



CITY CLERKS: PLEASE POST

AGENDA

**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021
7:30 A.M.**

VIRTUAL MEETING

Pursuant to Section 3 of [Executive Order N-29-20](#), issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, the meeting of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Public Safety Committee for Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 7:30 a.m., will be conducted via teleconference using the Zoom platform. Please see separate cover for public participation options.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

NOTE: *This is the appropriate time for members of the public to make comments regarding items not listed on this agenda. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action will take place on any items not listed on the agenda.*

- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2021
- VI. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. UPDATE ON JOINTLY FUNDED SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (PVPUSD VERBAL REPORT)

- B. LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL BRUSH CLEARANCE INSPECTIONS (LACoFD VERBAL REPORT)
- C. UPDATE ON THE PENINSULA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TASKFORCE (RHE VERBAL REPORT)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. UPDATED DRAFT OF THE PENINSULA WHITE PAPER ON UTILITY COMPANIES' RESPONSE TO A DISASTER (RPV)
- B. PALOS VERDES PENINSULA INGRESS AND EGRESS MAP AND STRATEGY FOR ESTABLISHING PENINSULA WIDE MASS EVACUATION PLANS (RPV)
- C. PREPARED PENINSULA EXPO SAVE THE TENTATIVE DATE FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021. (RPV VERBAL REPORT)

VIII. OTHER MATTERS FROM REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NOTE: *This is the appropriate time for Committee Members to direct the placement of items for future action on upcoming agendas.*

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Next regular meeting Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.



**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES TO MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Regional Emergency Preparedness Committee was called to order by Chair Dieringer at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Rancho Palos Verdes
Eric Alegria, Mayor
David Bradley, Mayor Pro Tem
Rolling Hills Estates
Steve Zuckerman, Mayor
Rolling Hills
Bea Dieringer, Mayor
Palos Verdes Estates
Dawn Murdock, Councilmember

ABSENT:

Velveth Schmitz, Councilmember, Rolling Hills Estates
David McGowan, Councilmember, Palos Verdes Estates

ALSO PRESENT:

Rancho Palos Verdes
Ara Mhrianian, City Manager
Karina Bañales, Deputy City Manager
Jesse Villalpando, Emergency Services Coordinator
Mckenzie Bright, Administrative Analyst
Rolling Hills Estates
Greg Grammer, City Manager
Alexa Davis, Assistant City Manager
Jessica Slawson, Administrative Analyst
Rolling Hills
Elaine Jeng, City Manager
Palos Verdes Estates
Laura Guglielmo, City Manager
Tony Best, Acting Police Chief
Marcelle Herrera, Community Relations Officer
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Captain James Powers, Lomita Sheriff's Station
Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD)
Brenna Terrones, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative
Services
Linda Reid, Board Member
Los Angeles County Fire Department
Chief Hale, Los Angeles County Fire Department

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Member Zuckerman motioned to approve minutes as amended, and Member Alegria seconded the motion.

AYES: Members: Alegria, Bradley, Zuckerman, and Chair Dieringer

NOES:

VI. OLD BUSINESS

**A. UPDATE ON THE PENINSULA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
TASKFORCE (VERBAL REPORT)**

Administrative Analyst Jessica Slawson reported that at the March 30, 2021 Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Taskforce (PEPT) meeting, participating agencies provided updated information regarding COVID-19 safety re-opening protocols and vaccination resources obtained from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) reported that they will continue to assist with transitioning students to return back to schools safely, but will support families if they opt out of returning to school and continue distance learning until the end of the school year. Furthermore, it was informed that Southern California Edison and CalWater are working with the Peninsula cities on wildlife mitigation information and programs. Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit reported an increase in ridership; however, bus capacity continues to be limited due to COVID-19 safety protocols. Additionally, Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit is expected to return to having 50% of their regular operation, serving intermediate and high schools as of April 12. The Palos Verdes Peninsula CERT Coordinator and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LACoFD) continue to work together to coordinate and schedule an in-person or hybrid CERT course in October depending

on status of public health restrictions and guidelines. Also, after the Lomita Sheriff Station and Palos Verdes Estates Police Department suspended their volunteer programs due to COVID-19, as vaccination rates increase and volunteers feel comfortable with their assignments, volunteers programs are beginning to open. Lastly, Peninsula cities are working with LACoFD for wildfire and brush clearance efforts throughout the Peninsula region. Each respective city is gathering and providing important fire safety information by promoting wildfire resources, educational campaigns, and brush clearance inspection dates through social media networks and community newsletters.

B. UPDATE ON JOINTLY FUNDED SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (PVPUSD VERBAL REPORT)

Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services Brenna Terrones reported that the SROs continue to monitor their campus, and have continued to assist during the multiple changes caused by COVID-19. Schools have now opened and the SROs have been assisting with protocol screenings and ensuring students follow in-place procedures. Assistant Superintendent Terrones expressed that one of the SROs will be retiring by the end of the school year, and the process to replace this position will begin. Lastly, she reported how PVPUSD applied for a Tobacco Grant for additional funding, and results are pending.

