

KERN COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2018, 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

Kern Emergency Operations Center

2601 Panorama Drive, Building B, Bakersfield CA 93306

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

CHAIR, CHIEF ED WHITING – TAFT PD

Called meeting to Order at 10:15 am

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS:

- Ed Whiting, Police Chief, City of Taft Police Department
- Marty Williamson, Police Chief/Emergency Manager, Cal State Bakersfield
- John Frando, Battalion Chief/PIO, City of Bakersfield Fire Dept.
- Nick Lidgett, EMS Coordinator, Kern County Public Health
- Zachary Bittle, Search and Rescue Coordinator, Kern County Sheriff's Office
- Steve Williams, Search and Rescue Back-up Coordinator, Kern County Sheriff's Office
- Adam Plugge, Commander, Kern County Sheriff's Office
- Matthew Murphy, Lead Dispatcher, City of Tehachapi Police Department
- Matt Hilliard, Sergeant, City of Bakersfield Police Department
- Mike Nisser, Disaster Response, Kern County Department of Human Services.
- Dianne Campbell, Kern Medical Reserve Corps, Kern County Public Health
- Frank Domingo, Supervising Communications Tech, Kern County Communications
- Brando Smith, Battalion Chief Duty Officer, Kern County Fire Department
- Brent Moon, Battalion Chief Deputy Officer, Kern County Fire Department
- Kori Linker, California Dept. of Social Services – Disaster Services Bureau
- George Baker, EMS Coordinator for Children, Kern County Public Health –EMS
- Marlene Acosta, Office Services Tech, Kern County OES
- Jonathan Musto, Corporal, City of Delano Police Department
- Georgianna Armstrong, Emergency Services Manager, Kern County OES
- LeeAnn Herron, Kern County IT
- Ed Komin, Kern High District Police
- Chris Counts, Public Safety, Bakersfield College
- Joseph Grubbs, Risk Manager, Kern Community College District
- Wayland Gray, Emergency Coordinator, Western Kern County ARES
- Christian Shannon, Kern County Superintendent of Schools
- Olan Armstrong, City of Arvin Police Department
- Wendy Benson, Kern County Fire Department – OES
- Christopher Maloney, Emergency Manager, China Lake (NAWS)
- Justin Dampier, City of Ridgecrest Police Department
- Ryan Marrone, Captain, City of Ridgecrest Police Department
- Mike Cash, Cal OES - CRU
- Jeff Bell, Captain, City of Shafter Police Department
- Randy Milligan, Sergeant, City of Shafter Police Department
- Henry Bravo, Lieutenant, Kern County Sheriff's Office
- Adrianna Harris, American Red Cross
- Dennis Smithson, Cal OES – Law Enforcement – Region 5
- Terri Mejorado, Cal OES, Emergency Mgmt. – Region 5
- Ahmed Baameur, Kern County Probation

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OPENING STATEMENT:

CHAIR, CHIEF ED WHITING – TAFT PD

First of all, we really appreciate all of you coming out to this meeting. This is one of the largest groups we've had in a long time. We are going to go over the agenda and approve the October 11, 2017, meeting minutes.

REVIEWING AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2017, MINUTES:

CHAIR, CHIEF ED WHITING – TAFT PD

Those of you that were here, have you all had a chance to go over those minutes? Do any of you have any questions about the minutes? Do any of you have any changes that need to be made, addition or deletions to the minutes? If not, then we to a motion to approve the minutes.

Georgianna Armstrong – Motion to approve minutes, Brent Moon – 2nd Motion to approve minutes.

Motion has been made to approve October 11, 2017, minutes with no changes made.

UPDATES:

STATUS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT:

CHAIR, CHIEF ED WHITING – TAFT PD

MOU was presented to Kern Chief's in the last meeting and we found some significant issues on the signature page. We removed some like the U.S Marshall Service, U.S Attorney's Office, and other agencies that will not be participating. Also, some names were spelled incorrectly so we made those corrections. We also removed old Chiefs and added the current Chiefs for each department. We currently have the verbiage there and nobody brought up anything about what it contained in the MOU. The verbiage seems to be okay for now, but again it has to go through a legal review with both County Counsel and each of the individual agencies and the City's attorneys. Unless of course, you are authorized by your own officials or your own geo political subdivision to sign the MOU on your own and we will talk about that in a little bit.

