

KERN COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018, 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

2601 PANORAMA DR., BLDG. B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

S U M M A R Y O F P R O C E E D I N G S

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

INTERIM FACILITATOR – GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG

Called meeting to Order at 10:10 am

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS:

- Marlene Acosta, Office Services Tech, Kern County Fire/OES
- Jim Anderson, Meteorologist, National Weather Service NOAA
- Georgianna Armstrong, Emergency Services Manager, Kern County Fire/OES
- George Baker, EMS Coordinator/MHOAC, Kern County EMS
- Zachary Bittle, Sergeant, Kern County Sheriff's Office
- Shannon Christian, Administrator Support Services, Kern County Superintendent of School
- Scott Fieber, Manager Emergency Preparedness, Kern County Superintendent of Schools
- John Frando, Battalion Chief, Bakersfield Fire Department
- Selia Fuentes, Community Action Partnership Kern
- Brian Gaddis, Captain, Kern County Fire Department
- Megin Hughes, Disaster Program Manager, American Red Cross
- Kevin Kimmel, Sergeant, Kern County Sheriff's Office
- Eric Lantz, Lieutenant, Bakersfield Police Department
- Javier Lara, Admin Assistant Fire Chief, Cal OES Fire
- Jerald Meadows, Warning Coordinator Meteorologist, National Weather Service NOAA
- Terri Mejorado, Emergency Services Coordinator, Cal OES Emergency Management
- James Moore, Sergeant, Bakersfield City Police Department
- Mike Mares, District Manager, California Water Services
- Mike Nisser, Admin Coordinator, Department of Human Services
- Jeremy Oliver, Program Director, Kern County Aging and Adult Services
- Cal Rossi, Government Relations Manager, Southern California Edison
- Bill Routh, Senior Officer, Bakersfield City Police Department
- Charlene Sargent, Director, VOAD
- Brandon Smith, Battalion Chief, Kern County Fire Department
- Jeannie Taylor, County CERT Coordinator, Kern County Fire Department
- Frank Wells, Emergency Coordinator, ARES/RACES

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➤ Steve Williams, Sergeant, Kern County Sheriff's Office

OPENING STATEMENT:

INTERIM FACILITATOR – GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG, KERN OES

Thanked everyone for coming out, especially those who had to travel a long distance to get to the meeting. She also encouraged other jurisdictions to host the OA Advisory Committee meetings in their jurisdictions so that all meetings are not just hosted at Kern EOC.

Georgianna asked Frank Wells to explain what the ARES/RACES organization is.

Frank Wells – Explained that ARES/RACES organization is an organization of HAM radio volunteers who provide their time and equipment during an emergency. They provide backup communication for other agencies when needed. They have a couple of stations around Kern County, and a station located in the Kern County Emergency Operations Center. That equipment was purchased with grant funds. They will have a display at the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Fair at CSUB on September 15, 2018.

Georgianna Armstrong – Spoke on how important it is to have a group like ARES/RACES, as they're the kind of group that can save you if our communications happen to go down. She explained that there can be different reasons your communications can go down. She told how during Hurricane Katrina the communication went down, including the satellite radios, due to all the media taking up all the satellite bandwidths. The last means to communicate was HAM radio operators. We must remember that this kind of communication should not be used for private and/or confidential information, but if your communication goes down and you need a way to maintain communication with an incident or similar, this group is one that you need to keep on your contacts list, because they are there to help.

REVIEWING AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 8, 2018, MINUTES:

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG, KERN OES

Georgianna asked if everyone had time to review the minutes and if there were any questions regarding the Summary of Proceeding. She reminded everyone that once the minutes were approved they would be posted on the Kern County Fire Department website. Once a document is post and becomes a public document, it can no longer be changed or edited. After the Summary of Proceeding has been reviewed, a motion must be made to approve the Summary of Proceeding.

First motion made by Chief Smith, seconded motion made by Sergeant Bittle, to approve, receive, and file the summary of proceedings. All Ayes and None opposed. The Summary of Proceeding of August 8, 2018, was approved.

