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## CUEA 2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's Annual Conference was held on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Cal OES Headquarters in Mather, CA. The theme of the conference this year was "Dealing with Security Threats to Critical Infrastructure". We had a dynamic list of speakers from PG&E, Cal OES, CHP, East Bay Regional Parks Police Department, East Bay MUD, and the FBI covering utility security issues, both physical and cyber.

Charlie Simpson, Deputy Director of Response and Recovery Operations for Cal OES was our opening speaker. He explained the partnership between Cal OES and the CUEA. He was followed by Mike Peterson from PG&E who gave an inside look at the April 16, 2013 attack on PG&E's Metcalf Transmission Substation. He included a detailed timeline of the events that took place. Next, Michael Berndt from the CHP presented the mission of the California State Threat Assessment Center. He discussed the threats to the Energy Sector in California, both the insider threats and the cyber threats. Lt. Jon King from the East Bay Regional Parks Police Department then shared the details of the San Ramon East Bay Tower Incident. On July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, supporting wires holding up a large radio tower were cut, possibly with bolt cutters, causing it to collapse. Lt. Jon King said the vandal or vandals went through a lot of effort to topple the tower. The Manager of Security and Emergency Preparedness for the East Bay Municipal Utility District, Steve Frew, was our next presenter on the topic of Water Security.

Our afternoon session began with Mitch Medigovich, the Deputy Director of Logistics for Cal OES. Mitch gave an overview of the California Cyber Security Task Force. Next we had Sgt. Joseph Basham from Cal OES Law present us with his Active Shooter Program. His presentation was very enlightening as he shared some firsthand experiences with active shooters. Camara Smith and Glen Clarkson of PG&E gave an overview of PG&E's Grid X Energy Cyber Exercise. The closing speaker of the day was Wes Drone, a FBI Special Agent assigned to the Cyber Squad who explained the Sacramento InfraGard Program.

Attendees of the 2014 CUEA Annual Conference benefitted greatly from the information shared and the relationships built, thus strengthening California's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from threats, emergencies and other serious events. Thank you to those who participated in our conference. With the continued support of the organization and its initiatives, CUEA continues to lead the way in statewide utility emergency response and planning.

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**LIBERTY UTILITIES EMERGENCY TABLETOP EXERCISE**

The following brief was provided by Sam Rohn of Liberty Utilities.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the North Tahoe-Truckee Emergency Council (NT-TEC) conducted a joint Emergency Tabletop/Functional Exercise at the Town of Truckee Town Hall Offices. The NT-TEC planning team included Alex Terrazas, Town of Truckee Assistant Town Manager; Robert Womack, Town of Truckee Police Sergeant; Tami Prior, Tahoe Forest Hospital District (Truckee); Jim Wilson, Truckee-Donner PUD; Dan Hopwood, North Tahoe Fire (representing Cal-OES); and lead by Sam Rohn, Liberty Utilities.



The exercise included a 6.9 magnitude earthquake on the 22 mile long Polaris Fault which runs from Hobart Mills (just north of Truckee) to the foothills of Martis Valley (just south of Truckee). The Polaris Fault was discovered in 2008 using laser imaging technology known as LiDAR, which was used as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' evaluation of the Martis Creek dam. LiDAR emits laser pulses down toward the ground from an airplane, even through dense vegetation, to get high-resolution topology maps. The newly discovered, active, 22-mile-long strike-slip fault is named Polaris for the old mining town it runs through. The fault could produce an earthquake with up to a 6.5 to 6.9 magnitude, according to the study published an issue of the Bulletin of Seismological Society of America. Because the fault connects to others in the area, the magnitude could be even higher if they ruptured at the same time.

The 5 hour exercise included 3 modules that covered the initial earthquake event through full restoration & recovery. There were 50 attendees/participants that included representatives from the CA Utility Emergency Association (CUEA); CA Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES); Town of Truckee EOC, Police & Fire; Nevada County OES; Red Cross; Tahoe Forest Hospital; Utilities (Liberty, Truckee Donner-PUD, SW Gas, Truckee Sanitary District); Truckee School District; and regional fire districts.

