

CUEA STAFF

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July to December 2015

Volume 40

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CUEA'S RESPONSE TO THE 2015 WILDFIRES

CUEA activated the Utility Operation Center on September 13th to support the California wildfires. Don and Jenny staffed the UOC for the next 10 days working with California Agencies, CALOES, CAL FIRE and Law. We would like to extend CUEA's sincere thanks for all our utilities members who provided timely and accurate support during this activation. The State of California transitioned from response to recovery effective September 23rd and started the build out of a JFO consisting of several thousand personnel. The SOC continued operation 24x7 working with FEMA operations personnel supporting the Valley and Butte fire recovery process. The Utility Operation Center demobilized at 4:00 pm on September 23rd and returned to the CUEA office to continue support for the ongoing fires.

The two main fires that CUEA responded to during this activation were the Valley Fire and the Butte Fires. Below is a summary of the fires along with some of the tasks that were completed during the UOC activation.



Valley Fire, Impacting Lake, Napa and Sonoma County
Acres Burned: 76,067
Total Structures Destroyed: 1,910



Butte Fire, Impacting Amador and Calaveras County
Acres Burned: 70,868
Total Structures Destroyed: 818

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CUEA UOC TASKS COMPLETED DURING ACTIVATION

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- ◆ **437** requests for assistance
- ◆ **39** CHP and Sheriff's requests for escorts and access
- ◆ **PG&E** set in excess of **1,000** poles with over **800** employees
- ◆ **AT&T** and **Verizon Wireless** deployed **13 COLT's**, **COWS** and other emergency **communication units**
- ◆ **EBMUD** and **SFPUC** staffed the **Lake County EOC**
- ◆ **EBMUD, Sonoma County Water and SFPUC provided the assessment and engineering inspections** to restore all water service Middletown and fire impact areas
- ◆ **SFPUC** under a OES Mission has undertaken the repair and rebuilding of Hidden Valley Lake CSD, Callayomi ,CWD Cobb Area, CWD Loch Lomond MWC, Loch Lomond MWC, Adams Springs WD, Anderson Springs CSD, Cobb Mountain WC, Lake County CSA 18 Starview, Lake County CSA 7 Bonanza Springs, Lake County CSA 22 Mt. Hannah, Harbin Hot Springs
- ◆ **Healdsburg, Palo Alto, SVC, Lodi, Roseville, Truckee Donner, Redding,** are providing Mutual Assistance to Geyser Geothermal plants. **Alameda** and **Lompoc** are standing by if additional assistance is required



AT&T Satellite COLT Deployed to Middleton, CA (Valley Fire)



PG&E crews replace power poles in the burned out area of Mokelumne Hill following the Butte fire in Calaveras County on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015



Satellite COLT & ECV Deployment to Mountain Ranch, CA (Butte Fire)



PG&E's Base Camp at the Valley Fire

DON BOLAND REPRESENTS CUEA AT THE FIRSTNET STATE CONSULTATION MEETING

by Robb Mayberry from Cal OES on August 7, 2015

Cal OES Assistant Director of Public Safety Communications Karen Wong welcomed over 200 attendees last week to the FirstNet State Consultation Meeting. The three-day meeting consisted of first responders, law enforcement, emergency management services, public utilities, tribal governments, as well as various city and state agencies from California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and Hawaii.

"This meeting is an opportunity to have real interaction with FirstNet, as we move to develop a dedicated public safety network which will serve California and the nation," said Wong.

Representatives from FirstNet were in Sacramento to engage with the public safety community about our coverage needs and objectives for California's portion of the national public safety broadband network. Speakers representing the federal, state and local level were on hand to discuss the unique challenges and needs of public safety stakeholders in California.

"We are at a time when we have an opportunity in front of us to change the landscape of our public safety communications," said Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci. "This (FirstNet) will allow us to collaborate and create real situational awareness, with that information we can make timely and critical decisions more than ever before."