CURRENT COMMITTEE PROJECT – UPDATE REPORTS

a) TACTICAL PLAN ACTIVATION PROTOCOL – BRANDON SMITH – BATTALION CHIEF, KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Chief Smith explained that a small committee was formed to work specifically on the Tactical Plan Activation Protocols plan. Although it was challenging due to the fact that every member had to find time to complete this plan while doing their everyday work duties. The committee came up with a document that includes guidelines on what to do and an ICS-213RR form which is a common ICS form. The RR stands for Resource Request. This ICS form was adopted by FEMA. The committee wanted to stay within the ICS structure that FEMA is using. If you are not familiar with the Incident Command System (ICS) you might want to consider taking online ICS-100 and ICS-200 training (training.fema.gov). This form is a way to have formal documentation and does not stop the verbal communication. You will still have to call in your resource requests, but this will provide written documentation regarding that request. The documentation is used to pass information on requested resources from DOCs and EOCs. It is also needed to track resources for cost recovery. The form is a fillable form so, you can fill it out using a computer or print it out and handwrite on the form. There is also an instruction sheet on how to complete the form.

The Tactical Plan Activation Protocol, Instruction sheet and 213RR form have been uploaded onto the EOC Forum. Everyone from this OA Advisory Committee should have access to the forum. If needed, we can distribute this form as needed. The documents were sent out by email to the committee. The guidelines talk about the purpose and the intent, but don't address the Mutual Aid agreement. This form gives you a process for getting needed resources. It does ask that your organization designate a coordinator. The designated coordinator is someone who has the authority within your jurisdiction to approve costs of resources for the requests that you might receive. The Mutual Aid Guidelines walks you through standard procedures. For example, if you're requesting the resource, it is your responsibility to include whether or not they need to come self-sufficient. A resource checklist and a sample are included to show how to fill out the 213RR form is attached to the resource checklist. The requestor can add documentation or a memo if some detail doesn't fit on the form. The form has been revised three times using the input that was given to us by some of the committee members.

Georgianna Armstrong – Reminded everyone that they should have already designated someone from their organization to be a Moderator for the EOC forum. She also stated that it was important that each entity have their contact information uploaded into the EOC forum. One of the important items is the Mutual Aid Coordinator. We need to know how we are going to reach that person at any hour. We need a 24 hour 7 days a week contact number for that person. The EOC forum should have your operational contact information..

When requesting resources, be very specific on what you need, because not every person that receives your request is going to know what you are asking for. For example, to some, a bulldozer is just a bulldozer. This will also eliminate going back and forth, trying to figure out what is needed. When a complete and thorough resource request is received, it can be quickly filled.

Terry Mejorado –Mentioned that when requesting for staffing personnel that you list the specific skill sets that are needed. For example, when requesting a PIO, if you need them to have skills with social media, you need to make sure you put that skill in your request.

Javier Lara – Recommended that you put part numbers and vendors information in your requests. The more information you put on your request the better.

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Georgianna Armstrong – Reminded everyone that the Tactical Plan Activation Protocols plan is the document that will implement the Mutual Aid Agreement. The Mutual Aid Agreement has gone through the City Managers meeting and they are okay with the Agreement. It was also presented to County Counsel and they also are okay with the Agreement. The Agreement will once again be presented to the City Managers for the final approval process. Each city will then take the Agreement to their governing body for approval. We will also be reaching out to the Committee Service Districts that might want to adopt this Mutual Aid Agreement. This will include Schools, Utilities, and any other entity that we can identify at this point. Once everyone who wants to be a part of this Agreement has adopted and signed, we will then be taking it back to the County. The Board of Supervisors is the last entity to sign the Mutual Aid Agreement. This is a process that will take some time. It is not a process that will be done overnight.

Seeing that there were no questions or discussion on the Tactical Plan Activation Protocols plan, it was decided to move forward on the vote of the plan by the OA Advisory committee. First motion was made by Michael Nisser, Second Motion was made by Zachary Bittle, to approve the Tactical Plan Activation Protocols Plan. All Ayes and None opposed. Plan was approved on September 12, 2018.

b) OP AREA COMMUNICATIONS DRILL – JOHN FRANDO, BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPT.