Member Eric Algeria questioned if PVPUSD will recruit from other agencies and if they are following up with Captain Powers and Chief Hale regarding potential officers who might retire soon from service, as there is potential these future retirees might be interested in the SRO role.

C. SUMMARY REPORT ON THE PENINSULA WIDE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE ON FEBRUARY 25, 2021 (RPV)

Coordinator Jessie Villalpando expressed how the tabletop exercise included all four Peninsula Cities, and representatives from the LACoFD, the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department (PVEPD), and the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD). The goal was to be able to design adequate coordination, communication, and response efforts between the cities and the first responders that assist the cities in case that a disaster affects the Peninsula. The meeting emphasized how critical it is to have accurate information, given that emergency events can grow. Also, he explained how at the moment, the four cities are communicating with a group text. Lastly, Coordinator Villalpando summarized the importance it is for the four cities to coordinate a Peninsula wide message addressing any emergency events to be able to get in contact with their residents in a timely manner.

Member Steve Zuckerman requested clarification on who attended scheduled meeting. He also asked if an emergency preparedness team has considered software programs, such as Slack, designed for sharing data other than text messaging. Furthermore, he

stated his concern regarding how resident who do not use mobile phones at home will be contacted to become aware of an evacuation, and Member Dawn Murdock agreed, adding there needs to be a secondary option. Lastly, Member Zuckerman expressed interest in having city staff trained and assist first responders, if there are not enough first responder personnel available for secondary alerts.

City Manager Ara Mhrianian explained that mostly everyone in the current meeting normally attend, except elected officials. He also commended Coordinator Villalpando for what was presented in the Peninsula Wide Emergency Preparedness Exercise meeting, and asked if he could provide further information regarding an upcoming exercise occurring in the preserve with the assistance of LACoFD. Lastly, he clarified that no real fires will be used in the upcoming drills.

Chair Dieringer asked what are the upcoming exercises and expectations from the emergency preparedness team, and if residents will be involved in the near future. She also asked if such in-person field training exercises will occur as a Peninsula wide exercise, or individually.

Coordinator Villalpando informed the members of who attends the meeting. He also clarified that other software programs have been considered, but witnessed that text messaging tends to be as effective. Furthermore, he explained how currently there is a plan to conduct an in-person field training exercise, where residents practice their evacuation routes, and such drill will include residents, city staff, and first responders. Coordinator Villalpando then informed committee members and participants that on May 25, 26, and 27 the LACoFD will be providing a brush fire drill outside the nature preserves, which will assist in establishing better communication with the LACoFD, the rangers, and city staff, and clarified that it will be a Peninsula wide exercise, and clarified how the LASD will use vehicles and helicopters to alert residents of evacuation as a secondary alert. Lastly, Coordinator Villalpando also informed councilmembers that he will address concerns regarding cellphone usage, as they have also realized there can be potential loss of power if cell towers stop working.

Captain Power expressed how the LASD have created relationships with other law enforcement offices and the LACoFD if more first responders are needed to coordinate evacuations, and such relationships and assistance have been effective in the past. However, he did agree that not everyone relies on cell phone usage, but feels confident first responders can coordinate accordingly to be of assistance when needed. Coordinator Villalpando for what was presented in the Peninsula Wide Emergency Preparedness Exercise meeting, and asked if he could provide further information regarding an upcoming exercises occurring in the preserve with the assistance of LACoFD.

Assistant City Manager Alexa Davis explained how all four cities are contracted with Everbridge Software, which allows a reverse 911 call to occur in landlines. She explained how Everbridge has the ability to gather necessary data in regards to 911 calls, and even

push calls to cellphones and through text messages if needed. She also explained that there is also the South Bay Alert System that uses iCause to create emergency alerts to cellphones, which are alerts similar to Amber alerts. Lastly, she mentioned how there is a robust radio system in place, which can assist with transmitting necessary information and emergency alerts.

Community Relations Officer Marcelle Herrera reiterated the information regarding the South Bay Alert System as well as the robust radio system. She provided the information regarding RPV District Program and how they have placed city volunteer response containers that, if needed, can assist with communicating at a regional level. Lastly, she realizes that there are alternatives to communicate any emergencies.

D. UPDATED DRAFT OF THE PENINSULA WHITE PAPER ON UTILITY COMPANIES' RESPONSE TO DISASTER (RPV)

Coordinator Villalpando presented the second draft of the white paper. He reported how the name of the letter was changed, to better reflect the purpose of the white paper. He included an outline pertaining to the upstream and downstream dependencies, and then provided the meanings of each. Furthermore, he summarized how the rest of the paper includes information pertaining to the natural gas, telecommunication, information, water, and waste sectors. He mentioned he is currently discussing the paper and the assessments with the utility companies. He explained how CalWater and Southern California Edison actually work together to provide water to the residents of the Peninsula. Lastly, he mentioned a brief summary of his meeting with the Supervising Engineering William Chen from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Services. Coordinator Villalpando received the information from Supervising Engineer Chen that they currently do have an emergency preparedness plan already in motion. Coordinator Villalpando will continue to work with both the cities and the utility companies for further information to adopt a crisis intervention protocol for all Peninsula cities.

