



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

2013 AUG 30 PM 12 27

AGENDA ITEM

THOMAS J. ... ZKA
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: September 10, 2013
TO: Board of Supervisors
SUBJECT: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: KEEPING THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SAFE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

The San Diego County Office of Emergency Services (OES) has worked diligently on life-saving and rescue efforts for populations with "Access and Functional Needs" to help prepare people who are least likely to escape a disaster and stay safe. Planning for the needs of people with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities in a before, during and after analysis of a disaster will promote the integration of resources into all aspects of emergency management systems.

OES has improved communication of disaster preparedness information for people with Access and Functional Needs, including considerations in their shelter planning while integrating those considerations into all disaster planning and exercises. Communication improvements also include finding ways to disseminate information to non-English speakers. Building on the efforts and progress of the past, there is more that we can do as a community to better prepare this population for a disaster.

First responders comprise less than one percent of the total population of San Diego County. When vulnerable populations and their caregivers are equipped and prepared to evacuate, reach a safe place and remain self-sufficient following a disaster, scarce resources can be directed to address the most critical life safety situations. Additionally, it is important for shelter workers to be properly trained to care for individuals with physical and/or cognitive disabilities once the evacuees reach an American Red Cross or County shelter. This includes reviewing the number of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers who will volunteer at disaster shelters to care for individuals with emotional, cognitive and physical disabilities by producing promotional materials to recruit Home Health Aides, Licensed Vocational Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants.

According to the 2010 Federal Census, nine percent of San Diego County's population considers itself to have a cognitive, ambulatory, hearing, vision or self-care disability. A survey taken by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research shows 26 percent of San Diego County residents report they are disabled due to a physical, mental or emotional condition. In a 2009 survey, respondents were asked if they were prepared for a major disaster. Among those who answered "not prepared," 30.3 percent said they were disabled. San Diego County's Aging and

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Independence Services In-Home Supportive Services currently has approximately 25,000 clients who need the assistance of a personal care assistant to remain independent.

The County's Office of Emergency Services is committed to building safer communities through a number of programs, including focusing on disaster preparedness for vulnerable populations.

Recommendations

SUPERVISOR DAVE ROBERTS and SUPERVISOR RON ROBERTS

- 1) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allow the Office of Emergency Services to provide the Board with a presentation that includes recommendations on how to increase their ability to provide appropriate equipment and educational opportunities at disaster shelters for individuals with disabilities; that will improve disaster preparedness skills among caregivers; and provide materials/training to increase the ability of disaster shelter workers to care for individuals with disabilities.

- 2) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allow the American Red Cross San Diego and Imperial Counties Chapter to update the Board on how they have improved operations within their disaster preparedness plan since 2007.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

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Respectfully submitted,



DAVE ROBERTS
Supervisor, Third District



RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 3, Board of Supervisors and District 4

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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