

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER
BY: LOUIS CELAYA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: WOOLSEY FIRE – POST EMERGENCY SERVICES IMPROVEMENTS

In January 2019, under the recommendation of the Councilmember Linda Northrup (at that time Mayor), the Woolsey Fire Task Force (Task Force) was created to examine response and post City efforts, with a report back to the full City Council on efforts undertaken by the City and recommendations from the Task Force.

After the Woolsey Fire, City staff began to review post actions and examine areas of improvement to continue to have the City prepared for future emergencies. While it was concluded that the City provided a good response to the Woolsey Fire, there were lessons learned and the need for continued improvement. Under the direction of the City Manager, in an effort to implement improvements, the following tasks have been completed by City staff in connection with post Woolsey Fire efforts and Emergency Operation Center operations:

- Enhanced Education Communication to the community regarding emergency preparedness (City staff prepared and mailed out city preparedness and social media information cards to residents and businesses)
- Enhance Social Media Tools to assist with Public Information Dissemination
- Completed a Crisis Communication Plan (internal document to assist City staff with a framework, to execute timely and accurate communications during a crisis, and identify potential partners to enhance communications)
- Improved Emergency Operation Center Access for City staff and elected officials
- Prepared new direct website Emergency Page
- Continued City staff liaison presence at the Incident Command Post
- Community Preparedness Information door-to-door distribution
- Secured lodging agreements with local hotels to house City staff who may not be able to return home during an emergency shift
- Completed Review of current Mass Notification System and secured new provider
- Enhanced ability for the City's Emergency Operations Center to operate remotely if necessary
- Staff completion of Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) certification to enhance Emergency System Notifications

- Secured additional Satellite Communication Tools to ensure communication capability in the event of complete communication shutdown
- Additional Staff emergency trainings
- Continue Community Preparedness Education through all of the City outlets

In addition to the staff internal review, Councilmember Linda Northrup completed her participation in the County of Los Angeles Woolsey Fire Task Force. As a member of that Task Force, Councilmember Northrup was able to share community concerns to the County's Task Force regarding the County's overall response to the fire. Information learned from the County's After Action Report (AAR) was shared with the Agoura Hills Woolsey Fire Task Force. Following a public workshop conducted by the City, the Agoura Hills Woolsey Fire Task Force met and received information on the City internal post actions and discussed findings from the County's AAR. From the meeting the Task Force made the following recommendations for the City Council to consider:

- Support and continue efforts a for Region Wide Evacuation Plan facilitated by the County of Los Angeles, as evacuations are overseen by LA County Sheriff and LA County Fire (This is currently being facilitated at the Las Virgenes Malibu COG level)
- The City's Land Use and Economic Development Committee should discuss the possibility of requesting the use of safety hardening techniques by developers for projects within Agoura Village or areas in or near the Very High Fire Severity Zone
- The City's Land Use and Economic Development Committee should discuss creation of resident safety hardening technique informational brochure (i.e., fire resistant roofing, ember resistant venting)

Finally, the following are items that were presented to the Task Force, based on comments received at the public workshop:

- Spectrum/Verizon communication difficult in Old Agoura (better service coverage)
- Need for more cell towers in rural parts of Agoura
- Consider placement of siren alert towers
- Possibility of providing an emergency GPS roadmap of Old Agoura for First Responders

The post emergency improvements continue to demonstrate the City's commitment to look for ways to be prepared for future emergency events. The Law Enforcement/Fire/Emergency Response Subcommittee may add additional comments or thoughts to be included in this final report.

RECOMMENDATION

City staff respectfully recommends the City Council receive and file this final report, and provide input from the City Council on any further action it would like Staff to consider based on this report.