Chief Frando has been working with the AD HOC Sub-committee that was established develop the Ops Area Communications Drill. The drill will coincide with the Great ShakeOut. The Great ShakeOut Drill is always on the Third Thursday in October. This year it will be done on October 18, 2018 at 10:18 in the morning. This is an earthquake drill. Most of the participants will be doing a Drop, Cover and Hold drill. Others could do an evacuation drill, and some may do a roll call. It is up to your organization to do the type of drill you want. What we want you to do is go to the Great ShakeOut website (shakeout.org) and register your entity, designating how you will be participating. You should be listing in your registration that you will be contacting Kern County Emergency Operation Center (Kern EOC) in order to ensure that the communication link exist. As an organization, we want to test that link. We want to make sure we know who to contact, how to contact, and when to contact. For the Ops Area Communication drill, we will pretend that there is a major earthquake and we need to make sure that emergency communication link exist between your agency and the Kern EOC. This is not a drill on contacting Georgianna's on her cell or desk phone, or contacting Marlene on her cell or desk phone. It is about being able to contact the people in the Kern EOC. You need to know who you will be contacting. If you don't know who you will be contacting you need to go to the forum under Kern EOC contacts and figure that out.

John also mentioned that if your agency has not selected a Moderator that it is important that you do that so that the Moderator can upload your entities contact information into the Kern EOC forum. You want to make sure the information for your entity is in the forum even though you will only be contacting the Kern EOC for the Ops Area Communication drill. There will be staffing in the EOC during the Ops Area Communication Drill to make sure that the link exist.

This drill is very simple, it's just making sure that that you can communicate with Kern EOC. For those who are participating in the Great ShakeOut drill, you will do your drill. Once you have completed your drill, you will make that phone call, WebEOC, or Radio call to the Kern EOC. The Great ShakeOut drill is scheduled to start at 10:18 in the morning and the Ops Area Communication drill is set to run from 11:00 am to 1 pm. The Ops Area Communication drill to should not affect what your entity is doing for the Great ShakeOut. Make sure that your organization is safe during the drill and that the Great ShakeOut drill has been completed before calling Kern EOC.

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Georgianna Armstrong – Stated that Kern EOC will not just only be accepting phone contact the will also be excepting other means of contact as well. Wendy Benson will be setting up an exercise event on WebEOC for those agency that use WebEOC. It is encourage that those City and County agencies that have access to WebEOC, use WebEOC as a contact method. Kern EOC also encourage the use of radio contact. For example DOC radio contact and Mutual Aid channel. If you do use radio contact, please remember to begin and end contact with “THIS IS AN EXERCISE”.

Jeannie Taylor – Asked if this exercise will included other entities under a County Department like CERT. She was planning on having the CERT’s volunteers do the communication exercise but was not sure it included them. She also asked if Kern EOC needed volunteers for the communication drill to answer those calls coming into Kern EOC.

Georgianna Armstrong – Stated that the drill was for the County, City and Special Districts. She also said that Kern EOC would be able to use CERT for the Ops Area Communications drill to receive phone calls.

TRAINING PRESENTATIONS:

a) DISASTER WATER ASSISTANCE – MIKE MARES, CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICES

Mike Mares is the District Manager for California Water Services here in Bakersfield. He is now in charge of Operations for California Water Services. He has been in Bakersfield now for 2 years. Before coming to Bakersfield, he spent 5 years running a subsidiary in Hawaii as the General Manager. Prior to Hawaii, he lived in Chico, California, where he spent the first 20 year of his career working his way up through the ranks.

Mike’s number one priority for the company is risk management. Many people don’t think about some of the things that a water company has to consider when it comes to keeping the water safe. As a water company, they do not want you to have to think or worry about things like the safety of water or if you will have water running. Not only is water safety important but having reliability and finding out what the needs are. If there is a major earthquake in Bakersfield Cal Water needs to know what the City and County plan is. He was involved in other EOCs in other locations he has worked. He would like to be involved with Kern EOC and would like to build a relationship with the Operational Area Advisory Committee as well.