Member Zuckerman questioned if there are any programs that assist with pricing to install gas shut off valves as incentives for residents to update and install the upgrades. He also wanted clarification regarding LACoFD mentioning water pressures. Lastly, he wanted clarification if the new v500 system with the pump will supply water system wide, and regarding designating an evacuation center and appointing one specific individual to be the primary reporter if an emergency event happens.

Chair Dieringer clarified that in the City of Rolling Hills area there are no providers that provide landlines, and only Voiceover System provides the landlines through internet usage. Also, she expressed an interest in addressing ahead of time any vulnerabilities regarding utilities that the utility services are yet to address. Lastly, Chair Dieringer agreed that a uniformed protocol to address emergency events across all Peninsula cities will benefit the communities.

Member Murdock expressed the importance of being able to communicate with the community on incidents and educate residents on how to properly store water. She then added how continued training on communication and drills are very important for the safety of the communities.

City Manager Mihranian suggested that the white paper should include vulnerabilities related to cyber-attacks and how utilities can act based on given attack.

Coordinator Villalpando responded that he will look into such programs, and clarified that other stations can provide water if one system fails, although it might be a reduced amount. He also expressed that at this time water pressures are not addressed in the white paper. Furthermore, he provided an example regarding CalWater and how they are subcontracted with other vendors in case of an emergency, but will explore more with other utility services about additional vulnerabilities. Lastly, Coordinator Villalpando responded that alongside the partnership with Red Cross, additional work needs to be done to the current evacuation centers, but he did explain how residents can also be housed in hotels if needed, and explained that one of the follow up questions will be addressed shortly in another agenda item.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PENINSULA CITIES COVID-19 VACCINATION REPORT (RPV VERBAL REPORT)

Coordinator Villalpando presented the pharmacies that are providing the COVID-19 vaccinations, as well as the link to schedule an appointment. Additionally, he presented data pertaining to the number of residents per city that have been vaccinated with at least one dose of the vaccination as of May 7, 2021. He also reported that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Pfizer vaccine to become available to age groups 12 to 15 years of age that must be accompanied by a parent when receiving their vaccine.

Member Murdock asked PVPUSD if students in the appropriate age group will need to be COVID-19 vaccinated by the next school year starting fall 2021.

PVPUSD Board Member Linda Reid answered that PVPUSD will wait for public health guidance to determine if children will need to be vaccinated in order to return to school, but provided additional information that at the local level it has been determined that staff are required to be vaccinated. She also explained that there are resources and events being established to assist families with getting vaccinated.

Member Bradley commended Rolling Hills Estates for the number of residents in their community that have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination, and commended all the cities for the statistics provided by Coordinator Villalpando.

Member Zuckerman is interested in getting the percentage of the adult population who got vaccinated because they were eligible, and create some sort of explanation for the public explaining that the numbers Coordinator Villalpando presented pertained only to eligible members of the community, and not the community as a whole.

Coordinator Villalpando clarified that the LAC Public Health Department only provides data pertaining to the ages 16 and up, which are the current eligible ages able to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

B. BRUSH CLEARANCE (LACFD VERBAL REPORT)

Chief Hale reported that the LACoFD will start their brush inspections in the Peninsula Cities beginning June 1, 2021. He explained that the process can take up to 6 weeks from when LACoFD is notified to start such project, and if there are any residencies that did not pass, there is a follow up inspection within 30 days of those residencies being informed, and full project should be completed by August 12. The reports are then forwarded to their brush department, and if there are any residencies not completed, then LACoFD will send out crews to assist and complete the clearance for those residencies. Additionally, there was a new bill passed by the state to support the fire code of a 5 foot clearance around each and every residency classified in a high fire hazard area that will be enforced starting 2023, but no major details have been provided to the LACoFD as of now.

Acting Police Chief Tony Best asked if the information pertaining to the new bill changes and requirements will be provided for the cities to be able to inform residents through their platforms.

Chief Hale explained that they will add it to their Ready, Set, Go magazine.

C. STRATEGY FOR PENINSULA WIDE EMERGENCY COORDINATION THROUGH A SHARED COORDINATOR (RH)

City Manager Elaine Jeng explained that previously, the Peninsula cities shared an emergency coordinator, but that has shifted to each city having a dedicated party addressing emergency related needs for their city. The goal is to be able to coordinate between the Peninsula cities, and having one person of contact for such request. The proposal is for Coordinator Villalpando, who has been assisting already, to take on the role of being the main emergency preparedness coordinator for all the Peninsula cities. The second recommendation is to have a strategy of what is addressed every quarter, to fully develop a process of how the cities will communicate with their residents given an emergency event.

Mayor Alegria questioned how the lack of an MOU will affect the cautionary for Coordinator Villalpando as an FTE. He also state his concern regarding a shared burden

of cost-of-time, since there will be no MOU, and expressed interest in having a process in place and cost-sharing with all the cities.

