

# Grand Jury Report

## RESPONSE FORM

**Grand Jury Report Title :** *Mendocino County Emergency Services*

**Report Dated :** *March 28, 2012*

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**Response Form Submitted By:**

John McCowen, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010  
Ukiah, CA 95482

**Response MUST be submitted, per Penal Code §933.05, no later than:**  
August 8, 2012

***I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:***

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:  
1, 2, 5, 7, 12, 13-16, 18-22
  
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered below, and have ***attached, as required***, a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.  
3, 4, 6, 8-11, 17

***I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:***

- The following Recommendation(s) have been implemented and ***attached, as required***, is a summary describing the implemented actions:  
1-5
  
- The following Recommendation(s) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, ***attached, as required*** is a time frame for implementation:

- The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis, and **attached as required**, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)
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- The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable, **attached, as required** is an explanation therefore:
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*I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as required the following number of pages to this response form:*

Number of Pages attached:   2  

*I understand that responses to Grand Jury Reports are public records. They will be posted on the Grand Jury website: [www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury). The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.*

*I understand that I must submit this signed response form and any attachments as follows:*

**First Step:** E-mail (word documents or scanned pdf file format) to:

- The Grand Jury Foreperson at: [grandjury@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:grandjury@co.mendocino.ca.us)
- The Presiding Judge: [grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov](mailto:grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov)

**Second Step:** Mail all originals to:

Mendocino County Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 939  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Printed Name: John McCowen

Title: Chair, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Signed: 

ATTEST:

Date: 7/31/12

Carmel J. Angelo, Clerk of the Board  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

 DEPUTY

**Grand Jury Report Title: Mendocino County Emergency Services**

**Report Dated: March 18, 2012**

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**Finding 3:** The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees in part with this finding. The OES Coordinator spoke before the Board of Supervisors to promote tsunami awareness, not before the OES.

**Findings 4:** The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees in part with this finding. As stated in the response prepared by the OES Coordinator, at the time the Grand Jury interviewed him, there were approximately \$400,000 in grants under OES. For clarification purposes, there was only one reoccurring grant, the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). The finding, as written, would indicate that there are reoccurring grant funds of \$400,000, which is not accurate. The Fiscal Year 2011 EMPG grant was funded at approximately \$141,000 while the other three grants, one of which is not closed and will not be funded again, total approximately \$265,500.

**Finding 6:** The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees in part with this finding. For clarification purposes, as stated in the response submitted by the OES Coordinator, the EOC was effectively utilized by the National Guard and numerous other federal, state, and local agencies as a Command and Control Center during "Full Court Press".

**Finding 8:** The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees in part with this finding based on the following information submitted by the Health and Human Services Agency and the OES Coordinator. In the 2005-2006 Homeland Security (OHS) Grant Cycle the Gang of Five authorized funding for the purchase of the HAZMAT vehicle, also known as REHIT Rig. The HAZMAT team, also known as REHIT is comprised of personnel from County Environmental Health, fire agencies, and various state agencies (CalFire,/CalTrans/CHP). Annual funding for REHIT includes \$12,000 from city contracts, money recovered from hazmat incident responses, and OHS funding (\$20,000 - \$50,000) for responder training and supplies.

**Finding 9:** The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees in part with this finding. Based on the response submitted by HHSA, REHIT has responded to 7 incidents in the first quarter of 2012.

**Finding 10:** The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees in part with this finding based on the following information submitted by HHSA. The State Department of Justice discontinued the clandestine lab evidence collecting and clean up team. Local law enforcement now utilizes REHIT to mitigate chemical hazards found at meth labs. Cal EPA Department of Toxic Substance Control provides and pays for contractor to pick up and dispose of hazardous chemicals found at meth labs.

**Finding 11:** The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has no specific information regarding this finding and therefore disagrees. Please refer to either the Mendocino County Sheriff, the Sheriff's Administrative Services Manager, or the Mendocino County Auditor-Controller.

**Finding 17:** The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees in part with this finding. For clarification purposes, as stated in the response submitted by the OES Coordinator, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Office (NOAA) donated the four tsunami warning sirens to Mendocino County. NOAA also funded the grant that was used to purchase all components and installation of the sirens. At this time all four sirens have been installed and OES has entered into a contract to have the siren control systems installed on three sirens. The City of Fort Bragg has partnered with the County Office of Emergency Services and will fund the installation of the fourth siren control system. The goal is to have all four sirens operational by the end of June 2012.

**Recommendation 1:** This recommendation has been implemented. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved a full time Program Specialist position within the Office of Emergency Services on February 14, 2012. The position went to recruitment and a full time employee was hired on May 27, 2012. This position is a training position and will eventually be utilized as a "back up" position to the Office of Emergency Services Coordinator for extended EOC operations during emergency/disaster events but will also assist with day to day operations of the Office of Emergency Services.

**Recommendation 2:** This recommendation has been implemented. At this time, there are no plans to move the position of the Office of Emergency Services Coordinator.

**Recommendation 3:** This recommendation has been implemented with the understanding that the EOC should never have been staffed beyond the level required by a specific emergency. As stated in the OEC Coordinator's response, one of the lessons learned during the debriefing of the Tsunami response of March 11, 2011, is to utilize the EOC for all incidents such as the Tsunami response. This keeps the EOC staff familiar with their roles, duties, and EOC operations systems and also promotes more effective communication and a consistent concept of operations throughout the emergency management and emergency response disciplines.

**Recommendation 4:** This recommendation has been implemented. During the annual budget review process, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has provided sufficient funding to the Emergency Medical Services program to perform mandated training, certification, public education, and preparedness of emergency personnel.

**Recommendation 5:** This recommendation has been implemented. The "Gang of Five" has set this objective as a funding priority under the Fiscal Year 2010 State Homeland Security Grant. The Office of Emergency Services has been working with other County Departments and Emergency Management Staff from the Cities of Willits, Ukiah, Point Arena, and Fort Bragg to form a planning team. As of May 15, 2012, Office of Emergency Services entered into a contract with a planning consultant to revise/update the Mendocino County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) as well as all four incorporated city EOPs. Using one consultant will promote consistent emergency management formats, concepts of operations, and EOC operations within the Mendocino County Operational Area.