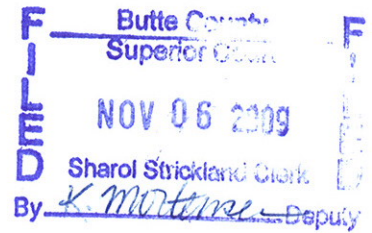


**Paradise Fire Department Response to the
Butte County Grand Jury Report 2008/2009
Wildfire & Safety Considerations
For Butte County General Plan**



During the summer of 2008 the fires in and around the Town of Paradise were the most severe in the Town's history and involved the largest evacuations in the counties history. Paradise welcomes this investigation and looks forward to participation in remediation of identified findings and issues.

To my knowledge no one from this department was interviewed for this report.

To my knowledge no one from any Town of Paradise department was interviewed for this report.

The town was fortunate that it did not suffer greater loss in structures and property, but the losses immediately around the town were felt as if there were town residences.

During the "Humboldt" incident three of the five main routes out of town were compromised by fire for varying lengths of time, which did lead to significant traffic congestion on Pentz Road, one of the remaining routes out of town. This congestion was exacerbated by a vehicle accident during the evacuation.

Findings:

Generally all findings pertain to county areas, but findings F5, F6, F8, F9 and F10 do pertain to the Town of Paradise.

F5 The Town of Paradise has had an evacuation plan in place since 2002 and was recognized by FEMA as an example of plans for communities. This plan was the blue print for the upper ridge evacuation plan.

F6 The Town of Paradise and the Butte County Building departments meet on development with abutting interest.

F8 The Town of Paradise used multiple forms to inform the public;

1. Active trained designated Public Information Officer (PIO) with deputies.
2. Joint Information Center (JIC) trains with other agencies
3. 1500 AM radio taped information time dated.
4. E-mail alert citizen and business signup.
5. Press release to news agencies & the EBS system

F9 Paradise has been the leader in the benefit assessment district development.

1. Three options brought before the City/County Adhoc Committee, by the Town Manager.

F10 Safety information is released at every opportunity, Fire on the Ridge, Johnny Apple Seed Days, Gold Nugget Days, Service Clubs, Special speaking engagements, Station Tours, Fire Safe Council presentation, etc.

Recommendations:

Response to the recommendations is addressed in the finding comments.

A general comment I would be not to refer to roads of travel as evacuation routes. All roads are simply that, and in time of an emergency may be used as a means of egress or a designated evacuation route by the Incident Commander. Roads and their maintenance are the responsibility of the Town's Public works and Engineering departments. Evacuations of people are a law enforcement responsibility, and they will develop traffic patterns within the incident presented to them, with coordination of Public Works and other impacted agencies. All roads may be an evacuation route for the people who live in that immediate area, but not everyone in the vicinity. Roads may open and close. People may be moved form danger in one direction, and then evacuated on the same road in the opposite direction.

Mark L. Haurschild

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark L. Haurschild', written in a cursive style.

Fire Chief Paradise Fire Department