Member Dieringer expressed the importance of addressing home hardening, because embers are one of the main sources for home fires, and gathering further data on options to home hardening options with certain discounts if it is a Peninsula wide request. She also requested there be an amendment to check for additional discounts for Peninsula wide usage if vents or gutter guards are purchased.

Member Zuckerman suggested to even consider having the cities purchase at least 100 shut off valves to attempt to get a discount from vendors and give other residents incentives to participate as well.

Chief Hale expressed that home hardening is an important factor in attempting to reduce home fires, and informed the committee members and representatives that Firefighter Trevor is already inspecting homes.

City Manager Mihranian explained that there is no impact to their budget, since they allocated funds for such position without considering a contribution from the other cities

City Manager Jeng explained that all cities are working on attaining their own emergency preparedness coordinator, but feel it is adequate to have one person of contact. Coordinator Villalpando can be that person of contact to assist and manage all the cities and address items pertaining to Peninsula wide emergency needs. Lastly, she explained how these suggestions do not prevent individual cities to continue working on their own individual needs.

City Manager Greg Grammer provided a successful example when the Peninsula cities assigned one person from one city to run and lead a particular program.

Mayor Algeria made motion supportive of the recommendation proposed by staff with amendments to check for additional discounts for Peninsula wide purchase for vents and gutter guards, and Member Zuckerman seconded the motion.

AYES: Members: Alegria, Bradley, Zuckerman, Murdock, and Chair Dieringer.

NOES: None.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS FROM REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

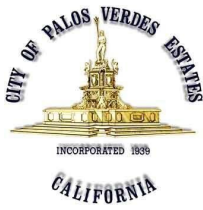
There being no further business before the Palos Verdes Peninsula Regional Emergency Preparedness Committee, Chair Dieringer adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janely Sandoval
City Clerk
City of Rolling Hills

Approved,

Bea Dieringer
Chair and Mayor,
City of Rolling Hills



**PENINSULA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 08/12/2021
AGENDA HEADING: New Business 7-A

AGENDA TITLE:

Presentation of a revised draft of the White Paper on Interdependency Vulnerabilities of Utilities Servicing the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION:

- (1) Review a revised draft of the Peninsula White Paper on utility companies' response to a disaster and provide further direction to Staff.
- (2) Provide input on a revised draft of Palos Verdes Peninsula Crisis Communications Protocol.

STAFF COORDINATOR: Jesse Villalpando, Emergency Services Coordinator J.V.

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- A. Revised Draft of White Paper on Interdependency Vulnerabilities of Utilities Servicing the Palos Verdes Peninsula.
 - B. Redline Version of amendments to the Peninsula-Wide Incident Communication protocol.
-

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

At its meeting on November 12, 2020, the Peninsula Public Safety Committee (PPSC) was provided with a high-level update on the status of the creation of a White Paper that examines the interrelationship vulnerabilities between power, water, gas and sewer utilities servicing the Palos Verdes Peninsula, as well as outlining the potential consequences that could result from cascading and escalating failures of these utilities.

During this meeting, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes Emergency Services Coordinator identified the following six-tiered framework for the drafting of this White Paper:

- **Identification of Primary Contacts and Stakeholders**
- **Review of Relevant Policies & Plans**
- **Identification of Critical Facilities & Infrastructure**
- **Assessment of Utility Interrelationship Vulnerabilities**
- **Development of a Crisis Communications Protocol**
- **Integration with Peninsula Cities Emergency Operations Plans**

The current draft of this whitepaper uses a “Top-Down” approach to infrastructure interdependency analysis by outlining the following: (1) Overall on critical infrastructure system functions in general; (2) Background on the physical infrastructure sectors located in the community; (3) The interdependencies between that sector and other critical infrastructure system; and, (4) The potential consequences that could result from cascading failures.

The following critical infrastructure sectors servicing the Palos Verdes Peninsula are currently analyzed in this white Paper:

- ⇒ Electricity (Energy Sector)
- ⇒ Natural Gas (Energy Sector)
- ⇒ Telecommunications Systems (Communication Sector)
- ⇒ Information Systems (Communication Sector)
- ⇒ Water systems (Water Sector)
- ⇒ Wastewater systems (Water and Wastewater Sector)

Revisions to the Draft of White Paper on Interdependency Vulnerabilities of Utilities

On May 13, 2021, the PPSC reviewed a draft of this Whitepaper, analyzing the interdependencies vulnerabilities of infrastructure utilities and provided direction to Staff to incorporate suggested changes. Per the direction of the PPSC Staff has completed the following revisions to this Whitepaper.

- **Revisions made to the Executive Summary Section (Pages 1 & 2)**
 - Addition of a “*What is Critical Infrastructure*” section highlighting the official definition and an overall generalized description of critical infrastructure use in everyday society.
 - Identification of designated critical infrastructure lifeline functions of transportation, Water, energy, and communications.
 - Addition of a section titled “*What are the Threats and Hazards to Critical Infrastructure*” identifying natural, man-made, and cyber threats to critical information infrastructure sectors.
 - Insertion of an overall summary table of identifying Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies.
- **Revisions made to the Community Profile Section (Page 6)**
 - Inclusion of a map illustrating the locations of Peninsula Cities City Halls, as well as fire and police stations serving the Palos Verdes Peninsula.
- **Addition of Cyber Security Vulnerability Considerations and Mitigation Strategies section (Page 9)**
- **Revisions made to Palos Verdes Peninsula Communications Sector background information section (Page 18)**
 - Removal of references to Peninsula landline telephone services.

