

THOMAS D. ALLMAN
Sheriff-Coroner



Undersheriff Gary Hudson

Captain Kevin Broin
Field Services
Captain Tim Pearce
Corrections

County of Mendocino Office Of The Sheriff-Coroner

August 1, 2007

Honorable Cindee Mayfield, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Mendocino
County Courthouse
Ukiah CA 95482

RE: Response to Report of the 2006-2007 Grand Jury

Dear Judge Mayfield:

Attached and enclosed please find my responses to the Grand Jury's report entitled:

ALL TOGETHER NOW – A REPORT ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATION IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

The Grand Jury requires the Sheriff's Office to respond to all of the Findings and Recommendations contained in this report. My responses are as follows:

Findings

I agree with Findings numbered 1-3, 6-8, 11-12, 14, 16, 18 & 20-22.

I disagree with Finding #4. The Emergency Operations Center is a location **from** which centralized emergency management can be performed. Response is an operational function performed in the field.

I disagree in part with Finding #5. In Mendocino County the operational area EOC is a **function** of County Government. However, California's Standardized Emergency Management System regulations permit the county to designate another member agency as lead agency of the operational area. Such an agency would then be responsible for establishing an operational area emergency operations center.

I generally agree with Finding #7, but it is somewhat misleading. The primary function of the emergency operations center is coordination. Not every emergency requires activation of an emergency operations center, and not every emergency operations center requires the resources of **all county** departments and independent entities. The Standardized Emergency Management **System** (SEMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) are interdisciplinary, organizationally flexible, modular and scalable. The goal is an integrated structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents.

I disagree in part with Finding #9. Both the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and its federal counterpart, the National Incident Management System (**NIMS**) require the use of the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS has five functions: command, operations, planning, logistics and finance. Logistics is a primary responsibility but no more so than the other four **functions**. As defined by California SEMS regulations, logistics is responsible for providing facilities, services, personnel, equipment and materials. In **an** expanded EOC operation, the logistics section is further subdivided into the communications branch, transportation unit, personnel unit, supply & procurement unit, facilities unit and resource tracking unit.

I disagree in part with Finding #10. Mendocino County Search & Rescue is a **non-profit**, volunteer organization that includes a four-wheel drive squadron, mounted unit, air squadron, canine unit and dive team. When conducting search and rescue operations, the volunteers are under the direction of the Sheriffs Office.

I disagree with Finding #13. Compensation for disaster-related damage is not linked to the adoption of SEMS or NIMS. However, local government must use SEMS in order to be eligible for state funding of response-related personnel costs. Local agencies remain eligible for repair, renovation, or any other non-personnel costs resulting from an emergency even if they do not use SEMS (California Government Code §8607(e)(2)).

Without further information, I can neither agree nor disagree with Findings #15 & 17. They are directed to the City of Ukiah.

Without **further** information, I can neither agree nor disagree with Finding #19. It is directed to the **Ukiah** Valley Fire District.

Recommendations

I agree with Recommendations #1, 2 & 3, but they can only be answered by the County Chief Executive and Board of Supervisors.

Should you or the Grand **Jury** have questions about any of my responses, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Undersheriff, Gary Hudson, at the address and phone number listed below.

Sincerely,

THOMAS D. ALLMAN
Sheriff-Coroner

Cc: Glenn Pavlovic, Grand Jury Foreman
Kendall Smith, Chair – Board of Supervisors
Albert P. Beltrami, County CEO
Jeanine Nadel, County Counsel

RESPONSE PROCEDURE TO GRAND JURY REPORTS

The governance of responses to Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code § 933 and § 933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within sixty (60) days. Governing bodies (for example: the Board of Supervisors) must respond within ninety (90) days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge, the Grand jury Foreperson and the CEO's office.

Report Title: ALL TOGETHER NOW – A REPORT ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATION IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

Report Date: May 24, 2007

Response by: THOMAS D. ALLMAN, Sheriff-Coroner

Findings

I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

1-3, 6-8, 11-12, 14, 16, 18 & 20-22.

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered:

4, 5, 9, 10 & 13.

(attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore)

Recommendations

Recommendations numbered:
have been implemented. attach a summary describing the implemented actions)

Recommendations numbered:
have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(attach a time frame for implementation)

Recommendations numbered:
require further analysis. (attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer **and/or** director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)

Recommendations numbered:
will not be implemented because they are not warranted **and/or** are not reasonable. (attach an explanation)

Dated: August 1, 2007

**THOMAS D. ALLMAN
Sheriff-Coroner**

**Cc: Glen Pavlovic, Grand Jury Foreman
Kendall Smith, Chair – Board of Supervisors
Albert Beltrami, County CEO
Jeanine Nadel, County Counsel**