FirstNet is a wireless network dedicated to public safety that will allow first responders to have access to data on their mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, and computers in their vehicles to respond to incidents. It will provide greater situational awareness during incidents and the ability to share critical information between first responders, which will ultimately save lives and keep responders safe.

"Every law enforcement person and first responder should have the same technology that every thirteen year old has in their hand today," said FirstNet Board Member Kevin McGinnis. "This will change the way emergency management services operates."



Don Boland with Mark Ghilarducci and the attendees at the FirstNet State Consultation Meeting

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT'S FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE

Information Provided by Steve Frew, EBMUD's Manager of Emergency Preparedness

The FY16 EOT Camp Activation FX was conducted at San Pablo Recreation Area on Tuesday October 20, 2015 from 7:30 am to 1:15 pm. Sixty-five people participated in this exercise including District EOT members, the District's mutual assistance partners from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD), PG&E, CUEA, and other outside agencies. In addition, CalWater activated their emergency water pipeline repair trailer for review and evaluation by participants. Cobalt, Inc. provided the camp setup, facilities, and meals for the exercise. They provided examples of meeting tents (with power, tables and chairs), sleeping quarters, restrooms, and mess hall for the exercise participants' use.

San Pablo Reservoir – "Area C" – [7301 San Pablo Dam Rd, El Sobrante, 94803](#)



The exercise included evaluation and validation of the following capabilities and objectives:

- **Emergency Operations Center Management Capability**
Activate camp, redirect personnel to camp, brief incoming personnel, and provide assignments
Coordinate activation of mutual aid agreement to obtain necessary resources for response
- **Critical Resource Logistics and Distribution Capability**
Provide meeting facilities, supplies, equipment, security and food service through a temporary camp
Implement a resource tracking system to report and document the use of facilities, supplies, equipment and food service
- **Communications Capability**
Exercise back-up communications and information technology plans, procedures, and systems
- **Emergency Public Information and Warning Capability**
Validate needs for emergency an communication plan for an extended water shortage or outage



Don Boland with Gerald Simon (CalWater) and his team pictured with the CalWater Emergency Response Trailer.

Listed are some of the strengths from the exercise that were included in EBMUD's after action report:

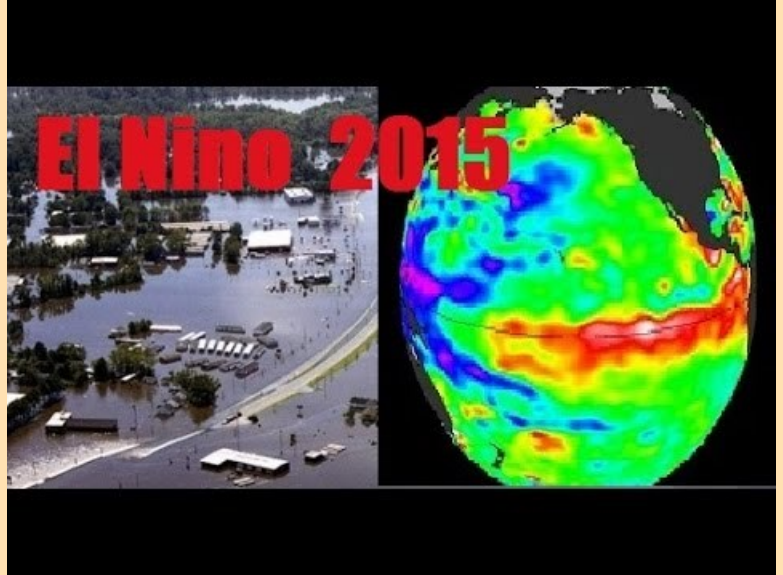
- ◇ *The camp was easy to find and had adequate space.*
- ◇ *Participants were able to use and understand the available facilities and resources at the base camp.*
- ◇ *Procurement staff was able to effectively access the Materials Management Information System and issue equipment.*
- ◇ *District staff and the vendor were able to startup and test the District's mobile satellite communications systems.*
- ◇ *The EOT has a clear understanding of the type and level of information needed for an emergency communication plan.*

WITH FORECAST OF STRONG EL NIÑO, PG&E READIES ITS WINTER STORM RESPONSE

Information Provided by PG&E's News Release

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — With weather forecasts indicating the intensity of El Niño-driven storms will be strong this winter in California, PG&E has been getting ready – for the past 18 years.