- **Addition of *Appendix A: Peninsula-Wide Incident Communication Protocols* (Page 28)**

A copy of the revised draft of this Whitepaper is included in this report as Attachment A.

Revisions to the Crisis Communications Protocol

The Palos Verdes Peninsula's Shared Emergency Services Coordinator has reviewed the Peninsula Cities' established incident communications protocols, which were previously established by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Regional Law Committee in response to the homicide at the Promenade Shopping Center in May 2018 and has incorporated the following updates. Attachment B contains a copy of the existing Communication protocol's redline changes.

Protocol Number 6:

- *During a regional emergency declared by the county, state, or federal government, the Peninsula Cities will coordinate with the County Office of Emergency Management to ensure unified messaging about incident.*

Protocol Number 7:

- *To ensure unified messaging, the Peninsula Cities will only post-incident emergency information that has been approved by the agency that has jurisdiction over the incident. Individual Peninsula Cities may still post-emergency and incident information that is directly under the City's purview.*

Protocol Number 8:

- *In the event of a power outage and/or a loss of cell service impacting the entire Palos Verdes Peninsula the Peninsula Cities will work cooperatively (to the best extent possible) to implement the following strategies for information distribution:*
 - *Regional Emergency Phone hotline*
 - *Deployment of Information Stations (large wooden sandwich boards) to post information when other means of communication are impaired at key locations (dependent on the situation and where it is needed.)*
 - *Printed materials to distribute to Emergency Information Stations*
 - *Flyers for in-person distribution*
 - *Loudspeakers in vehicles*

Protocol Number 9:

- *During an emergency of any level, the Peninsula Cities will communicate and coordinate with one another, as well as with any other partner agency responding to or involved in the incident, to issue uniform coordinated emergency alerts via all appropriate and available notification platforms, including the individual Cities' disaster and emergency alert systems, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and social media.*

CONCLUSION

During the August 12, 2021, meeting, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Emergency Services Coordinator will provide the PPSC with a high-level update on the revisions made to this

White paper based on input received at the May 12th meeting and seek additional direction in the development and implementation of a Peninsula-Wide Crisis Communications Protocol.

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL: PENINSULA-WIDE INCIDENT

The existing protocol for communication from LASD to RPV, RH and RHE typically involves an email [and or text message](#) from the Captain or Watch Commander to the City Managers. Depending on the particulars of the incident, a phone call may be made as well. Similarly, PVEPD advises the PVE City Manager in the most immediate and appropriate manner available. The City Managers then disseminate the information to their respective City Councils via email or phone depending on the situation. Appropriate information is then disseminated to the public via applicable electronic platforms.

LASD and PVEPD typically advise each other of incidents that may result in involvement by the other agency. This also occurs with other neighboring jurisdictions such as Torrance PD and LAPD. LASD and PVE also advise adjacent schools when warranted on a case by case basis.

ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES: IMPROVED FLOW OF COMMUNICATION

- 1) It would be appropriate to include the Superintendent of PVPUSD in any communication going to the City Managers;
- 2) All communication with City Council Members or School Board Members should come through their respective City Managers or Superintendent so as to relieve first responders from excessive communication burdens;
- 3) The City in which an incident occurs will act as lead agency in dealing with the media as well as posting and updating information as it becomes available;
- 4) Inasmuch as it is possible, the lead agency will communicate electronically with the other cities and PVPUSD immediately prior to posting or updating information;
- 5) Each City and PVPUSD will determine the information it wishes to post and where to post it;

[6\) During a regional emergency declared by the county, state, or federal government, the Peninsula Cities will coordinate with the County Office of Emergency Management to ensure unified messaging about incident.](#)

[7\) To ensure unified messaging, the Peninsula Cities will only post incident emergency information that has been approved by the agency that has jurisdiction over the incident. Individual Peninsula Cities may still post emergency and incident information that is directly under the City's purview.](#)

[8\) In the event of a power outage and/or a loss of cell service impacting the entire Palos Verdes Peninsula the Peninsula Cities will work cooperatively \(to the best extent possible\) to implement the following strategies for information distribution:](#)

- [Regional Emergency Phone hotline](#)

- Deployment of Information Stations (large wooden sandwich boards) to post information when other means of communication are impaired at key locations (dependent on the situation and where it is needed.)
- Printed materials to distribute to Emergency Information Stations
- Flyers for in-person distribution
- Loudspeakers in vehicles

9) During an emergency of any level, the Peninsula Cities will communicate and coordinate with one another, as well as with any other partner agency responding to or involved in the incident, to issue uniform coordinated emergency alerts via all appropriate and available notification platforms, including the individual Cities' disaster and emergency alert systems, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and social media.