There are a few locations in town that are sensitive and he would like to discuss them in detail at a future presentation. The Fire Departments need to understand the areas that they are serving. They also need to understand that when they hook up to a hydrant they need to be careful, as hydrants are not all under the same pressure. There are seventeen different pressure points here in Bakersfield, they are all a little different. Cal Water Services has experts that understand those kind of things. One of the reasons Mike wanted to attend this meeting was because he wants Cal Water Services to be called out when there is a fire, especially, if it is a house fire. The reason being to help if there is a problem with the water line, hey would already be there on site and could take care of the problem.

Unfortunately, many contractors have valve keys for the water lines. Even though contractors are not supposed to touch Cal Water Services valves, they have been caught turning them off. The only ones that should be touching the water mains is the water service with the exception of the Fire Departments when there is a broken fire hydrant. He just wants to make sure that Cal Water has that communication with the Fire Departments. Mike would also

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like to educate the group on the shutting off and on of the hydrants. Although, both Fire Departments do a good job when it comes to shutting off/on hydrants. He felt that it is always good to educate. He would also like to do an exercise that would involve first responders and Cal Water Services to identify any weak spot the Cal Water may have. He would like to create some type of scenario, maybe an earthquake.

Cal Water has 950 miles of underground water lines. This does not include the City's water lines that they help to maintain. He wants to have a plan for if a water line were to break during a major earthquake. They do in-house exercises on the annual bases. He would like to see how Cal Water Services can coordinate with first responders so that they can make a better plan. Cal Water Services has an in-house coordinator name Gerald Simon who was a Police Chief for the City of Oakland. Mike would like to have Mr. Simon help put an exercise together. Cal Water has had some local incidents like the Erskine and Ranch Fires that involved some of their water systems. They responded well during those incidents.

Their goal is to make sure that their customers are taken care of and that the Fire Departments are being supported. He would also like to make some training opportunities available. They have been moving a lot carbon vessels designed to remove a contaminants called TCP 1, 2, 3 (Trichloropropane-1, 2, 3). These vessels are all over town and can be a hazard. There are kids that climb over fences just to climb on these vessels. There are also workers that have to climb these vessels to maintain them. They have increased their security to prevent people from climbing on the vessels but they sometimes still have kids climbing on them. It is important that our emergency responders are aware of these vessels and their locations

Cal Water also has Water Treatment Facilities, Tank Farms, and Booster Stations. Bakersfield Police Department uses some of these facilities to do training. Cal Water encourages the use of their facilities for such trainings. There are a lot of opportunities to partner up with each other to do some training. Mike also mentioned that he wanted to see if Law Enforcement would be able to do training for his workers in the field. They have had several incidents where they have been attacked while reading meters and doing other jobs in the field. He wants to be able to keep his employees safe while they are out doing their jobs.

Mike is looking forward to being involved with the Kern Operational Area Advisory Committee. He feels that both Cal Water and the AO Advisory Committee would benefit from each other.

Georgianna Armstrong – Thanked Mike for coming out and sharing the information. She said it was important to recognize the gaps that the Ops Area has so that we can have those organizations help build in our planning. She stated that the Ops Area is always open to training and exercises. She also mentioned that the EOC is a County facility that is staffed by the Kern County Fire Department, but it has an Operational Area focus. It is open to any organization how would like to use the facility to do a training or an exercise. If the Ops room or one of the other rooms is available, the EOC would be happy to have trainings held at the EOC.

b) SITUATIONAL BRIEFING – JERALD MEADOWS, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Jerald Meadows introduce Jim Anderson who is the Project Leader for the Fog Detection and Public Awareness Cooperative Program known as Operation Ground Cloud (OGC) which is the regional Pathfinder program. Jerald explained that the project actually start out as the National Program for Pathfinder, and is with the Highway Transportation Division. The program was started in Utah for snow weather threats. They wanted to bring this program to California. Although, California does receive snow, snow is not a threat outside of the Mountain areas.

