



Department of Information Systems

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Honorable Kristen Lucena, Presiding Judge
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Honorable Judge Lucena,

Pursuant to Penal Code 933 et. seq., attached is my response to the 2014-2015 Grand Jury Final report on Solar Storms and Electromagnetic Pulses.

Solar Storms and Electromagnetic Pulses

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1 – That the OEM’s website for the public include information on protecting needed batteries and electronics from EMPs. The information should be made available on print, encouraged to be printed and stored offline, either through the local print media and handouts.

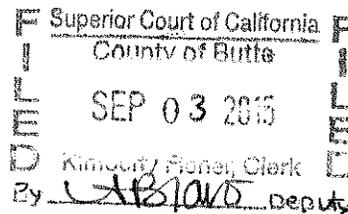
The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. It is anticipated that by 12/31/2015 information will be available on the OEM website and available for site visitors to download and print.

R5 – That Butte County ensure the telecommunications and information systems be electronically hardened, with vital records, backed up daily.

The recommendation has been partially implemented. Vital records are backed up daily and stored offsite as part of ongoing efforts to address business continuity and disaster recovery. The remainder of the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The scope of such protection is beyond measure. To harden all of the radio and computer systems is impractical. While there is some possibility of an EMP induced outage in the future there are many other conflicting priorities competing for limited resources.

R7 – That Information Systems develop an exercise, or series of exercises, that tests and spots deficiencies in various county offices dependent upon the storage of records and telecommunications.

The recommendation has been implemented. As part of our ongoing business continuity and disaster recovery operations, business processes have been analyzed and systems put in place to increase fault tolerance and resiliency and to address potential points of failure. These systems include data

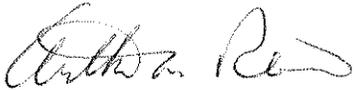


backup, server virtualization, redundant equipment, redundant network connectivity; backup generators and multi-site data replication. These efforts do not address every possible scenario.

R8 – That strong consideration be given to funding of services and equipment that will ensure the health, safety and well-being of the county’s citizens during and following massive power outages.

The recommendation has been implemented. Much of the information and telecommunications equipment for Butte County has been funded at a level to address current business needs and still allow the county to remain fiscally responsible. There is room for improvement in system functionality, redundancy and resiliency; namely in the radio communications and telephone systems. The radio system is currently under proposal for replacement. The telephone system is under implementation to a modern Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) platform. Cloud services are being considered where appropriate. These improvements are being addressed as available resources allow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur M. Robison".

Arthur M. Robison
Director of Information Systems