

**SECTION 3:  
COMMUNITY  
PLAN**

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## COMMUNITY HISTORY

Descanso is a Spanish work meaning rest, repose or tranquility. As applied to a particular area. It means "a place of rest." Still a small community, Descanso lies in the foothills of the Cuyamaca Mountain Range at an elevation of 3,450 feet, approximately 40 miles east of San Diego, California.

Although the history of this area reaches far into the past, it was not until 1879 that the name "Descanso" appears in county records. It was known to Indians and early white settlers by the Indian name "Na-Wa-Ti-e" (rendered in Spanish as "Guatay"), which means "Council House" or "Big Chief's House". The greater valley spreading southwest was called "Big Guatay Valley"; the smaller, through which the Sweetwater River flows, was known as "Little Guatay."

The Indians, whose presence here has been traced back 11,000 years, were of the Hokan family who came out of the deserts in Arizona and Colorado to settle here. They were a peaceful, pastoral people, gatherers of nuts and hunters of small animals.

Descanso owes its name to Ysadora Ellis, so the story goes. In about 1879 a party of young surveyors was surveying township lines in the mountains east of San Diego. When working in the Viejas Valley, they had to climb the steep grade, to stay at the Ellis home (roughly where the Ranger Station is today). It was stated this is like a bit of heaven, to which Mrs. Ellis said, "In Spanish, Descanso means a place of rest".

The white man did not intrude into the Indian region of the Cuyamacas (Ah-ha-Kwe-ah-mac meaning "Rain Beyond") until the Spanish incursion into California which began in 1540, but reached this area in 1769 when the military and missionary expedition under Gaspar de Portola arrived in Alta California. The Spanish occupation ended in 1810 when Mexico proclaimed independence from Spain.

In 1782 Don Pedro Fages, from the San Diego Mission, passed through the Descanso area on his way back from the desert. At first he followed the De Anza trail but decided to take an old Indian road over the Cuyamacas, into then unexplored territory. The importance of the Fages incursion into the area was major. Not only did Fages return to San Diego with lyrical descriptions of the large stands of fir and pine, so accessible to the town of San Diego (at that time timber was being shipped in from the north by sea at great expense) and lush

pastureland, but it offered a new and shorter access through the mountains, making it possible to open up the area.

Prior to 1848, the Governor of Alto California , Pio Pico granted large tracts of land to members of his family and friends. One such tract was Rancho Cuyamaca given to Don Augustin Olvera.

In 1848 the Treaty of Guadalupe had ended the Mexican-American War and two years later California acquired Statehood.

Indians still thickly populated the Guatay Valley in 1850 when the first pioneers began to locate there. 1870 recorded only eight Indian Family names, but white settlement had increased considerably. The electoral register for San Diego County for 1894 lists fifty-two names of voters in Descanso.

In 1869 Olvera sold off his claims to the Rancho Cuyamaca grant. Also land was now being homesteaded and ranchers were moving in.

For the next 50 years there were many settlers coming into the area from the east as well as from other countries. There was farming, ranching, mining, dairy cattle, etc. The community was beginning to build up.

The first known schoolhouse in the Descanso area was built by Charles Ellis and his neighbors for their children in the late 1870's . It was a one-room schoolhouse with a stone foundation and wooden walls, nestled among the trees on land adjacent to Old Highway 80.

in 1889 Descanso was an important stage station. The road in those days ran along the Viejas Grade with a very steep incline rising out of the Old Viejas Valley. It was a long hard pull for the horse teams as well as drivers. The first Descanso hotel, the Oak Grove Hotel, had been built in 1895 to serve the stage station. The hotel burned down in 1911 and wasn't rebuilt until 1926. It can still be seen on Viejas Grade, but is now a private residence.

At about this same time, local residents were discussing their need for a meeting hall and place where social events might take place. A group of townspeople formed a stock company known as Descanso Hall Association, which undertook to construct a hall. Although accounts vary on when the Descanso Town Hall was actually completed, it seems certain that it was under construction in 1898 and completed sometime the following year. In the first issue of the San Diego Union newspaper for 1899, it was written that "the building fever did not die down with the completion of the new schoolhouse. The public enterprise of our citizens has been further evidenced in the erection of a new town hall, to cost when finished and furnished, approximately \$1,400. It had been built on private property, but in 1902 the land was deeded to the Association.