10) Each City and PVPUSD will provide the other agencies with priority contact lists for purposes of communicating during incidents of joint concern.

It is universally recognized that many times judgment is required in determining when and whom to notify in any given circumstance. There is concern about inundating each other and the public with non-critical information. Generally speaking, though, the consensus would be to err on the side of over-communicating.

An emergency contact list has been developed and will be distributed to key staff in each agency to facilitate inter-agency communication. It is not meant to be publicly available. This list will be dynamic, and each agency will provide updated contact information as changes occur. RHE will act as the central point for receiving updates and then disseminating the updated information to all.



**PENINSULA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 08/12/2021
AGENDA HEADING: New Business 7-B

AGENDA TITLE:

Palos Verdes Peninsula Ingress & Egress Map and Strategy for Establishing Peninsula Wide Mass Evacuation Plans

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION:

- (1) Review and provide direction on a draft Palos Verdes Peninsula Ingress & Egress Map;
- (2) Provide further direction to Staff on establishing Peninsula wide evacuation plans; and,
- (3) Direct Staff to seek proposals a consultant to prepare a comprehensive emergency operations evacuation "playbook" for the Peninsula.

STAFF COORDINATOR: Jesse Villalpando, Emergency Services Coordinator J.V.

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- A. Draft Peninsula Palos Verdes Peninsula Ingress & Egress Map
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Following the direction provided by the Peninsula Public Safety Committee (Committee) at its August 12, 2021 meeting, City of Rolling Hills Staff and the Peninsula's shared coordinator are presenting a draft map highlighting the egress and ingress points of the four Peninsula Cities for the Committee's review and input. In addition, staff is requesting that the Committee consider recruiting a consultant experienced in preparing a comprehensive emergency operations evacuation "playbook" for the Peninsula that incorporates the components of an effective emergency evacuation plan as outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND:

At its May 13, 2021, meeting, the Committee adopted a strategic work plan to guide the Committee's efforts in addressing the numerous facets of emergency preparedness. The Committee-adopted strategic work plan was developed based on an inventory of recent Committee discussions, and identifies the following three critical areas for emergency preparedness for the Committee to focus on over the next six to twelve months: (1) Study Peninsula evacuation routes; (2) Understand utility vulnerabilities and implement readiness measures; and, (3) Develop communication protocols among Peninsula cities.

Staff additionally recommended the following goals for each of the critical areas of emergency preparedness for the Committee to consider:

1. Study Peninsula Evacuation Routes

- Obtain First Responder's input on routes
- Identify exit points and measures to improve these locations for readiness
- Establish communication contact to respective cities for traffic control
- Protocols for evacuating large animals
- Identify temporary shelter locations

2. Understand Utility Vulnerabilities and Implement Readiness Measures

- Understand utilities' contingency plans for continuous service
- Obtain utilities' recommended measures for individual contingency plan

3. Communication Protocols Among Peninsula Cities

- Establish incident command protocols to respective cities EOC to community
- Establish outlets to receive emergency notifications
- Identify Neighborhood watch organizations

Additionally, at the May 13, 2021, meeting, the Committee moved to formally recognize the Rancho Palos Verdes Emergency Services Coordinator as the Peninsula-wide Emergency coordinator.

DISCUSSION:

In recent years, California has seen an increase in unprecedented and destructive wildfires, posing a threat to lives, livelihoods, and communities. 2020 was the worst year on record, with nearly 10,000 fires consuming nearly 4.2 million acres, and serves as a stark reminder that the majority of the four Peninsula Cities are generally classified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the State of California Department of Forestry (Cal Fire).

Due to its numerous steep canyons and open scrub brush-covered hillsides, the Palos Verdes Peninsula has always been at risk for a devastating wildfire. The most recent significant fire on the Palos Verdes Peninsula was on August 27, 2009, when a wildfire burned through approximately 230 total acres. The fire is believed to have originated in the Portuguese Bend Reserve in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes where 165 acres were charred. The remaining 65 acres were burned in the City of Rolling Hills. Dozens of homes were threatened and approximately 1,200 residents were forced to evacuate ([City of Rolling Hills Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, pg. 82.](#))

Palos Verdes Peninsula Ingress & Egress Map

Given the increased attention that today's climate related fire danger has garnered, the Peninsula Cities have received a number of requests from residents regarding pre-determined evacuation routes. Evacuation routes can vary greatly depending on the scenario. As a result, law enforcement and fire officials are circumspect about disclosing predetermined evacuation routes, as they do not want residents to follow a route they learned about prior to an emergency that does not fit the current emergency scenario, preferring instead that residents follow contextually appropriate real-time directions.

Recognizing that evacuation routes can vary significantly depending on the situation, staff collaborated to create a map highlighting the ingress and egress routes for the entire Palos Verdes Peninsula. The intention of this ingress and egress map in its current state is to outline the major arterial roads in each Peninsula city in order to advance the Committee's strategic workplan strategy of studying Peninsula evacuation routes and related objectives as outlined above.

