

2013-2014 BOARD MEMBERS

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ALERT

Volume 35

CUEA STAFF *Don Boland*, Executive Director
Jenny Regino, Executive Assistant

January to June 2013

CUEA ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting was held on June 6, 2013 at the SDG&E Energy Innovation Center in San Diego, CA. The theme of our conference this year was "Utilities Assisting Across Borders". Our meeting focused on the mutual assistance that our members have provided outside of their boundaries.

We had guest speakers from DHS, Cal Fire, CAISO, FEMA, WEI, the Air Force, and a panel of our own members who responded to Hurricane Sandy.

Tom Lawless from DHS provided an informative presentation on the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and the Wireless Priority Service (WPS). During Hurricane Sandy, the GETS had an overall call completion rate of 99.3%, and the WPS success rate was 97.8%.

John Wilder from Cal Fire gave an assessment of the upcoming fire season. The Redding Airport reported the

driest January through April in the last 49 years. The significant wild land fire potential outlook for July & August 2013 is above normal.

Jeff McDonald from CAISO shared some of



the history of ISO. He also provided us with a 2013 Summer overview.

Bob Fenton from FEMA discussed the coordination during Hurricane Sandy between the Government and the Utility companies. We also had the privilege of having Nancy Ward, FEMA Region 9 Administrator, share her insights on FEMA's plan to ensure domestic resilience in disasters. She discussed how effective administration, monitoring of federal grant funding, risk mapping, and exercising local emergency plans are being carried out in California.

Jim Reagan, who represented WEI, gave a presentation on Mutual Assistance. His presentation included a brief history of mutual assistance, notable events, recent events, and the Regional Mutual Assistance Groups (RMAG) role in Hurricane Sandy.

James Wood then gave an overview of Air Force loading in National Disasters.

Angie Gibson (PG&E), Jeff Carivau (LADWP), and Mike Manry (SDG&E) made up the panel for Sandy "Boots on the Ground". Each member of the panel shared their experience during deployment. They discussed their living conditions, working conditions, challenges they faced, and lessons they learned.

Thank you to all those who presented and attended our annual meeting this year. With your continued support and membership, CUEA continues to lead the way in statewide utility emergency response and planning.

GOLDEN GUARDIAN 2013

The Golden Guardian 2013 Exercise Series theme this year was a major earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area. The exercise took place on May 15, 2013. The UOC was fully staffed in all positions for this event. The Golden Guardian is an opportunity to provide training and education to new responders. John Spitler served as the UOC Controller/Evaluator. Sonny Fong submitted spontaneous water injects for the UOC staff. Although there were a few issues with the phone systems and the WEB EOC, overall the Golden Guardian Exercise was a success.

STATE COMMUNICATIONS RALLY

The Mobile Command Center Rally was held on May 8, 2013 at the Sacramento Fire Training Center. This year's display included over 30 state-of-the-art mobile command and communication centers of all shapes and sizes, from law enforcement, fire, EMS, military, utility companies and other support agencies. The focus was on interoperability, networking, and the interactive capabilities of diverse disciplines in major incident command and coordination. PG&E was the only utility company to participate in the rally. PG&E brought three different emergency-response vehicles, including a 39-foot-long vehicle that's full of high-tech communication gear and plenty of space for a crew of 12 to work. These command units are used to support public safety during local emergencies and disasters. Verizon Wireless brought out their Critical Response Unit to demonstrate their capabilities to restore wireless communications infrastructure.

**FEATURED SPEAKER AT THE ALL HAZARDS CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO**

On April 2, 2013 CUEA Executive Director, Don Boland was a featured speaker at the All Hazards Conference in San Francisco. Power outages cause significant challenges to the emergency management community. When super storm Sandy hit, communities were left severely crippled. The California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA) and Cal EMA rallied their resources and traveled across country to assist in a large scale mutual aid effort. Don Boland provided a first-hand account of this effort and delivered some valuable lessons learned and how San Francisco and the surrounding cities can better prepare its utilities.