Georgianna, my thought is for those agencies that can sign the MOU on their own is that we create that document when it is approved by County Counsel to have them to be able to sign that and anyone who is separated make a separate page for them have County Counsel sign off that and that to the incorporated City Counsel for review and process it and get it all back here so we have it. What do you think?

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

I think until we hear form County Counsel we should do what the lawyers tell us to do. The other thing we are going to talk about is the Operation Area Mutual Aid Agreement. In my opinion,

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what I am going to suggest is that we have a signature page for each jurisdiction. That way as more organizations join, we don't have to go through this whole signature signing again, and each jurisdiction has their own signature authorities. I would hesitate to sign off until everybody is in agreement in case another department has a modification request. This way we don't have to start the whole process again. At this point, I don't know if the Chief's are good with this document the way that it is, or do we want to wait at least until the initial legal review is done and then go through the signing process.

CHAIR, CHIEF ED WHITING – TAFT PD

To reiterate what Georgianna just was thinking is that maybe we'll let County Counsel review and make sure that they are good with it and make a signing page for each political subdivision so they can sign off and then if someone joins us we could just have them add their own signing page.

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

Well, for the law MOU we know who the law enforcement agency are. I think that each City would want their City Attorney to look at the agreement. The thing is if six of them sign the agreement but the seventh City says, well, we need these modifications then we have a different document going.

CHAIR, CHIEF ED WHITING – TAFT PD

For those of you who are just joining us now, the MOU is very clear. We were supposed to have been doing this approximately since 1993, through an actual county ordinance. This meeting is part of that and this meeting also response to the County Emergency Counsel made up with department heads within the county. This MOU will give us direction on what we are supposed to do when the county has a major disaster incident, an earthquake, another Erskine fire, another man hunt, another school shooting it could be anything. Any of these things that you might need assistance from another agency. It is important for us to have this, so as we go forward with it we will be working out the legal aspects with the legal council and once everything is done we will send it out for everyone to sign. Any questions regarding the MOU? Has anybody not seen a copy of the MOU? Okay, next we will be discussing the status on the Ops Area Mutual Aid Agreement. This involves the City Managers themselves, Georgianna.

STATUS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

So, as Chief Whiting had mention we have this MOU that is specific to law enforcement and apparently the way it works in California it takes the Sheriff and the Police Chief's to sign it and it's specific to law so that's one channel. It's not only how the cities responded if there is a county emergency it who all of us will respond if there is an emergency within the county. So, we may be supporting a particular city it not necessary county driven. Because that MOU is specific to law enforcement and what we are trying to accomplish in this group is operational area. There are a lot of other resources that come into play. When we looked at some mutual aid

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request that come down from the state at the last disasters there was a lot of calls for medical assistants. There were calls from Public Health and Public Works asking for assistants for people to work in EOC or department operational centers. It's the rest of the organization, so we have a separate MOU that we call the Op Area Mutual Aid Agreement. This does not specifically include law and it does not include fire because fire and law have their own protocols. This is for everything else, what this MOU is going to do is open the door so that we already have pre approval. We will be able to bypass certain steps, so if you get a call for some heavy piece of equipment you don't have to start the process to go up the chain just to get authorization to make sure that your city would approve this. If we had this MOU already signed, then we would already know that we are pre authorized to help one another quickly. It's not a contract your not obligated to provide resources, it's to the extent that you can and for the time that you can. It is written specifically as Mutual Aid. This is not assistance for hire, this is neighbor helping neighbor.

CHAIR, CHIEF ED WHITING – TAFT PD

This is more about City Managers in your area being able to give up some of their resources, not just fire and law enforcement. If we need dump trucks we will need public works, if we need chain saws or what ever we may need for that emergency, the city managers know what's going on ahead of time, we wouldn't have to stop and brief them. This gives them that knowledge and authority under the MOU to help us if we need to draw from their resources. Things like, public works people, dump trucks, chain saws, the rakes, and shovels whatever we might need to help us. The Erskine fire is a good example, it's basically everything other than fire and law enforcement.

