

Bay Area UASI



Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative Quarterly Newsletter

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Large Storms Impact Bay Area Counties

After several years of exceptional drought across California, winter returned in a big way with an atmospheric river of torrential rain, powerful winds, hail, thunder and lightning that pounded the Bay Area. Several Bay Area counties and cities, including the Counties of Alameda,



Contra Costa, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Solano activated their EOCs to assist first responders as they dealt with the effects of the storms. Citing conditions of extreme peril, Gov. Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency in dozens of California counties (including nine in

the Bay Area) on January 23rd. This Declaration assists the state as they attempt to recover from millions of dollars in property damage caused by these storms.



During the storm, the region's new and improved public information and warning service was used to send mass notification texts and reverse 911 telephone calls of flood warnings, road

closures, and fallen trees. Improving public information and warning systems has been a UASI priority and the



working group is in the process of reviewing the use of these systems for lessons learned and improvement recommendations.

The storms also tested the capabilities of local fire departments' Swift Water Rescue Teams. Several people required rescuing from trapped vehicles after being caught



in rapidly moving flood waters. These Teams have received training through the Bay Area UASI's Regional Training and Exercise Program (RTEP) and have also conducted full scale exercises in the

San Francisco Bay. Bay Area UASI grant funds have also purchased boats and equipment to be used in the event of a terrorist attack or catastrophic disaster.

Bay Area UASI Updates

Maritime Security

San Francisco Bay covers an area of approximately 1600 square miles and, since 2003, grant funds have been used to purchase marine equipment, provide planning, and conduct training and exercises to ensure regional security.

Jurisdictions from San Jose, to San Mateo, to Oakland, have purchased watercraft and many other jurisdictions have purchased equipment that have increased our capabilities. Most recently, the San Francisco Fire Department took delivery of a new Type II Fireboat, one of only two such boats in the region.

In addition to the purchase of maritime equipment, the Bay Area UASI has begun working closely with the ports and the US Coast Guard to coordinate planning and exercise activities. Phil White of the Management Team was recently appointed to the Northern Area Maritime Security Committee to represent the Bay Area UASI to provide updates on the Preventive Radiological Nuclear Detection (PRND) Focus Group and coordinate activities. In 2017, various jurisdictions will participate in "Vigilant Guardian", a full scale exercise designed to evaluate responsibilities associated with the maritime "steady state" and "enhanced steady state" missions.



San Francisco's newly commissioned fireboat the "St. Francis" conducts sea trials in San Francisco Bay.

UASI Regional Training & Exercise Program

To learn more about the program or to register for available courses visit: www.bauasitep.org.

Upcoming Courses

- 02/09: School Violence & the Active Shooter
- 03/23: Public Information Officer/ Joint Information Center Training
- 03/28: Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities

Cyber Security Classes Conducted

The NCRIC and the UASI recently conducted two highly specialized training classes- one in cyber security and one on the "dark web"- to assist our regional IT administrators, operators, and law enforcement partners. With the goal of improving and increasing overall cyber readiness and providing tools for the use of dark web-based information during investigations and analytical research, approximately 50 people attended the two day classes.

In the cyber security class, attendees learned cybercrime concepts, common threats, and identifying intruder activity. They also learned how breaches to a network occur, current popular methods of cyber-attack, and best practices for protecting cyber environments.

During the dark web course, participants were introduced to both the "deep" and "dark web", internet privacy tools, and configuring privacy guards for email, phone, and IP addresses. Additionally, the class was introduced to digital currencies, navigating illegal marketplaces, and constructing undercover accounts.

These two classes proved to be extremely popular and had waiting lists of almost 200 people. Additional classes will be offered over the course of 2017, with the next class scheduled for March. If you are interested in attending one or both of these classes, please contact Mikyung Kim-Molina at Mikyung.Kim-Molina@sfgov.org.



BayRICS Shares Keys to the Region



On January 19, 2017, the Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications Systems Authority (BayRICS) successfully hosted a “system key exchange” event for Bay Area P25 radio system operators.

P25 programmable radios are used throughout the Bay Area, and in order to fully use their capabilities, a computer file, called a “system key”, is required. In order to ensure rapid and seamless interoperability between systems during mutual aid situations, these system keys must be shared with all participating agencies. Because these keys also unlock sensitive security parameters, however, it is important that P25 operators proceed cautiously when sharing their keys.