CUEA STAFF CHANGE

On May 7, 2013 Emily Nourse departed CUEA to pursue an exciting new career. Jenny Regino has joined the CUEA as Don Boland's Executive Assistant back filling in Emily Nourse's position. We want to wish Emily the very best in her new chosen career. Jenny can be reached at the office (916) 845-8518, cell (916) 709-6708, and fax (916) 845-8516. You can also reach her by email at jenny.regino@calema.ca.gov

NEW CUEA BOARD MEMBERS

During the last fiscal year, CUEA has had a few changes to our Board of Directors. Brent Yamasaki, Manager of Water Systems Operations at the Metropolitan Water District is our new Vice Chair. We also have three new directors, and two new alternates on board. Barry Anderson, Vice President of Emergency Preparedness at PG&E; Scott Riden, Director of Field Operations at Verizon Wireless; Donald Daigler, Director of Emergency Management at Southern California Edison; Ian Whyte, Emergency Program Manager at Metropolitan Water District; Jason Regan, Director of Emergency Managements at PG&E. Please join us in welcoming all of our new Board of Directors for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

CAL EMA KIDS DAY

On Thursday April 25, Cal EMA hosted a “Take your Daughters and Sons to Work Day” special event. This is the nationally recognized day for this effort. As part of this daylong event for Cal EMA staff and key partners, they coordinate special displays and vehicles in the Cal EMA parking lot and building complex. This year, CUEA members Verizon Wireless and PG&E participated in this event. Pam Perdue with PG&E brought their 39 foot Mobile Command Vehicle, the Sprinter”, and Rommel Angeles with Verizon Wireless provided their COLT (cell on light truck) to display. CUEA would like to thank both of these members for participating in this fun event.



CUEA LENDS ITS SUPPORT TO SENATOR PADILLA’S BILL DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE VOTING RIGHTS OF EMERGENCY RESPONDERS & NATURAL DISASTER

Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) introduced SB 362. The bill would empower the Governor and the Secretary of State to act to protect the voting rights of emergency personnel and volunteers who are dispatched to help with disaster relief efforts outside of California. California’s public safety and emergency personnel, utility workers and volunteers are regularly deployed to assist during emergencies and natural disasters outside of California. These deployments can and do impact their ability to participate in elections and vote. “Californians assisting those in need outside of California, or outside the U.S. should not have to forego their right to vote. SB 362 would empower the Governor and the Secretary of State to set up alternative means of obtaining a ballot and voting when workers are responding to emergencies,” said Senator Alex Padilla.

Last year, Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast of the United States a week before Election Day. Hundreds of emergency and public safety personnel, volunteers and workers from the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric, Pacific Gas & Electric, the California Red Cross, the California National Guard, and the California Emergency Management Urban Search and Rescue Team, went to New York and New Jersey to help in the relief and recovery efforts. Workers who were not absentee voters were unable to vote and participate in the election. Presently, there are no provisions in state law allowing a person to vote if they are working or volunteering during a disaster outside of California. “California’s firefighters, police officers, utility workers and volunteers should not have to choose between helping others and exercising their right to vote. They should be able to do both. This bill would make that possible,” said Senator Padilla.

Don Boland, Executive Director of the California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA), which oversees California’s national utility relief efforts, supports the change. “Many of our member agencies and their personnel who were dispatched to the East Coast during last year’s Hurricane Sandy to help with relief efforts were unable to vote. Many of them had intended to vote at their local polling place, but due to the timing and urgency of the relief efforts were unable to,” said Mr. Boland.

