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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CATPLAN UCG EXERCISE

On August 16, 2011 of the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX, held the 2012 Golden Guardian Southern California Catastrophic Response Plan, Unified Coordination Group Functional Exercise at the Ontario Convention Center.

The Unified Coordination Group (UCG) Functional Exercise (FE) allowed jurisdictions and agencies to observe the UCG key decision making process identified in the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan. The UCG received a Situational Status Report at 72+ after a catastrophic earthquake, which included briefings from the Cajon Pass, Port Reconstitution, and Water Conveyance Task Forces as well as recommended Courses of Action from the Mass Care Working Group. The Functional Exercise involved those local, state, and federal agencies as well as private companies that would made up the UCG and respond to a catastrophic earthquake in Southern California.

The core goals during this Functional Exercise were for the Unified Coordination Group to:

- Exercise key decisions in making allocation of scarce resources 72 hours after a catastrophic earthquake in Southern California
- Identify issues in the decision making process in the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan
- Evaluate and validate the UCG's role, activities, and recommendations in the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan 72 hours after the initial catastrophic earthquake in Southern California.

The exercise turnout was tremendous. CUEA staff attending included Don Boland and Emily Nourse. CUEA members also participated from Department of Water Resources, Metropolitan Water District and Los Angeles Department of Water Resources on the Water Task Force Panel. CUEA has been a key player in the development of this plan, representing the interest of our membership and being a part of the successful outcome was a great experience.

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FEMA REGION IX - REGIONAL INTERAGENCY STEERING COMMITTEE

On August 1, 2012, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX office hosted its regional leadership private sector conference. The conference was located in the Cal EMA Headquarters and opened up with a presentation by Secretary Mark Ghilarducci addressing the direction the State is heading and the coordination efforts and successes with FEMA Region IX.

The topic of coordination was then redirected to a panel of experts who discussed the "pacific debris" from the Japan Tsunami. Todd Morris (National Weather Service), Melinda Stehr (Cal EMA) and John Kennedy (EPA Regions IX) addressed debris removal and any lessons learned. Brian Woodbeck (Cal EMA) briefed the group on the fire season update. Assistant Secretary, Stephan Sellars (Cal EMA), presented to the group the new information management system for the agency WebEOC. This program will replace the RIMS system currently being used and is being customized for each department's requirements.

Wendy Bailey (FEMA) continued the morning presentations on to the

exercise division and briefed on the upcoming preparedness exercises. Mark Johnson (Cal EMA) and Dennis McKeown (FEMA) facilitated a planning discussion on the upcoming Cascadia Subduction Zone, Northern California Catastrophic Flood Response Plan and the San Francisco Bay Area Earthquake readiness Response Plan.

After lunch Terrie Zuiderhoek (FEMA) discussed the process by which State and Territories declare and document a declaration. Based on the topics of the region specific catastrophic plans and emergency declarations, the topics moved into the National Response Framework, point of contact matrices and long term recovery facilitated by Steve DeBlasio. The department of Energy presented on the progress of national energy assurance planning by Jon Juette. The day ended with readout on the Emergency Support Functions and what each is currently working on followed by a tour of the State Operations Center.

The day provided great cross communication between State and Federal Agencies, a platform for networking as well as a forum for new ideas be brought up.

FEMA REGION IX - PUBLIC/PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA) takes a leadership role in the FEMA Region IX's Public/Private Sector Leadership Conference held in Southern California August 15th for over one hundred local leaders from government and the private sector. The CUEA presentation and following discussion resonated with all who attended, and provided both starting points and yardsticks against which to measure the next steps for those developing greater preparedness and resilience in their communities. CUEA's ability to communicate that the aggregate approach has raised the bar for all involved and will continue to unite efforts with the government and private sector toward a true whole community approach.

EXECUTIVE DUTY OFFICER BRIEFING

On August 9 Executive Director, Don Boland proved again the value of CUEA to the State of California's Emergency Management Agency. The state rotates its Executive level staff members as duty officer for the State's Warning Center and State Operations Center. As the positions and the organization change within the agency, so do the personnel. Don Boland held a two hour Executive Duty Officer education seminar on CUEA. Included in the presentation was an explanation of the association, what we do, how we work with the State and Federal partners as well as how we can benefit from each other during the time of a disaster. The relationship CUEA has with many state agencies is unique and a hard concept to understand. The attendees benefitted greatly from this informative meeting which will only strengthen our role in a disaster.

SAN DIEGO ALL HAZARDS SUMMIT

CUEA participated in the San Diego All hazards Stakeholder's Summit August 21, 2012.

The Mission of the summit was to help advise and recommend to local emergency management and other stakeholders strategies for:

- Dispelling Emergency Management Myths
- Building Readiness and Resiliency with Public/Private Partnerships
- Planning for state and local response
- Your part in Golden Guardian
- Public safety Solutions for Communication
- How to manage to public media during emergency's

**NEXT BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING**

December 12, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Location:
Cal EMA Headquarters
Mather, CA

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES FOR
NEXT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DUE BY 9/20/12:

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