to terrorism”, directly benefitted at least two Operational Areas, were submitted by a government agency within the UASI footprint, enhanced the region’s priority capability objectives, and were correctly marked as “regional” or “hub”.



Next, the fiscal staff checked to see if the applications had been correctly categorized in the proper hub, whether funds had been allocated to the proper solution areas, the AEL numbers were correct, and if all calculations were reasonable and correct.

Regional project managers will complete the review process and verify the accuracy of the core capabilities, appropriate goals and objectives, realistic timelines and milestones, and any other programmatic concerns. Once this process is completed, notices will be sent by November 13 to the few applicants who did not meet the guidance criteria.

On November 13, Approval Authority members will be sent a summary of all proposals within their purview and return their feedback by December 1.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

- 11/08: CESA Workshop
- 11/09: Approval Authority Meeting

DECEMBER

- 12/12: Vigilant Guardian After Action Meeting
- 12/21: CBRNE/TE Workgroup

JANUARY

- 01/03: East Bay Hub Meeting
- 01/08: South Bay Hub Meeting
- 01/10: North Bay Hub Meeting
- 01/17: West Bay Hub Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 02/22: Level 2 Regional Prioritization Meeting

Management Team Updates

The Management Team welcomes Rick Cheney as one of our Grant Specialists.

As one of two specialists assigned in the Grants Management Unit, Rick is responsible for reviewing grant claims and expenditures as well as producing reports required by our granting agency. He will also support the fiscal group in monitoring subrecipients to ensure compliance with various grant requirements.

Happy Holidays to everyone! We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