The attached draft map highlights the following major arterial roads for each city:

- ⇒ **City of Palos Verdes Estate:** Palos Verdes Drive West, Palos Verdes Blvd, and Palos Verdes Drive North
- ⇒ **City of Rancho Palos Verdes:** Palos Verdes Drive West, Palos Verdes Drive South, Palos, Verdes Drive East, Crest Rd., Hawthorne Blvd., Silver Spur Rd., Crenshaw Blvd., Western Ave. and Miraleste Dr.
- ⇒ **City of Rolling Hills:** Crenshaw Blvd., Crest Road West, Crest Road East, Portuguese Bend Rd., Eastfield Drive and Palos Verdes Drive North.
- ⇒ **City of Rolling Hills Estates:** Palos Verdes Drive North, Palos Verdes Drive East Rolling Hills Road, Crenshaw Blvd, Hawthorne Blvd, and Crest Road

General Overview of an Evacuation Process During a “Real-World Event”

The Woolsey Fire, which began on November 8, 2018, killed three people, burned 96,949 acres of land, destroyed 1,643 structures, and led to the evacuation of more than 295,000 people in the 13 days before it was contained. The fire was the most destructive ever in Los Angeles County. The City of Malibu was especially hard-hit, with at least 670 structures destroyed, including more than 400 single-family homes with an estimated market value of at least \$1.6 billion.

The evacuation process during the Woolsey Fire received significant community and media attention due to high traffic and long wait times for residents. The City of Malibu had its own evacuation plan in place, however a city is not responsible for determining if and when mandatory evacuation is necessary or how it is executed.

During an emergency, law enforcement and fire agencies are responsible for organizing and implementing evacuations. In most cases the decision to evacuate an area, the areas to be evacuated and the route to be used is made by the responding Fire Departments Incident Commander (individual responsible for all aspects of the emergency response); and is based on the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.

Once a decision to evacuate has been made, it is then communicated to Law Enforcement Personal who implement the evacuation plan and are responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. California law authorizes officers to restrict access to any area where a menace to public health or safety exists due to a calamity such as flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident or other disaster. Refusal to comply is a misdemeanor. ([Penal Code 409.5](#))

The three standardized evacuation terms include the following:

- **Evacuation Order:** Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.
- **Evacuation Warning:** Potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate and those with pets and livestock should leave now.
- **Shelter in Place:** Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction

While a city does not determine when and how mandatory evacuations are issued, local jurisdictions play a critical role in relaying information to the public and ensuring that members are aware of and able to evacuate during a mass evacuation. Local governments issue emergency alerts in the event of an evacuation and will utilize all appropriate notification platforms, including mass notification emergency alert systems, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and social media.

Additionally, law enforcement personnel assist local jurisdictions in notifying residents of an evacuation by going door-to-door, by using their in-car PA systems or sirens in a restricted area, or by utilizing any available and operable mass notification systems.

Elements of an Effective Evacuation Coordination Plan

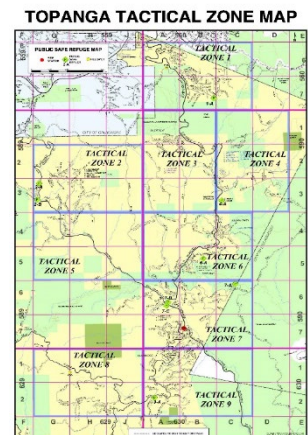
While protective measures, such as identifying ingress & egress routes to be used in the event of a mass evacuation are critical to emergency response, it represents only a portion of effective evacuation planning, necessitating a more in-depth examination of the concepts and principles upon which emergency evacuation plans should be built.

The following section highlights successful evacuation practices gleaned from research conducted by the Peninsula's Shared Coordinator and outreach to cities and organizations recently impacted by wildfires and/or disasters regarding best practices and lessons learned in regard to evacuation planning and coordination.

Implementation of Evacuation Zones:

Evacuation zones are pre-identified geographical areas used by emergency responders to improve coordination and span of control during an evacuation. In the event of a large fire or other disaster, officials may use the Evacuation Zones to quickly identify the timing, order, and routes of evacuation for specific areas to be more effective and avoid traffic bottlenecks.

Pre-designated evacuation zones enable jurisdictions to concentrate evacuation efforts on the most vulnerable areas, while minimizing the need to evacuate large areas that are not at risk from the hazard. Evacuation Zones enable community members, emergency services,



