



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Officer

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOSTS OPERATIONAL AREA EXERCISE AND WELCOMES THE COUNTY'S NEW CEO

SANTA BARBARA, CA December 9, 2013 - The Office of Emergency Management hosted a tabletop exercise and policy discussion Monday at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The exercise was designed to address County procedures regarding the delegation of authority process, logistics ordering processes and public information capabilities.

Partners from throughout the Santa Barbara County Operational Area participated in today's exercise and training to include the National Forest Service, Santa Ynez Chumash Reservation, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, American Red Cross, University of California Santa Barbara, and many of the jurisdictional cities and Santa Barbara County departments. The County's newest addition, County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato, was also on-hand for the day's event showing her support for emergency management practices and the Operational Area on her first day on the job.



Pictured: Ryan Rockabrand, Director of Emergency Management, Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, Renee Bahl, Assistant CEO, Jerry Czuleger, County Counsel

Delegation of authority, logistics ordering, and public information are dynamic and often difficult or sensitive topics when it comes to successful emergency management. Through this exercise, numerous policy discussion concepts tested the County's plans, and provided the Operational Area with a better understanding and familiarization with these key concepts and best practices.

Today's exercise was considered a success by the Office of Emergency Management's senior leadership, who plan to facilitate many more future events like this. David Flamm, a Certified Emergency Manager with the Office of Emergency Management stated that, "Leaning forward to address emerging trends and difficult topics in emergency management is something OEM never shies away from. It is an integral part in the success of managing dynamic large-scale disasters we may experience in the future."

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