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

Chief Moon and I meet with the City managers and the mayors at their monthly meeting, they meet as a group. Chief Moon and I went to their last meeting and we presented this MOU and we really had a good response. The city managers were really supportive of this. In fact, they have scheduled their meeting for this month here at the EOC. We are just hosting it that way they can understand what we are talking about when we are talking about emergency management and gearing up for mutual aid. Hopefully, there will be a more in-depth discussion at this next meeting. What we want to get as quickly as we can it the draft document that was reviewed by County Counsel is here on this table for those of you who have not had a chance to review it. I am happy to email it to you as well. What we want is for the cities to get back to us with their input input as soon as possible, so we can make any modifications that were requested and go through all the legal reviews and then we can get it the MOU signed. Once we get it signed the next step for us is to make it tactical. Which is for this group to come up with an activation plan. Who do we contact, what is the process, what resources deployed and tracked? So, we have some time before we have something that is actually operational at the field level. This is the first step and we are trying to get through it as quickly as possible. Are there any questions or does any want to discuss the proposed Operational Area Mutual Aid Agreement? These meeting, by the way, are intended to be discussional meetings. We want to do what Orange County does, they have an operational meeting and I had the privilege of going to a couple of those meetings and it not just OES or someone at the top talking to the group it's a real discussion. We want

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interaction here so, please let me say this again. Are there any other questions or issues that we should be discussing regarding this Mutual Aid Agreement?

JOHN FRANDO – BATTALION CHIEF, BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPT.

There is a hand full of new people here, can you talk about it being on each agency, on their own dime? That they are responding or providing assistance on their dime.

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

Yes, absolutely! In case, it was missed for those who just came in these agreements are truly based as mutual aid. There is Assistance for Hire and then there is Mutual Aid. Mutual Aid is neighbor helping neighbor. I help you and you help me and we don't bill one another. Each providing agency is doing so at their own cost. They are providing those resources, whatever resources they can provide for whatever time period they can provide it voluntarily and they will not be submitting a bill to the requesting jurisdiction. The thought behind that is if we have that within ourselves, within Kern County boundary, we are all stronger by that process. We are closest in so we can provide the quickest response. Often the quickest response can help something from escalating to something worst. The other part of that is we know Kern County, we all know our cities better than anyone from Los Angeles, the Bay area, or northern California. If we go to those distant jurisdictions, we're going to get people who don't know us and don't understand who we are. That's not to say that they can't be helpful, but I would pick any of you from any of your jurisdictions before I pick someone from San Francisco to come down and help in this EOC. That's because we have a commonality with those outside of the central valley and for us this makes sense.

TERRI MEJARADO, CAL OES – REGION 5

We fill the same way, Dennis and I work for the state in region 5 and I've lived here my whole life and I would rather be of assistance to you than to have someone coming into the EOC because I am familiar with this area, I know your area and this is in my area.

VICE CHAIR, BRENT MOON – KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPT.

I think it is also important to state that this MOU, this Mutual Aid is a starting point. There is a statement in there also states this do not preclude you getting compensated should we go with assistant for hire should there be an F mag or some other funding mechanism. This doesn't keep you from getting paid for a long duration incident, but it gets you started and it puts the local people in place to manage things locally.

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

When you think of a flood event and we're fighting the flood it can be overwhelming, but having the resources early on can prevent something very big from happening. So, in those circumstances, we want our people to be able to respond quickly and not have to go up the ladder to get something approved, we just want to be able to move quickly. On these short-lived events,

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there should be no expectation of reimbursement. It's neighbor helping neighbor with the expectation at some future point you will receive assistance as needed.

So, we will keep you up to date as it moves through the City Manager's group and hopefully by the end of this month the city managers will have the city attorneys looking at it and make any modification we can incorporate before review and signing process

We want to make it clear that this Operational Area Advisory group is not only for law and fire but also for your public works people, City Manager's office and their counter part from other jurisdictions. We want to have those counter parts as part of this group.