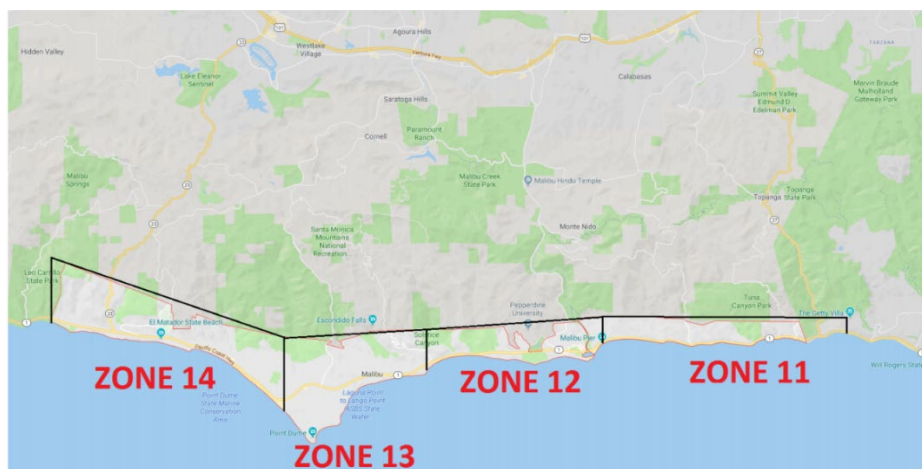
emergency managers, and 9-1-1 to communicate effectively when a mass evacuation is initiated in response to an emergency.

Identification of Safe Refuge Areas:

A Safe Refuge Area is a temporary staging area either within or outside of the evacuation area, designed to hold people safely during a mandatory evacuation. Safe Refuge Areas may also be used to help move traffic off the road to speed up the movement of people out of the immediate danger area. Safe Refuge Areas are pre-determined to be a safer alternative for residents than remaining in their homes the event of a wildfire evacuation.

Examples of Existing Practices:

- ⇒ **Topanga:** Due to the unique challenges this community faces during a wildfire, Topanga has been divided into nine Tactical Zones to assist emergency responders in issuing targeted evacuation orders based on the size and direction of the fire. The Topanga Tactical Zone Map (pictured above) also includes the designation of a public refuge areas which individual residents can seek refuge during a large wildland fire.
- ⇒ **City of Malibu:** As part of the City's [Mass Evacuation Plan](#), the City of Malibu has been divided into four evacuation zones to maximize the efficiency of any evacuation and to alleviate congestion. These zones define evacuation areas that can be activated quickly. Additionally, they can be used to execute phased evacuations.



Additionally, the City of Malibu has Pre-identified the following Safe Refuge areas within the City of Malibu:

- Zuma Beach Parking Lot 30000 Pacific Coast Highway Malibu, CA 90265
- Topanga State Beach Parking Lot 18700 Pacific Coast Hwy Malibu, CA 90265
- Will Rogers State Beach Parking Lot 17000 Pacific Coast Hwy Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
- Santa Monica Beach Parking Lots Pacific Coast Hwy Santa Monica, CA 90401

Mass Care & Sheltering Services Considerations:

Planning for mass care is critical during an evacuation planning process. While not the primary focus of this staff report, it is critical for local jurisdictions consider both short- and long-term mass care needs in the planning for effective mass evacuation, to quickly establish operations to provide essential services to evacuees. The majority of initial evacuee support is provided in the form of mass care in temporary congregate evacuee shelters. However, once the immediate life safety concerns have passed, some evacuees may require shelters for an extended period of time.

Repopulation Considerations:

As with an evacuation order, a local jurisdiction has little to no control over displaced residents' repopulation. It is critical that evacuation plans include a repopulation strategy to ensure the effective and safe return of evacuees to their communities once the threat or hazard has passed. One of the most crucial lessons learned from the Woolsey Fire's evacuation and repopulation efforts is the critical role that local city officials must play in collaborating with first responders to ensure that re-entry plans adequately address the City's unique needs and conditions.

Strategy for Community Outreach & Awareness

While it is crucial to develop an effective Peninsula-wide evacuation plan that incorporates the elements listed above, it is even more vital to ensure that residents who may be impacted are aware of the plan. It is essential that emergency evacuation planning efforts incorporate a strategy for community outreach that includes activities to educate the public and opportunities for the public to provide input.

Proposal Requests for Professional Services

Due to the specialized nature of the service required to plan and coordinate a peninsula-wide coordinated response to a mass evacuation scenario successfully, staff is requesting that the Committee consider hiring an independent third-party consultant to develop a comprehensive emergency operations evacuation "playbook" for the Peninsula. Engaging an experienced consultant to develop a comprehensive plan for the entire Palos Verdes Peninsula would enable the Peninsula Cities to pool resources and eliminate duplication efforts.

If acceptable to the Committee, Staff will publish a Request for Proposals to independent third-party consultants. Staff will collaborate with representatives from each city, the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Fire Departments, and the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department to develop the proposal. A report on the scope of work, cost estimates, and potential funding would be brought by to the Committee for consideration at a future meeting.

CONCLUSION

To provide residents with a comprehensive mass evacuation plan tailored to the unique needs of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Community, and to further prepare Peninsula Cities to respond to and recover from a future large-scale disaster event, Staff recommends the following:

1. Review, and provide direction on a draft of Palos Verdes Peninsula Ingress & Egress Map;
2. Provide further direction to Staff on establishing Peninsula wide evacuation plans; and,
3. Direct staff to seek proposals from an independent consultant to develop a comprehensive emergency operations evacuation "playbook" that incorporates the aforementioned elements and any other critical considerations as necessary.