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The threat here in the San Joaquin Valley is Fog. It is designed to obtain better fog data for situational awareness. The purpose of the program is to save lives and protect property through a better weather support during fog events. This also helps the National Weather Service (NWS) get involved in your operations when it comes to fog. The NWS monitor the fog continuously and forecasts the information. They want their partners to utilize them for information needed to better help their operations. OGC has several partners such as Cal-Trans, Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Managers, Media, School Districts and Weather Spotters. The goal is to save lives. There is an average of 20 lives lost each year due to fog in the San Joaquin Valley. They are trying to find a better way to build public awareness and have more efficient messaging and alerts. The National Weather Pathfinder has worked in other States. It has decreased traffic fatality and accidents. This program is about getting that information out to their partners and the public. NWS has is working on Fog Severity Index (FSI) maps to better indicate where the highest threats of dense fog exists. Working with Cal-Trans and CHP categories and levels, NWS was able to combine the threat level aspect to improve efficiency/accuracy in messaging. They created a color severity index by the level of the severity of Fog from levels 1 through 5. They are trying to bring awareness to the public and their partners but they need the coordination from their partners as well. They are in an office in Hanford and they have all the technology to forecast the weather but nothing beats having eyes and boots on the ground.

NWS wants to be tied into the operations of their partners. You can go to the NWS Hanford web page to get information on the weather. You can also call to speak to a forecaster to get information. They want to be a resource for their partners. They also want their partners to help them by calling them on weather information as well. Anyone from the Ops Area is welcomed to call and speak to Jerald or Jim.

John Frando – Wanted to know if he were to have a hazmat drill and needed a spot forecast for the area, would he be able to call NWS to get that kind of information.

Jerald Meadows – Stated that they would be able to provide that information and they would also be able to provide the plume model. They would be able to tell him how that chemical would react to the atmosphere to help assess the situation.

Frank Wells – Wanted to know if the National Weather Service was going to do any Weather Spotter Training any time soon.

Jerald Meadows – Said that they are working on doing one here in Kern County. They typically have the training in October. They are in the processes of trying to get a facility to hold the training. The schedule is online at <https://www.weather.gov/hanford/skywarn> has all the Weather Spotter trainings. The Weather Spotter training was designed to teach students what to look for in a storm and what to report to the National Weather Service. It also teaches you about safety and public outreach.

Georgianna Armstrong – Wanted to know if the Fog Detection System was updated with real-time information or if it was updated on an hourly bases. She also wanted to know if this is a forecast or a real-time report.

Jerald Meadows – Stated the Fog Detection System is a forecast on a fifteen-hour basis but it is automatically updated every hour.

Jim Anderson – Stated that one of the reasons the National Weather Service wanted people to know about the impact fog can have was because the alerts system can be confusing for the public. With the Watches, Warnings,

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and Advisories that are sent, you need to know what the mean. If it is hard for the Meteorologist to figure out what the criteria for the Watches, Warnings and Advisories, it going to be hard for the public to understand them. That was the reason why they came up with the Fog Severity Index (FSI) maps so the public can see what areas are going to receive the greatest impact. Advisories will still be issued but the maps will be a tool to let them see the impacted areas.

KERN OES UPDATES

a) 2018 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH PROJECT – GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG

This year the County is doing a lot of activities for National Preparedness Month. They have prepared eleven - public service announcements. They will be airing on KGET/CW networks and Spanish versions of the Public Service Announcements will be airing on Telemundo. The English versions also have American Sign Langue (ASL) interpretations.

OES has also purchased four (4) web chats through KGET that will be broadcasted for four - weeks. Each chat will have a theme every Thursday at 12:30 pm. The first web chat will be with Fire Chief Marshall on Threats to Kern County (Earthquakes, Fire and Flood). The second web chat will include Megin Hughes from the Red Cross on Getting Ready and Disaster Supplies, KCSO Sheriff Youngblood on Family Communications, and Animal Services Director Nick Cullen on Preparedness for Animal Owners. For the third web chat, Chief Marshall will be speaking to Kern OES on ReadyKern Alerts, to Kern County Fire on Evacuations, and to Public Health on Food Safety. For forth week, Chief Marshall will be speaking with Kern County CERT on CERT and volunteering, Kern County EMS on First Aid and Medical Issues, and Kern County Risk Management on Financial Recovery and Insurance. The County is trying to get the information out on what needs to be done to prepare for a disaster.

