CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: August 17, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Pamela Mottice Muller, Director Emergency Management

Subject: Operation Golden Phoenix

Attachments: Handout: 10 Rules for the Public and Citizen Responders

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INTRODUCTION

This report serves to provide the City Council with information on the City of Beverly Hills' recent participation in the Los Angeles County's disaster exercise held July 28, 2010. Operation Golden Phoenix, as it was named, was conducted to explore the emergency response and management following the detonation of an improvised nuclear device in the Los Angeles Area. This is the County's annual disaster exercise for 2010 and a variety of departments, agencies, organizations and local governments participated.

DISCUSSION

Operation Golden Phoenix provided an opportunity for City staff to practice a variety of activities that would enhance the city's ability to respond. Additionally, future tabletop exercises are planned in the fall for the Policy Group and EOC Team using the same scenario, a detonation of a 10k nuclear device.

The following provides the objectives of the exercise and information on the variety of tasks and activities performed and the completed outcomes:

To test the ability to contact key emergency personnel after hours
The new telephone notification system was used to call all City Council members, the City Treasurer, Executives, Senior Management and EOC Team members. The system called 98 staff members; 78 confirmed immediately, 17 staff confirmed late and only three individuals did not respond. Therefore had this been an actual emergency the City Council would have had a quorum, the majority of department heads and senior management could have reported and all EOC positions could have been filled. This was an unannounced drill, only City Council members, the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager were made aware.

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To review the notification/response protocol of intelligence information sent from Joint Regional Information Center, (JRIC).
Over a three day period, the JRIC sent a variety of intelligence messages. These messages were used to hold a discussion with the Policy Group on intelligence sharing between departments.

To test radio communication to the Area A Cities and the County of Los Angeles.
Volunteers from the City's Disaster Radio System (DCS) group competed radio transmissions to the other Westside cities as well as the County. Follow up actions included the need to purchase an antenna for the EOC to ensure radio transmissions from the EOC to the County can be completed from within the EOC radio room.

To practice using the new County's Operational Reporting System.
Staff from the EOC Planning and Intelligence Section submitted a City situational report and a resource request into the County's new computer incident reporting system.

To have instant access and to become familiar with the information found in the CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear and Explosives) Sensor Program.
EOC Section Chiefs and Operation Branch Coordinators learned about the CBRNE Sensor system and reviewed the data provided. Follow up actions including integrating the data as a map layer on Virtual Beverly Hills and exploring the possibility of obtaining wireless CBRNE sensors in Beverly Hills were identified.

To provide an overview and awareness of the potential disaster.
Presentations were provided to the Health and Safety Commission and staff. Information on a nuclear device denotation, its potential effects, an overview of basic preparedness and response guidelines were reviewed. Staff then discussed the top City priorities should the event occur. EOC Chiefs and Operations Section Branch representatives met to review and discuss the information. Follow up items were identified, including public education and first responder CBRNE training.

Using the scenario, hold a future tabletop to discuss the City's response and recovery to this type of event.
The Office of Emergency Management, in conjunction with all City Departments, will continue to work to strengthen the City's ability to response and most importantly recover from this or any other disaster that should occur.

FISCAL IMPACT

There was no fiscal cost to this exercise, except minimal staff time. No overtime was spent on this exercise.

RECOMMENDATION

No City Council Action required at this time.

Pamela Mottice Muller

Attachment 1

JUST-IN-TIME: NUCLEAR DETONATION – 10 RULES FOR THE PUBLIC and CITIZEN RESPONDERS

Adapted by: Homeland Security Committee of the Health Physics Society - http://hps.org/hsc/

(1) Duck & cover when you see a flash. Stay down behind cover for at least two full minutes. Any type of cover could prevent serious burns and injuries from flying and falling debris such as broken glass. Keep your eyes closed during the bright light to prevent blindness.

(2) Go in. Stay in. Tune in. Shelter-in-place by going underground or to the center of a middle floor of a nearby, stable, large building. If at home, go to the basement or a ground floor room the farthest from outside. Close windows and doors. It may be necessary to shelter for 24 to 48 hours. Keep disaster kits containing food, water, medications, and other supplies in your vehicle, at work, and at home.

(3) Radioactive fallout could look like sand, silt, smoke, or even ash that will fall and accumulate on the ground and horizontal surfaces. The direction of the fallout cloud spread depends on surface AND upper level winds. Stay upwind especially if it is daylight and you can see the direction of the fallout cloud. Any visible fallout represents immediate danger and exposure to even small amounts should be avoided.

(4) Radiation levels from deposited fallout decrease rapidly in the hours after detonation. Generally, if fallout deposition is complete by 1 hour after detonation, the radiation level at 7 hours drops to 10% of the radiation level at 1 hour, and the radiation level at 2 days drops to 1% of the radiation level at 1 hour. However, depending on wind and weather, fallout deposition miles from a detonation may continue or even begin after 1 hour, and the radiation level may rise at first before dropping off.

(5) Maintain communications with local authorities by monitoring the radio, TV, or the Internet. Follow the directions of local authorities.

(6) Protective equipment for the public. Fallout contamination will collect on outer garments and exposed body parts. Masks or improvised breathing protection (several layers of cloth) may be used during fallout cloud passage.

(7) Contamination removal. To avoid bringing fallout contamination into your shelter or home, most contamination can be removed by taking off the outer layer of clothes, wiping exposed hair and skin areas, and/or by taking a shower.

(8) Orderly evacuation of your shelter-in-place location when told by authorities it is safe to leave the area. Do not leave your shelter to pick up children. Children will be sheltered at their school/care location and evacuated as directed by authorities. Follow the directions of emergency responders.

(9) Hazard avoidance. Unless threatened by fire or building collapse, avoid outdoor exposure during the first minutes and hours after the fallout arrives. It is safe to consume food and beverages that were not outside during the fallout cloud passage.

(10) Stay in control. By following the above rules, you will know the proper actions to take and will not panic during a nuclear emergency.

DISASTER KIT CONTENTS

A first-aid kit with bandages, gauze, tape, tweezers, antibiotic ointment, pain medication, and cleaning wipes

Three-day supply of nonperishable food (canned or freeze-dried) for each family member

Hand-cranked radio so that you can hear disaster reports

Battery-operated cell phone charger

Battery-operated or hand-cranked flashlight

Three-day supply of bottled water per person

Nylon or plastic tarp

Mylar blankets

Multipurpose tool

Work gloves

Waterproof matches

Extra batteries

Duct tape

Extra clothing

Items for special needs (e.g. infants, elderly)

Prescription medication