The last major El Niño storm season in 1997-1998 dumped twice the normal rainfall on San Francisco, created widespread flooding and caused power outages impacting more than a million customers. PG&E has been preparing for storms like those by practicing for extreme-weather events and natural disasters; using advanced meteorology tools to forecast where storm impacts will be most significant; and adding innovative technology to its electrical grid.



New technology includes the use of storm outage prediction models, the installation of automated equipment that "self-heals" the electric grid as well as timely and accurate outage data from its network of more than 5 million electric SmartMeters™. In addition, the increasingly smart grid means outages can be detected almost instantaneously and restoration, in many cases, can be done automatically.



PG&E meteorologists Scott Strenfel (front) and Mike Voss use the latest in weather mapping technology to track changing weather

"A combination of preparedness, practice and technology has PG&E ready to respond to winter storms. We put our focus on public safety and on efficiently responding to customer outages," said Barry Anderson, PG&E's vice president of Emergency Preparedness and Operations.

"With these advanced forecasting and outage-prediction tools, we can work with our electric crews to make sure we have the right numbers of people, vehicles and equipment in the right place at the right time as storms

CUEA STANDING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE'S

ENERGY AND PIPELINE COMMITTEE

Committee members meet quarterly to assess current and potential issues, which could impact the dependability of energy supplies within the operational systems and vulnerabilities within the organizations continuity plans. As a result the committee has shared successes and experiences relating to emergency preparedness issues such as Employee Emergency Preparedness Programs, lessons learned and newly innovative programs such as Nationwide Security Identification for First Responders and Credentialing of First Responders. Through invaluable information sharing and implementation of updated notification protocols, the Energy Committee is dedicated to ensuring that California is able to meet energy demands and protect its most critical infrastructure. Rod Wheeler from CAISO has volunteered to Chair the committee. He will be replacing Angie Gibson whose term was up in December. If you are interested in being a part of the energy committee, please contact Jenny Regino at jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

TRAINING & EXERCISE COMMITTEE

The Training and Exercise Committee was formed to research, review and develop courses to heighten awareness of and offer education relating to the emergency management field. One of the most critical questions the committee asks when determining appropriate training and education is, 'What should CUEA member agencies expect from participating in CUEA training and/ or exercises?'. The answer – Member agencies should expect that their participants obtain critical content and that they will have gained key competencies that they will be able to utilize. Committee meetings were organized quarterly by the former Committee Chair, John Spittler of Golden State Water. If you have any upcoming exercises in 2016 that you would like to have posted on the CUEA website, send them to jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov.

WATER & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

This committee has been diligent in its efforts to strengthen the water/waste water emergency response community. The ongoing information sharing between member organizations has proved to be of great value. Exchanging best practices, lessons learned, and emergency related templates between organizations have led to improved processes within the water/waste water arena.

Steve Frew of East Bay Municipal Utility District serves as the Chair of this committee and holds quarterly conference calls to focus on Water security, preparedness, and response. Committee members exchange information on how their companies are dealing with theft, protection of sensitive information, as well as upgrades to security policies and technology. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Steve Frew at sfrew@ebmud.com or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

ALERT



REPRESENTING:
POWER-GAS-TELECOM-WATER/WASTEWATER

WWW.CUEAINC.COM

***** SAVE THE DATE *****

**CUEA 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 16th
PASADENA CONFERENCE CENTER**

**BOARD MEMBERS ONLY
NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

MARCH 23, 2016

9:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

CAL OES HEADQUARTERS

**CUEA WELCOMED ANOTHER NEW MEMBER
IN THE THIRD QUARTER**

♦ NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES FOR OUR NEXT
SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER BY 6/15/16:

JENNY.REGINO@CALOES.CA.GOV