The exercise kicked off at 8 am with 4 email blasts to the attendees and other utility emergency personnel using the "Nixle" communication network to test the use of the system. Here's what the participants received as they were arriving at the Town of Truckee Offices prior to the start of the exercise:

- ◆ 0800 - Large earthquake just occurred in the Truckee area. Lasted 30-45 seconds and was very strong. Truckee PD officers are reporting cars off the roadway. Truckee FD is starting to receive calls about buildings being cracked and smell of gas. Power seems to be out in large swaths of Truckee. CHP Dispatch is reporting vehicles are afraid to drive across the bridges on I-80 in the Union Mills near the agricultural check station.
- ◆ 0815 – Update on the earthquake. There are 911 reports of several buildings that have been compromised in the downtown core area of Truckee. 911 is overloaded in Nevada City at the Sheriff's Office. Callers that are getting through are reporting structural damage to their homes. Fire and Police radio channels are not working properly. Dispatch is unable to reach units in the field. The Police Department has switched to a back-up channel. There are reports of several injuries and trapped people in the downtown area.

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- ◆ 0830 – Update on the earthquake. The USGS is putting the quake at 6.9 on the Richter scale and states it was centered north of the Town of Truckee in the Prosser Lake area. Media calls are coming into the Police and Fire Departments (front office staff are fielding). The Nevada County Sheriff Dispatch and Cal-Fire Grass Valley are reporting numerous phone and radio issues. They are also receiving media calls. There are reports of a rockslide on I-80 in the area of Floriston to Hirschdale. The W/B lanes are at least partially blocked. Power is out in many locations. The call centers at the power companies are overloaded.



- ◆ 0845 – Update on the earthquake. Patrol officers have confirmed 3 buildings have collapsed downtown. Rescue operations are in-process. There are expected to be several casualties. There is smoke coming from the Truckee Hotel. Patrol officers are reporting cracks in various roadways. Parents are arriving at the schools to pick-up children. The elementary school busses are stranded with children on them and asking for direction. There are reports of downed power lines and the substation at Pioneer Center is reporting a fire in the building. Gas leak reported near the round-a-bout at McIver & Donner Pass Road. Liquid was reported coming up from the ground along West River Road about ¼ mile east of Hwy 89.

The *functional* portion of the event was taking place over at the Tahoe Forest Hospital where the facility shut off portions of their buildings due to earthquake damage and were set up and treating incoming (staged) patients as part of the mock exercise.

In addition, a local TV film company, Robert Scott Film, produced two short, 'mock' Special News Reports that were broadcast during the exercise to bring even more realism to the event.

The planning team received very positive feedback and comments from the participants. "Well planned/organized" – "An extreme scenario that impacted all agencies; Brought all public agencies to the table" – "Appreciate the participation of all agencies/department staff around the region" – "Keep doing them Annually!"

The NT-TEC, which meets periodically throughout the year in Truckee, looks forward to putting together the next exercise.



## **CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S DROUGHT TASK FORCE**

Governor Brown has convened an interagency Drought Task Force to provide a coordinated assessment of the State's dry conditions and provide recommendations on current and future state actions. Department of Water Resources Director Mark Cowin, State Water Board Chair Felicia Marcus, California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, and Office of Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilarducci were instructed to immediately convene an interagency Drought Task Force, in a December 17, 2013 letter addressed to those officials.



In support of this unified effort, all state agencies with a role in supporting drought mitigation and relief efforts were organized under the Incident Command System and will continue to provide emergency planning, response, and mitigation support as long as needs exist. The task force will review water allocations and the state's preparedness, as well as coordinate with federal and local agencies. Similar task forces have been assembled in the droughts of the 2000's, 1990's, 1980's and 1970's.



On January 17, 2014 Governor Edmund G. Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for drought conditions. The State Operation Center (SOC) is activated to implement objectives in support of the Governor's priorities. The lack of winter rain and snowfall has resulted in extremely dry conditions in many parts of the State. Reservoir levels are down significantly from where they should be on average for this time of year.

The drought could result in severe impacts to the municipal water supplies, wells, agriculture (plants and livestock) and firefighting capabilities for the next several months. Negative economic impacts will also result. The SOC continues to be activated to monitor the situation statewide, and support regional and local operational areas. CUEA is staffing the Operations Utilities Infrastructure position and serving on the Planning and Intel working group.