NON-AGENDA ITEM - EOC CREDENTIALING

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

One of the things that can be the weakest part to disaster response is the civilian support. Most EOC's will consist of civilians that can stand up and support those operations as they go on pass their own capabilities. All of your cities have an EOC, the county has an EOC, and several of our departments have a DOC. Most of the small incidents have the staff to run them. However, when you have something that goes on for a long period like an earthquake, extended fire, mudslide, you just don't have the people. That's one of the things that Cal OES calls for in mutual aid. They're looking for folks from distant location to come in and support an EOC operation. I will tell you that having local people come into your EOC even if they are not from the City or County but within the county of Kern is going to be helpful. What we need to think about is "What makes someone qualified to serve in an EOC." We need to all have a standard to reach a level of training. Cal OES has three levels of EOC credentialing, level 1 is basically the Bay area and Los Angeles they deployed in teams, level 2 is a lower level, and level 3 is what the Emergency Counsel has approved for Kern County. This is the level that is appropriate for local government. What this mean is that there is an established level of training and expertise that goes along with meeting the level 3 credential. There is a whole booklet that explains the process of the EOC credentialing and we all need to understand that this is process that can take a couple of years. We would use grant funds to bring the training from CSTI here to Kern County to train the trainer so you have a resource that can go back to your department and continue that training. When we host training here at the EOC, there is no tuition cost to you. The only cost to you is having your people show up. We just need to follow the process that is laid out in the state guidelines and achieve that level through EOC credentialing. This also gives us legal protection because there is no more of a political time then after a disaster, after any kind of disaster. This is good for us in liability, training, and I think it is important to us in terms of mutual aid. Please, make sure that you put your email on the sign-in sheet so I can email to you the guidelines for the state. The handouts we have here is just a brief description and questions sheet. I believe that this is important, it will benefit us as an Operational Area group but it's going to take a buy in of the participants.

NICK LIDGETT, EMS COORDINATOR – KERN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH, EMS

We are obviously looking to credential someone who can work in the EOC. Being in the medical health side, one of the credentials that we use is called the MHOACSA training. This is not

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necessarily for fire and law enforcement but, creating people within your jurisdictions that could respond to EOC or a DOC to order medical help resources. I am a CSTI instructor for this course and I could see how a training like this would be beneficial. Georgianna had mentioned fire incidents earlier, and I can tell you that I myself was called to respond to assist the other RDMHS with the Napa and Sonoma fires because of how large the fires were. Altogether in the medical health resources alone, we achieved 3000 people that were responded to shelters, just as medical assistance staff. As far as ambulances go they sent out close to a 150 ambulances to respond to the fires and those are all medical health resources. In our local jurisdiction having someone with the awareness on how to get those kinds of resources would be very beneficial for both the DOC and EOC.

VICE CHAIR, BRENT MOON – KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPT.

Everyone has their strengths and weakness and we're not saying that each position has to be available to be shared. A list of the positions that you can available is important to know when we come together. If you ever have to be the host of an EOC you understand how it works and you know who you can contact to get the resources you need. That is why we need to start this process of credentialing.

TERRI MEJARADO, CAL OES – REGION 5

Just to add to the credentialing, Cal OES is in the process of trying to offer training to the EOC's. This training will be free of charge to you. You wouldn't have to pay for the training or my time. All you would have to pay for would be the certificates.

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

We really need to look at what kind of training to we want to bring here. We will be using grant money for this kind of training. That is why we need each jurisdiction to figure out what credentialing level they want their jurisdiction to have.

JOHN FRANDO – BATTALION CHIEF, BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPT.

Well, we all know that fire and law are in the mix already. I think we need to show the school districts how they are key members in a disaster and how important they are in all of this. There shouldn't be any resistance to participate into something like this. I think once you get the city managers to buy into this it will start moving at a faster pace.

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

Chief Moon and I will be presenting the first drafts of the MOU at the City Managers and Mayors meeting and I will also start that conversation on the Level 3 EOC Credentialing process. This includes all the small jurisdictions, School Districts, and Cities, we want them to be a part of this. There is a commitment to training, to the process of what your jurisdiction is going to do. The County is not imposing that, we don't want to get into the City's business, but what we are saying is this is the process to meet the state EOC credentialing process. It's going to be up to your jurisdiction to select the level of credentialing.

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JOSEPH GRUBBS, KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

So, since the schools can be a part of both MOU's, would Bakersfield College and CSUB be looking at both MOU's? I got the law enforcement one because we have law enforcement. We also have other things to offer so, should we be looking at the Mutual Aid agreement as well?

