

Emergency Public Information

Finding 2: The Office of Emergency Services presently relies on voluntary participation of radio and television providers to participate in the Emergency Alert System.

Response: The CEO agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 2: The County of Santa Barbara should enter into a permanent agreement with local media stations guaranteeing their participation in the Emergency Alert System.

Response: This recommendation will not be fully implemented because the County does not have any jurisdiction over the radio stations, which are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission. However, both the CEO and OES are working in partnership with the broadcasters in Santa Barbara County and developing a memorandum of understanding, which should be ratified by the Board of Supervisors and in use by the end of 2006.

Finding 5: Santa Barbara County and emergency agencies within its borders do not have an emergency website or telephone number where citizens can access real-time emergency information.

Response: The CEO partially disagrees with this finding. While there is no exclusive website or telephone number dedicated to all types of emergency information, the County's website is updated regularly and provides emergency information when an emergency, such as severe storms, does occur within the County.

Recommendation 5: Santa Barbara County should immediately develop an emergency Internet website or hotline telephone number that will allow its residents to get real-time accurate emergency information. This website or hotline telephone number should be updated with the same information that is given to the media.

Response: This recommendation has not yet implemented, but will be implemented by the end of 2006. While the County already places emergency information on its website for residents to get real-time information during defined emergencies, it will also work with the "2-1-1" system, which is a 24/7 system that provides callers with information about and referrals to human services for every day needs and in times of crisis. A memorandum of understanding between the County and the "2-1-1" system is being crafted that will allow the County to utilize this system to provide real-time accurate emergency management system.

CEO Response to Civil Grand Jury Report on Disaster Preparedness

July 11, 2006

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I thank you for the opportunity to respond to this report. Please contact me if you should have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer