Ventura County Emergency Preparedness Workshop & Community Feedback Session

Unincorporated County Areas

September 15th, 2021, 6pm – 7:30pm
Opening Remarks

Bill Ayub
Ventura County Sheriff

Michael Powers
County Executive Office
Emergency Services Organizations
Speaker Panel

Director Patrick Maynard
Ventura Sheriff OES

Chief Jeff Shea
Ventura County Fire Dept.

Ashley Bautista
Ventura County PIO

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Rosa Gonzales
County Executive Office Community Liaison
If You Have Questions / Suggestions During This Presentation

Please submit questions using the Zoom Q&A Feature
Workshop Agenda

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. About OES
3. Local Hazards
4. SEMS
5. County Coordination
6. Evacuations / Sheltering
7. Alert & Warning
8. Incident Discussion
9. County EOP/HMP
10. Q&A / Closing
Been There, Done That!

Hwy 101
2016

Lockwood Valley
2019

Orchard/Main St.
Piru
What Kinds of Hazards Do We Face?

- Wildfire
- Landslide
- Agricultural/Biological
- Earthquake
- Drought
- Flood
Hazards We Face

- Agricultural / Biological
- Coastal Erosion/Sea Level Rise
- Dam and Levee Failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Landslides and Mass Movement

- Severe Weather (e.g. cold, heat, wind)
- Severe Storms
- Terrorism
- Tsunami
- Wildfire
- Mass Casualty Incident
Incident Flow

Initial Response from Public Safety and City/County Resources

OES Duty Officer Immediate Response

EOC Activation Initial Actions

EOC Activation Sustained Operations

EOC Demobilization

Demobilization

Immediate Response

Initial Actions

Incident Command Post established

incident

The new normal

Response / Recovery

VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF Emergency Services
Emergency Operations Organizational Structure
Ventura County Operational Area

- County EOC (County Emergency Operations Center)
- ICP/ACPs (Incident/Area Command Posts)
- Special District and NGO EOCs (e.g. NBVC, CSUCI, Red Cross, Office of Education, VCTC, water & sanitary districts)
- AOCs/DOCs (VC Agency/Dept. Operations Centers, County Exec. Office)
- City EOCs
- JIS (VC Joint Information System)
- CalOES SOC (State Operations Center)
- CalOES REOC (Regional EOC)
- MAC Group (VC Multi-agency Coordination Group)
- FEMA FJO (Joint Field Office)
Operational Area Coordination

Sheriff Emergency Services, fire and other law enforcement personnel will respond to the incident command post & work collectively to address incident needs.

They coordinate with:
- Cities
- County Departments
- State & Federal Agencies
- Special Districts
- Private Sector
- County Executive Office

Key areas of concern during an emergency:
- Alert & warning
- Evacuations
- Road closures
- Mass care and shelter

Unified command is established, and key decision makers collectively evaluate the situation and determine appropriate actions.
Evacuation Terminology

Conditions exist that SERIOUSLY IMPERIL or ENDANGER the lives of those in the defined area. The danger is IMMINENT!

Evacuation Order (Mandatory)

Residents with disability, access or functional needs should consider evacuating early.

Evacuation Warning (Voluntary)

The threat to lives is not yet imminent, however residents should prepare to evacuate.

Residents with disability, access or functional needs should consider evacuating early.
How will you be Notified?

- **Door to door notification / Hi-Lo Siren tone**
- **Phone call or text from VC Alert**
  - Citizens opt-in
  - Listed & unlisted telephone numbers
  - Cell phone data
- **VCEmergency.com**
- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)**
  - All phones within a select geographic region automatically receive notification
  - No registration required

Emergency Alert System
VCAlert.org

READY VENTURA COUNTY

EMERGENCY INFO VC ALERT EVENTS PLANS HAZARDS SURVEY ESPAÑOL

VC ALERT
Home / VC Alert

VC ALERT
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Register Here
VC Alert Brochure
VC Alert Frequently Asked Questions
Where can you Go?

