

EMERGENCY SHELTERING Where Do We Go?

When a natural or manmade disaster strikes, such as a major earthquake, wildfire, flood, terrorism incident, or other large-scale event, normal life for Santa Barbara County residents will be disrupted until, and perhaps after, safety and public services can be restored. The Grand Jury investigated how local government agencies plan to help residents deal with such disruptions.

There were 2 agency's requested to respond to The "Emergency Sheltering" report;
The Department of Social Services [DSS]
The Board of Supervisors [BOS]

The Department of Social Services response -

Recommendation 1: The Board of Supervisors should fund an outreach and educational program designed to explain to all residents of Santa Barbara County how to survive in place in a disaster.

DSS Response: Refer to the BOS response.

Recommendation 2: The Department of Social Services should request a budget allocation for emergency planning and training.

DSS Response: Will not be implemented. The DSS budget includes funding for basic emergency planning and training. However, if the current State budgeting system changes for FY 2007-08 and allows counties to request line items DSS will submit a request for additional funds for more emergency planning and training activities.

Recommendation 3: The Board of Supervisors should allocate funding for the Department of Social Services for emergency preparedness, to enable Social Services to quickly increase its preparedness for its role in disaster sheltering and to conduct joint exercises with the Red Cross on a regular basis.

DSS Response: Refer to the BOS response.

Recommendation 4: The Department of Social Services should send more of their personnel to Red Cross emergency training and plan more emergency exercises in order to support the Red Cross in an emergency.

DSS Response: Has not yet been implemented. DSS will work with the Red Cross to increase the training to two times per year. The first training will be scheduled in FY 2006-07. We will work with the Red Cross and County OES to design one exercise each year.

Recommendation 5: Paper registration at all shelters should be supplemented with computerized filing for rapid access to registrant data and to support searches for family members who are separated.

DSS Response: Will not be implemented. The Red Cross is responsible for the registration function.

Board of Supervisors Response

Recommendation 1: The Board of Supervisors should fund an outreach and educational program designed to explain to all residents of Santa Barbara County how to survive in place in a disaster.

BOS Response: The recommendation has been implemented in part, and will be further implemented in fiscal years 2006-2008.

Recommendation 2: The Department of Social Services should request a budget allocation for emergency planning and training.

BOS Response: The Board adopted the Department of Social Services' response as its response. (The recommendation will not be implemented.)

Recommendation 3: The Board of Supervisors should allocate funding for the Department of Social Services for emergency preparedness, to enable Social Services to quickly increase its preparedness for its role in disaster sheltering and to conduct joint exercises with the Red Cross on a regular basis.

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Recommendation 4: The Department of Social Services should send more of their personnel to Red Cross emergency training and plan more emergency exercises in order to support the Red Cross in an emergency.

BOS Response: The Board adopted the Department of Social Services' response as its response. (The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.)

Recommendation 5: Paper registration at all shelters should be supplemented with computerized filing for rapid access to registrant data and to support searches for family members who are separated.

BOS Response: The Board adopted the Department of Social Services' response as its response. (The recommendation will not be implemented, as the Red Cross is responsible for the registration function.)