Through a series of collaborative meetings, the P25 Operators Advisory Group, comprised of representatives from the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA), and the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Association (SVRIA), the Counties of San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, and the Cities of Santa Clara, Berkeley, Oakland, San Jose, and the City and County of San Francisco, developed a secure key sharing process document. With the completion of the BayRICS Key Sharing Guidelines, participants were able to meet on January 19th to exchange keys. This successful event increased the region’s interoperable communications capabilities.

CESA Board 2017 Meeting

On January 23, 2017, the State Board of the California Emergency Services Association (CESA), held its first meeting of the year. Regional Project Manager Corinne Bartshire, who serves as Vice President for the Association’s Coastal Chapter, attended the meeting. CalOES Director Mark Ghilarducci and Chief Deputy Nancy Ward met with the group as they exchanged information about the state’s emergency management concerns and priorities. The agenda also included refinement of the 2017 CESA Strategic Plan and the Association’s plans to expand its membership through increased training opportunities through the new CalOES EOC Position Credentialing Program (see article below). The CESA Annual Conference will take place from October 10-13, 2017.



CalOES Director Mark Ghilarducci and Chief Deputy Nancy Ward take a photo with members of the California Emergency Services Association.

California Office Of Emergency Services CalOES Develops New Emergency Operating Center Credentialing Program



Effective November 1, 2016, CalOES, in conjunction with the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) instituted an EOC Credentialing Program. The Program identifies measures and competencies for EOC staff and documents professional qualifications, certifications, training, and educational requirements expected for effective EOC management and operations. The Bay Area UASI’s Regional Training and Exercise Program is working closely with CSTI to ensure that course offerings are consistent with this new Program.

Compliance Corner & Management Team

WebGrants Phase II Launch

After two years of successfully submitting and processing project applications, the UASI Management Team will now initiate Phase II of the WebGrants System- accepting and processing status reports, project changes, and reimbursement Claims. A webinar, highlighting these new components will be conducted on February 13. This webinar is intended for FY 16 subrecipients (project leads and their fiscal staff) only. Email ethan.baker@sfgov.org for more information.

Compliance Corner:

SUPLANTING

One of the key questions asked during the compliance review of grant applications is: is this proposal supplanting? By law, and per grant requirements, federal homeland security grant funds must be used only to supplement existing funds for program activities and must not replace (or supplant) those funds that have already been appropriated for the same purpose.



Here are some examples of supplanting:

- An agency's annual budget includes certain staff positions, however, after receiving grant funds, some of the staff salaries are allocated to the grant and they are tasked with performing the same duties as the budgeted funds.
- A jurisdiction wishes to purchase a large piece of equipment (i.e. a heavy rescue vehicle, a watercraft, a command vehicle, etc.) and the funds for this purchase were previously allocated and approved through the jurisdiction's annual budget process.
- A jurisdiction reduces some of its line item budgets because they expect to receive homeland security grant funds.

Because each of the above activities are the result of actions taken during the budget process, it is very important for project leads to notify fiscal staff of any approved project proposals. Further, during the MOU process, applicants may be required to certify that their general fund resources were reduced for reasons other than the anticipated receipt of federal funds. Lastly, in addition to the application review process, during post-award monitoring visits, the Management Team fiscal staff will also seek to ensure that supplanting has not occurred.

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 02/09: Approval Authority Meeting
- 02/13: Grant Management Webinar
- 02/15: Risk Management Kickoff
- 02/23: FY17 Regional Level II Workgroup Meeting

MARCH

- 03/01: CalCOP Training
- 03/08: MARAC/ Emergency Management Workgroup Meeting
- 03/22: THIRA Kickoff Meeting

APRIL

- 04/13: Approval Authority Meeting

Approval Authority Updates

The Bay Area UASI Approval Authority welcomes new members, Gerry Malais (Emergency Services Manager, Monterey), Jeff Marozick (Deputy Chief, San Jose Police Department), and Cay Denise MacKenzie (Interim Emergency Services Manager, San Jose Office of Emergency Services).

Management Team Updates

Anthony Perez has joined the Bay Area UASI Management Team as our new Emergency Services Coordinator. He will be responsible for supporting the day to day operations of the Bay Area UASI office, coordinating all aspects of the Approval Authority's monthly meetings, assisting project managers in the preparation of reports and other technical materials, and providing customer service to the general public.