There are over 100 predesignated locations we can use for emergency shelter

*Temporary Evacuation Points (TEP)*

- Initial locations where residents may be sent during an evacuation
- 7 locations throughout Ventura County
- Allows for streamlined evaluation and processing of displaced persons
- Staffed by Ventura County Human Services Agency and American Red Cross personnel
  - Determine the best resource for providing temporary shelter
  - Ensures adequate space and social distancing are available
    - Motel sheltering
    - Congregate sheltering
How You Can Stay Informed!

Community Preparedness
www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org

Ventura County Emergency Information
VCemergency.com
REAL-TIME RAINFALL INFO • EVACUATIONS • ROAD CLOSURES
Learning from Experience

• The Thomas & Woolsey Fires highlighted the importance of CONSISTENT, UNIFIED MESSAGING

• Following the Thomas Fire, messaging was identified as an area needing improvement and action was taken to increase coordination.
How We Manage Information

The Joint Information Center

• Data/intel gathering
  ✓ Track progress of incident (e.g. road closures, shelters)
  ✓ Monitor social media for rumors and misinformation

• Write/publish pertinent information
  before, during and after an incident
  ✓ Web pages / social media
  ✓ Media interviews
  ✓ Community networks (CEO Liaison)

• Public Information Hotline
  (805) 465-6650

The JIC acts as the hub for disseminating consistent, coordinated, accurate, timely, accessible, and complete information to the public during an incident.
Who needs information from the Joint Information Center?

- Community Members
- News Media
- Elected Officials
- Community Organizations
- Local/State Agencies
- Emergency Response Units
Why is timely accurate information important?

- Reduces uncertainty and anxiety
- Provides resources/life saving instructions
- Redirects resources
- Builds trust
- Becomes a two-way platform for listening/engagement
Community Engagement

year-round, not just during a disaster

Effectively reach communities and vulnerable populations

Vulnerable populations lack access to TV, internet, radio, cell, social media

- Older adults
- Low-income communities
- Monolingual non-English speakers; low proficiency or literacy in English
- People with disabilities including vision and hearing
- People who are unhoused
- Outdoor workers such as farmworkers
- Undocumented people

Trusted networks – CBOs and community leaders, Faith-based, Schools

Listen and discuss community concerns and fears

Incorporate community concerns

Connect to available resources

Increase trust with all government agencies involved

Continue working together and support
Emergency Operations Plan Update

- Addresses the County’s planned response to extraordinary emergency situations and natural, human-caused, or technological disasters
- Updated every 3 years
- Draft document is available on ReadyVenturaCounty.org
- Public comment review period closes 5pm on Friday, October 1, 2021.
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

- Inventories natural hazards, assesses risks, and develops mitigation strategies to reduce risks and expedite recovery from disasters
- A multi-jurisdictional planning effort
- Updated every 5 years
Why is the HMP Important?

• Helps prevent property damage and loss of life associated with natural hazards

• Demonstrates the county's and participating jurisdictions' commitment to reducing risk

• Serves as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources ($)

• Ensures communities remain eligible for FEMA funding ($$)
Update Milestones

• Steering Committee Formation

• Risk Analysis/Capabilities Assessment

• Public Outreach/Participation
  • Website/Social Media
  • Public meetings
  • Community Awareness Survey
  • Interactive Storymap

• Review and Adoption
  • Public comment period ~ Feb 2022
  • Review by BOS and submission to CalOES and FEMA ~ April 2022
Get Involved Today!

www.readyventuracounty.org

Follow the progress of the HMP update

View the Interactive Storymap!
- Learn about the hazards in your area
- Review the risk analysis results

Take the online survey!

Questions?
Contact Bonnie Luke
805-654-5136
BonnieK.Luke@ventura.org

Learn about hazard mitigation
Incident Scenario

Monday December 4th, 2017
6:26PM

A fast-moving brushfire has erupted in the rugged hills north of Santa Paula during a period of high winds and low humidity.

The burgeoning incident is given the moniker ‘Thomas Fire’…

This fire consumed over 281,000 acres, becoming one of the largest fires in California history before it was fully contained on January 12th, 2018.
Scenario Discussion
Questions?
Suggestions?

Please submit using the Zoom Q&A Feature
Preparedness is Everyone’s Responsibility

• Get a kit
• Have a plan
• Stay informed
• Stay involved

www.readyventuracounty.org
Final Questions?

*Please submit using the Zoom Q&A Feature*
Thank you for your participation!