CUEA PARTICIPATES IN LIBERTY UTILITIES TABLE TOP EXERCISE

Don Boland represented CUEA as a participant in Liberty Utilities “Operation South Lake Lightning Strike” in South Lake Tahoe on April 30th, 2013. This exercise brought together local utilities, city & county representatives, and police & fire agencies. The scenario involved a severe storm with lightning strikes in South Lake Tahoe that caused a few fires and significant power outages. This situation created interaction between all participating agencies to help improve their ability to work together on emergency incidents affecting the City of South Lake Tahoe. Liberty Utilities hosted this exercise to help demonstrate the ability of local authorities & utilities to work together during emergencies and solidify relationships with all local and regional agencies.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

As a member of the Senior Leadership Steering Committee, CUEA attended the meeting for the Northern California Catastrophic Flood Response Plan on March 4, 2013.

the ash column (15 miles high)

**PREPARING FOR THE BIG BANG:
STAKEHOLDERS DISCUSS VOLCANO DANGERS
IN STATE**

The state’s leading experts in volcanoes and volcanic dangers in California met to discuss the next big bang . Don Boland represented CUEA as a guest speaker. The meeting occurred at Cal EMA’s headquarters on February 12, 2013 and the stakeholders identified state and federal assets that would be necessary during a volcanic eruption. The Volcano Annex will integrate hazard and socioeconomic information that is accessible to emergency managers of all levels of government.

According to the US Geological Survey, a volcanic eruption occurs in California about as often as the San Andreas Fault Zone has a large-scale earthquake, which is about 10 times in the last 1,000 years.

Experts from the California Emergency Management Agency, USGS’s California Volcano Observatory and the California Geological Survey created the first Volcano Hazard Annex to the State Emergency Plan.

About half of the nation’s 169 young volcanoes are considered dangerous by USGS standards. California has two volcanoes – Lassen Volcanic Center and Mount Shasta – that are considered of the highest priority for increased monitoring.



Photo: NASA

CUEA JOINS THE CYBER SECURITY TASK FORCE

On March 18th, 2013, Don Boland was invited to become a member of the statewide Cyber Security Task Force. This is an alliance of first responders, infrastructure providers, universities, high technology companies, and senior officials from all levels of government. This task force will position California to be the preferred location for national cyber security research and pilot projects. Members of the task force will help to guide cyber security education, awareness, training, and exercise programs. The first meeting was held on May 13, 2013 at the Cal EMA headquarters.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING

CUEA participated in the Statewide Continuity Planning Workshop on January 29, 2013. Don Boland's presentation helped to broaden the understanding of Business Continuity Planning as it relates to interdependencies between the eight critical infrastructure sectors. His presentation focused on the process and procedures which state, federal and private businesses undertake during an emergency.

Cal EMA's Statewide Continuity Program's goal is to develop a unique partnership between state/federal government entities and the private sector to deal with the difficult issues of continuity planning. Through training, examination of case studies and best practices they will develop new tools to combat threats that cannot be predicted, deterred or negotiated away. They feel the key to their success is to develop trusted partnerships that bring experience and expertise together.

STATE HAZARD MITIGATION TEAM

As a member of the State Hazard Mitigation Team, CUEA was asked to participate in the kick off meeting on January 31, 2013 to update the State of California Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP). The State hazard mitigation team members were instrumental in the development of the 2010 Mitigation Plan, designated by FEMA on October 6, 2010, as an Enhanced State mitigation Plan. This puts California in a select group of less than twelve states that receive this honor, making our state eligible for increased hazard mitigation grants funds following federally declared disasters. To remain eligible to receive federal assistance under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the State of California Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan has to be reviewed and updated every three years. CUEA will be assisting with the development of the updated 2013 SHMP so that California can qualify again for FEMA's Enhanced State Plan designation. The ongoing efforts of the State Hazard Mitigation Team hopes to make California's people, communities, and environments safer through mitigation of floods, wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.



ALERT



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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES FOR OUR
NEXT SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER BY 12/10/13:
JENNY.REGINO@CALEMA.CA.GOV

Next Board of Directors Meeting

SEPTEMBER 18, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

LOCATION:

CAL OES HEADQUARTERS

MATHER, CA

As of

July 1, 2013

Cal EMA

is now

Cal OES