CHAIR, CHIEF ED WHITING – TAFT PD

This is not just of law enforcement and fire. We need all the jurisdictions to sign off on this. The School Districts, Superintendent of Schools and anyone who can bring assistance. We have to think about our kids and how are we going to protect them. When we had the Taft High shooting we were exposed to different elements and If it were not for Red Cross bring in their people to assist us, who know what we would have done. We need to know what kind of resources we have and what kind of resources we can bring to an incident.

MIKE CASH, CAL OES – CRU

One of our challenges for communications is getting training for the people in my region. I have a lot of people who want the training and want to volunteer and feel like they are part of a team. Being a member of Cal OES – CRU, we have very strict guidelines in the training we have to do. I support this EOC credentialing because I know I don't want anybody in the EOC who is not trained in the EOC. Having these credentialing programs is very valuable, but getting the training the remote areas, that eastern Kern County, Inyo County, Northern San Bernardino County, to bring these team of people together would be very helpful. The thing we need to figure out is how to get training to these regions to these people don't have to travel two to three hours just to get trained.

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

This is the kind of issues this group needs to hear because having Terry - Cal OES here to hear that, now she knows that here is this region/jurisdiction that is in need of this kind of training and maybe they could setup training for those areas. Now, some training is offered online and the training that is not we will try to host them here at the Kern EOC at least once a year.

MARTY WILLIAMSON - CAL STATE BAKERSFIELD

I just want to say that outside law and fire it is not going to be so easy for non sworn personnel to get their credentialing certificate. I myself had to show proof of that I was a part of some kind of operation and this has to be verified. I think it is going to be tough for non sworn personnel. Think a functional exercise is what we need to do to help these people get their credentialing done. That was one of the challenges I was faced with on the camps with our personnel.

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NON AGENDA ITEM - TABLE TOP EXERCISE

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

Every October the State does this thing called the Great Shakeout and for the most part, the schools have the kids do a drop, cover and hold on and so department do an evacuation drill but we don't do much. Last year was invited too Edward Air Force Base and they did a complete activation and I was there just as an observer. Now I am pitching this out the group and I will be doing the same with the Emergency Counsel, but what if the month of October we make it the month we do our ops area exercise. We could do other things beforehand like a table tops, but let say we come up with a scenario we all agree on that each jurisdiction can come in and play at the level that each jurisdiction wanted to play. This is would be something that we would do on the annual bases. This will not be a County thing, it will be for the Operational Area.

CHRISTOPHER MALONEY, CHINA LAKE (NAWS)

I think this is something the we would like to be a part of, Speaking personally for the DOD and the Navy side of this, there are communication issues and we need to start talking about these issues. It is going to be a challenge having our people communicate with the larger County so we would need to discuss that leading up to the exercise.

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS RADIO CHECKS

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG – KERN OES

I just want to remind you all of our weekly Interoperable Radio Checks we do every 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday. These radio checks are very important, they are done so that we can find problems before an actual incident. Last week during this test one of the agencies could not communicate with us and had to us a different way to communicate. He heard his call go out through is radio but we did not hear is call. We later found out that it was his mic.

FRANK DOMINGO – KERN COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

Also, as Georgianna had mention the micro phone problem but, that wasn't the only problem we had. We had a county wide channel outage. It wasn't reported to me until I got a call from one of the Fire Captains from station 36 asking me where is the mutual aid because they were not getting any response. We did some radio check and that is when we found out that there was a blown fuse and the channel was done. Not only did this affect the Mutual Aid channel but it would have also affected the ESA. If there had been an actual emergency that went out, we would have been the center of if and the east side would not have gotten the details of the emergency. The west side is covered by KUZZ but the east side relies on Kern County. These radio checks are important because these channel are not used daily and we want to make sure they work so when we do need them we know they work.

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ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACT LIST FOR EMERGENCY CONTACT AND A NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR OPERATIONAL AREA INFORMATION:

MARLENE ACOSTA – KERN OES

I have only received a hand full of the emergency contact list templates that I had emailed out to the committee. We need each jurisdiction to complete the contact templates. If you don't have an EOC, we need your contact information for your DOC. You can email me you completed templates.

MEETING ADJORNED: 11:35 AM

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: March 14, 2018, at 10:00 am

Please send agenda items to Marlene Acosta [macosta@kerncountyfire.org]

Minutes Taken by Marlene Acosta