



Butte County Administration

John Gulserian, Emergency Services Officer

Office of Emergency Management

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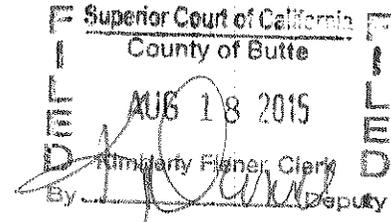
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August 14, 2015

Honorable Kristen A. Lucena, Presiding Judge
c/o Court Administration
Superior Court of California, County of Butte
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965



RE: RESPONSE TO 2014-2015 GRAND JURY REPORT

Dear Judge Lucena:

Bakken Oil and Other Hazardous Material

Findings

F1 Bakken Oil is being transported by rail through Butte County in trains of approximately 100 cars carrying up to 3 million gallons of crude oil.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F2 Butte County has no direct influence over routing or frequency of trains, equipment utilized, shipment content, or oil conditioning.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F3 The CPUC Risk Assessment Section has identified California's railroad bridges as a significant safety risk.

Response: The respondent is unable to answer this finding, as the finding pertains to information on another agency.

F4 The CPUC has recently hired two railroad bridge inspectors. Inspection results will not be available until the end of 2015.

Response: The respondent is unable to answer this finding, as the finding pertains to information on another agency.

F5 There is no comprehensive inventory of railroad bridges located in California.

Response: The respondent is unable to answer this finding, as it would be speculative to answer what information exists within other agencies.

Butte County is



F6 A Geographic Response Plan is a vital planning tool for an efficient and effective response to an oil spill.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F7 Butte County does not have a Geographic Response Plan or equivalent for the Feather River.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F8 Senate Bill 861 provides a dedicated source of money for preparedness and response activities on inland waterways including training and equipment.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F9 Communication between the State and the Region III LEPC regarding provisions of Senate Bill 861 and other spill preparedness opportunities is continuing.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F10 It is the opinion of the 2014-2015 Butte County Grand Jury that the Butte County OEM is operated efficiently and effectively.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F11 Butte County emergency service personnel would likely be among the first responders to a derailment in the Feather River Canyon.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

Recommendations

R1 The Butte County BOS should petition the CPUC to inspect Butte County's critical railroad bridges.

Response: The recommendation will be implemented by December 2015. Staff is in the process of scheduling meetings with the CPUC to discuss inspections.

R2 The Butte County BOS should initiate discussion of the Feather River GRP concept with the Plumas County BOS with the goal of jointly pursuing the creation of a GRP.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented since it is not warranted. A Geographic Response Plan is the responsibility of the Railroads and not local government.

R3 The Butte County BOS should remain actively engaged in informing the California Office of Emergency Services and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, either directly or through the Region III LEPC, regarding oil spill preparedness measures most suited to Butte County.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. LEPC Region III is updating their Regional Hazmat Response Plan which includes California Office of Emergency Services and California Department of Fish and Wildlife as major stakeholders. Butte County has Butte County Fire Department and the County Office of Emergency Management representatives included on the planning team for the Region III Regional HAZMAT Response Plan.

R4 The Butte County Grand Jury recommends that the Butte County BOS monitor County participation in training offered by the railroad industry and Region III LEPC.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. Butte County Office of Emergency Management and Butte County Fire Department continue to monitor for training opportunities and send appropriate staff to attend training when it is available. Butte County Fire has sent 4 individuals to training since January. Butte County Fire Department will be sending 2 more Hazmat Technicians in September of 2015. Additionally, the County Interagency Hazmat Team has also sent 2 Hazmat Technicians from the City of Chico and Oroville.

R5 The Butte County OEM should continue to look for State grant or railroad industry funding for pre-positioning of spill-containment and clean-up equipment at strategic points in the FRC and Lake Oroville.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Butte County OEM and Butte County Fire continue to monitor for grant funding from Federal, State and other sources. In fact, Butte County Fire secured the first grant from the State Office of Spill Prevention and Response for a booming supply trailer to be deployed within the Feather River Canyon.

R6 The Butte County Grand Jury recommends that the Butte County OEM utilize all information and resources made available by the railroad industry such as AskRail.com

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Butte County OEM avails itself of all resources made available by the railroad industry.

R7 The Butte County BOS should continue communicating with the Governor's Office and the CPUC regarding adoption of practices that will help to increase the safety of oil trains traveling through Butte County.

Response: The recommendation has been partially implemented. Butte County OEM and Butte County Fire communicate regularly with the Governor's Office through Cal OES. Butte OEM is in the process of scheduling meetings with CPUC representatives.

R8 The Butte County BOS should communicate directly, or through county associations with our congressional representative, regarding legislation regulating rail transport of crude oil and other hazardous materials through Butte County.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Butte County OEM continues to communicate directly with these individuals and organizations.

R9 The Butte County BOS should communicate its concern that the citizens of Butte County could be at unreasonable risk as long as railroad bridges located in Butte County remain uninspected by the CPUC.

Response. The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Butte County OEM is scheduling meetings with CPUC representative for August or September 2015.

Butte County Office of Emergency Management "Diamond Incident"

Findings

F1 This exercise was the first of its kind in over nine years.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F2 The emergency scenario was based on a realistic possibility.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F3 An exercise of this magnitude requires the active participation of several county departments.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F4 Exercises of this complexity help to build working relationships between jurisdictions.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F5 Competency requires numerous drills and training if an actual incident is to be managed in an efficient manner while providing for the safety of responders and the public.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F6 The Mass Evacuation was jointly coordinated by the Butte County and City of Chico EOCs.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

Recommendations

R1 That Butte County OEM conduct exercises of this scale as often as fiscally feasible.

The recommendation has been implemented. Butte County OEM and stakeholders actively search for funding opportunities to support large exercises.

R2 That Butte County OEM continue including private organizations and industry representatives in exercises.

The recommendation has been implemented. Butte County OEM uses a "Whole Community" approach in developing exercises. The exercise planning team identifies stakeholders that may be involved during an actual disaster incident and invite them early in the planning phase to ensure integration into exercise scenario.

Solar Storms and Electromagnetic Pulses

Findings

F5 The Office of Emergency Management has prepared procedures to allow for major power outages.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F8 At present, there is not a Butte County supported website with recommendations for solar flare EMP preparedness, for our citizens.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F9 There are no drills presently in place to test the overall response to a major solar event by the county government.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F10 There will likely be no immediate State or Federal help for smaller population centers during a major catastrophic power failure as priorities will be given to major population areas.

Response: The respondent disagrees with this finding. State and Federal agencies work with local agencies to prepare for events. Through State/Federal funding many first responder agencies have purchased generators to be used during a catastrophic power failure.

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 in 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 December 2015 information will be available on the OEM website and in printed format.

R2 That the Butte County Jail also develop a plan for longer term power outages to protect electronic equipment, including the locking system, prisoner locator devices, and prisoners records.

The recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Office has a number of generators, manual override capabilities on all systems, and hard copy files

R6 That the Board of Supervisors question the various utilities to insure that gas pipelines and the power grid will be adequately prepared for a solar emergency.

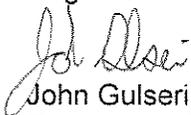
The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Utilities are heavily regulated and are prepared for these types of events.

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.

This concludes my response to the 2014-2015 Grand Jury report.

Regards


John Gulserian
Emergency Services Officer

cc: Board of Supervisors
CAO