The County is also having a preparedness event. They are partnering with California State University of Bakersfield for this event. They will be doing a soft launch on Friday, September 14, 2018, for faculty, students, and their families. On Saturday, September 15, 2018, will be the community-wide event. They will have American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters available onsite on Saturday. The County is trying to make this event as accessible as possible. There will be a Shake Cottage, CSUB Geological Department will have an Augmented Reality Sandbox and other displays. There will be other agencies like Buena Vista Museum, Red Cross, VOAD, Salvation Army and many more. There will also be County agencies as well. Kern County Fire will be displaying Fire Equipment and the Sheriff's will be displaying their Helicopter. Kern County Public Health/EMS will be doing hands-only CPR and Stop the Bleed. Animal Services will be there display their new Animal Disaster Shelter Trailer. This event was made possible with Grant funds and it is the County's first community event. Georgianna is hoping that we have a positive outcome on this event and is hoping to have another event next year. She is wanting to include the other jurisdictions in next year's event planning. She wants all the jurisdictions to think about what they would like to do to get the message out to their constituents on how to prepare for a disaster.

b) EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN UPDATE – Georgianna Armstrong

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S U M M A R Y O F P R O C E E D I N G S

The THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment) report has been completed! Georgianna will be meeting with a few key stakeholders to go over the final document to make sure that they are satisfied with the reports. Then the report will be ready to submit. The consultant will be submitting the report on behalf of Kern County.

The County will be updating their Emergency Operations Plan which has not been updated since 2008. A lot of the County's protocols will remain the same. They will be changing the format and they will be going to ESFs functions (Emergency Support Functions). One of the things identified in the THIRA is that a lot of the Emergency Operations Plans for the cities are out of date as well. We also want to include a process on how this problem will be addressed. We want the Cities to also look at our plan and see if the structure makes sense. That way if we are able to get additional grant funding we may be able to use the same consultant to help the Cities in building their updated plans. We want to have a consistent format the help build on our Operational Area Mutual Aid agreement and our Tactical Plan-. We may want to have a series of plans that integrate together with the others. We need to be able to meet the Federal requirement of updating these plans every (3) three years. Once we get through the process for the County's planning project we will be able to talk about how we can help support the Cities to get them through their Emergency Operations Plan updates.

NON-AGENDA ITEM – GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG

The County is waiting for notification of award for the 2018 Homeland Security Grant. The application was submitted last January. Now is the time that the Operational Area members should start thinking about what your jurisdiction wants to apply for in the 2019 grant application. Once the State releases the guidelines in December for the 2019 application, the County will be submitting a preliminary application in January. We will be looking at what we had last year and what were the gaps. We will also be tying in the gaps to the capabilities that were identified in the THIRA. If the items on the jurisdictions wish list do not tie into the capabilities identified in the THIRA, those items will not be considered.

Georgianna suggested that the October meeting be canceled since we all will be getting ready for the Great ShakeOut Drill and the Operational Area Communications Exercise. We will continue the Operational Area Advisory Committee meeting in November.

During the November meeting we will be recruiting those who want to be considered for an elected position on the committee. In December, we will need to vote on the Chair and Vice Chair for the committee. These positions will be a twelve-month commitment. We need someone to step up and take that role. Kern OES will still continue to support and be a part of this group.

ROUND TABLE – OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

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No Items to discuss.

CLOSING – GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG

Since there were no objection to canceling the October meeting, the next meeting will be in November. Georgianna again reminded everyone that the Operational Area Communications Exercise will be the same day as the Great ShakeOut on October 18, 2018, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This exercise is just a building block so we can built something bigger next year.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:23 AM

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 14, 2018

TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

LOCATION: To be determined

Please send agenda items to Marlene Acosta [macosta@kerncountyfire.org]

Minutes Taken by Marlene Acosta