## **CUEA PROVIDES ASSISTANCE FOR THE SAN DIEGO COMPLEX FIRES**



San Diego County was swarmed with wildfires that erupted during the month of May. At least nine major fires were burning simultaneously at the height of the event, as well as several small brush fires. CUEA activated the UOC to support Sempra, CAISO, Verizon, and AT&T with fire response, law escort services and Governors briefings. On May 15 at 2:40 pm, CUEA received a request from Verizon Wireless for assistance on their critical cell site in the Coco's fire in San Diego county. Don Boland contacted Cal Fire air ops for assistance. At 2:53 pm, thirteen minutes later, the response was completed.

## **CALIFORNIA'S CYBER SECURITY TASK FORCE**

Cal OES and the California Department of Technology (CDT) created the Cyber security Task Force last year, headed by Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci and CDT Director Carlos Ramos. The California Cyber Security Task Force serves as an advisory body to the State of California Senior Administration Officials in matters related to Cyber Security. Unlike other threats currently facing the country, cyber attacks can have instant, wide-ranging consequences for the state's broader and economic security interests. Given this unprecedented and rapidly escalating threat, federal agencies as well as State, local, tribal, and territorial governments must play a role in educating their employees and constituents to identify and deter online dangers. The task force is the first state-sponsored collaboration of its kind, and is a response to the reality that the government and private sectors are connected through IT and the internet.

Multi-agency subcommittees presented strategies in threat prevention, response and collaboration in the areas of legislation, work development, risk mitigation, preparedness, forensics and economic development. Don Boland, CUEA's Executive Director, serves as the co-chair of the Cyber Preparedness Sub-committee.

## **CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM**

No one can predict earthquakes, but with science and technology, people can be given enough warning before the shaking begins and that warning could potentially save lives and property.

Officials from all levels of government, universities and the private sector organizations gathered at the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo to discuss plans and continue to develop, brainstorm funding resources and implement the California Earthquake Early Warning System (CEEWS). Don Boland of CUEA spoke at the Earthquake Alert & Warning Kickoff meeting and provided an NBC TV interview.

Currently, Shake Alert – a prototype of the early warning system – has been in operation since 2012 with focal points being Los Angeles and the Bay Area. Senator Alex Padilla authored the Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) Bill (SB 135) that passed last year authorizing the creation of the system, including a central brain that could send out an emergency alert. The objective of earthquake early warning is to rapidly detect the initiation of an earthquake, estimate the level of ground shaking, and issue a warning before significant shaking starts.

## **PG&E SUPPORTS CAL OES KIDS DAY 2014**



On June 3, 2014, Cal OES hosted their annual "Bring your Son/Daughter to Work Day". Pam Perdue and her team arranged for their Mobile Command Vehicle to be on display for this event. This is a 39-foot-long vehicle that's full of high-tech communication gear and plenty of space for a crew of 12 to work. This command unit is used to support public safety during local emergencies and disasters. CUEA appreciates PG&E's participation to support this annual event.



## **CUEA STANDING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE'S**

### **E**NERGY 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. Ken Fussell of Sempra Utilities currently serves as the Committee Chair. If you are interested in being a part of the energy committee, please contact Ken at [kfussell@semprautilities.com](mailto:kfussell@semprautilities.com) or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

### **T**RAINING & 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 are organized quarterly by Committee Chair, John Spitler of Golden State Water. To become a part of the training and exercise committee, contact John at [john.spitler@gswater.com](mailto:john.spitler@gswater.com) or the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

### **W**ATER & 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](mailto:sfrew@ebmud.com) or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

**ALERT**



[WWW.CUEAINC.COM](http://WWW.CUEAINC.COM)

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES FOR OUR NEXT  
SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER BY 12/1/14:  
[JENNY.REGINO@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:JENNY.REGINO@CALOES.CA.GOV)

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

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

9:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

CAL OES HEADQUARTERS

MATHER, CA

**CUEA WELCOMED TWO NEW MEMBERS  
IN THE FIRST QUARTER**

- ◆ PARK WATER COMPANY
- ◆ CENTRAL MARIN SANITATION