On April 24, 1914, members of the Descanso Improvement Club applied to the Board of Supervisors of San Diego County for a branch of the County Library in Descanso. The petition was granted. The library didn't have a permanent building, but was housed in the store, hotel, homes, etc. Then In 1961 a permanent place was found on land leased from the County Road Department. It was located in a building built by the Public Works Department. This was on Viejas Grade across from Perkins Store. The lot was fenced and shelves installed to accommodate 1500 books. This "minibuilding", as it has been called, achieved fame when it was considered for the Guinness Book of Records as the smallest in the nation. It served the community for 36 years with faithful persistence. The new library opened May 23, 1997. The old small library was moved onto the property on River Dr. where the new library was built. The Friends of Descanso Library use it to house books to be sold at their monthly book sale.

The pioneers of this community were not unaware of the importance of a good education for their children. With the population growth in the community, it became necessary later to find land suitable for a new and larger school. In August of 1903 several grant deeds were recorded for land given by residents to build a new school. The land was deeded to the Descanso School District. With help from many volunteers "The Little Red School House" was built across from the Sweetwater River. This school served the community until 1935 when the present school was built.

A charming little cemetery nestles among the oaks of the Ellis Ranch on Highway 79. A plaque at the gate tells us that is a non-denominational cemetery, founded in 1871, by Charles and Ysadora Ellis. The grass-covered gravesites are indicated by wood or cement crosses, cement slabs, or simple native stones. Some are etched only with initials.

The present Cleveland National Forest was established as the San Jacinto Forest Reserve in 1897 by presidential proclamation under Theodore Roosevelt. It included more than three million acres. The government retained the timber, mining, and sand and gravel rights. In 1907, it became part of the National Forest System for better administration. The following year, it was moved from the Department of Interior to the Department of Agriculture and renamed the Cleveland National Forest after President Cleveland.

The Descanso District originally consisted of two divisions: Campo/Laguna and Chiquito/Guatay. District headquarters were located at Descanso, it being at that time the only "city" in the district. Other stations were established at Guatay, Ramona and Lakeside. In 1971 the headquarters were moved to Alpine.

A number of stores in a variety of sites are known to have served the Descanso community since the first opened in 1860. For many years the Oak Grove Store operated out of the Oak Grove Hotel, known later as the Tavern. Another store

was opened some way down Viejas Grade after the hotel burned down and before it was rebuilt. In the 1870's when the store started, Descanso was on the main highway. The highway came up from Borrego, through Julian, across Cuyamaca and down old Viejas Grade into San Diego. Descanso was a full day's travel out of San Diego by horse-drawn stage and all uphill. Perhaps no name has become more associated with Descanso as that of Perkins. Perkins store has been a landmark and rendezvous point for visitors for more than half a century. Although the Descanso store was established in 1875, the current building dates only from 1939 when the Perkins brothers, Charles and H.A. rebuilt after the store, then known as the Descanso Trading Post, burned down.

The Perkins brothers built the new structure with a post office next door with a separate entrance. Formerly the post office had been just a corner of the store. Hardware and clothing, which had been part of the previous store's products, were phased out by Perkins. In 1962 the 45ft. by 45 ft. building was expanded about 67 percent to provide additional storage space. Richard Laff bought the store in 1974 but the name remained Perkins Store, as it does to this day even though it has had several different owners. It is still the place in Descanso that everyone knows and uses as a reference point when giving directions.

By the turn of the century Descanso had the makings of a small town. There was the hotel, the town hall, the stores, and even a cemetery, but no churches. There was a priest who came to Descanso to hold services for the Catholic Church starting around 1918, but it was not until 1937 that they actually had a building of their own. They purchased the abandoned "red school house" in 1937 with one acre of land. Then in 1979 they bought 1/2 acre more. In keeping with its tradition of self-help, Our Lady of Light parish, which had been without a hall for its more than fifty years existence, started work on a parish hall and center in 1985, using primarily volunteer labor. This is as we know it today.

Prior to the building of the Chapel of the Hills United Methodist Church, there was no protestant church in the Descanso area. The groundbreaking in 1953, was the result of years of effort and struggle of community members desirous of raising their families in a religious environment. Religious meetings and services had been held irregularly in the town hall at first, then weekly meetings were held for those interested. At first there was no affiliation with a particular church. As the group grew they wanted to build a church and were able to get funding from the Methodist Church. They were able to build the lower building, later adding the upper sanctuary. The lower building is now the home of the Country Treehouse Preschool, which serves the community.

Lawrence Oliver, a prominent businessman from San Diego, bought a 2200-acre tract of land in Descanso in 1942. Here he grazed 250 head of purebred Herefords. His cattle were shown throughout the west. His family built a beautiful ranch house they used on weekends. The ranch was sold in 1958 but the Oliver family left a legacy in the Descanso Area. In 1949 Oliver learned that

the Sisters of Social Services, a Catholic organization, were looking for property to build a camp for underprivileged children. He gave them 22 acres for this purpose. They named the place Camp Oliver. It still serves many children each year and is located on Riverside Drive.

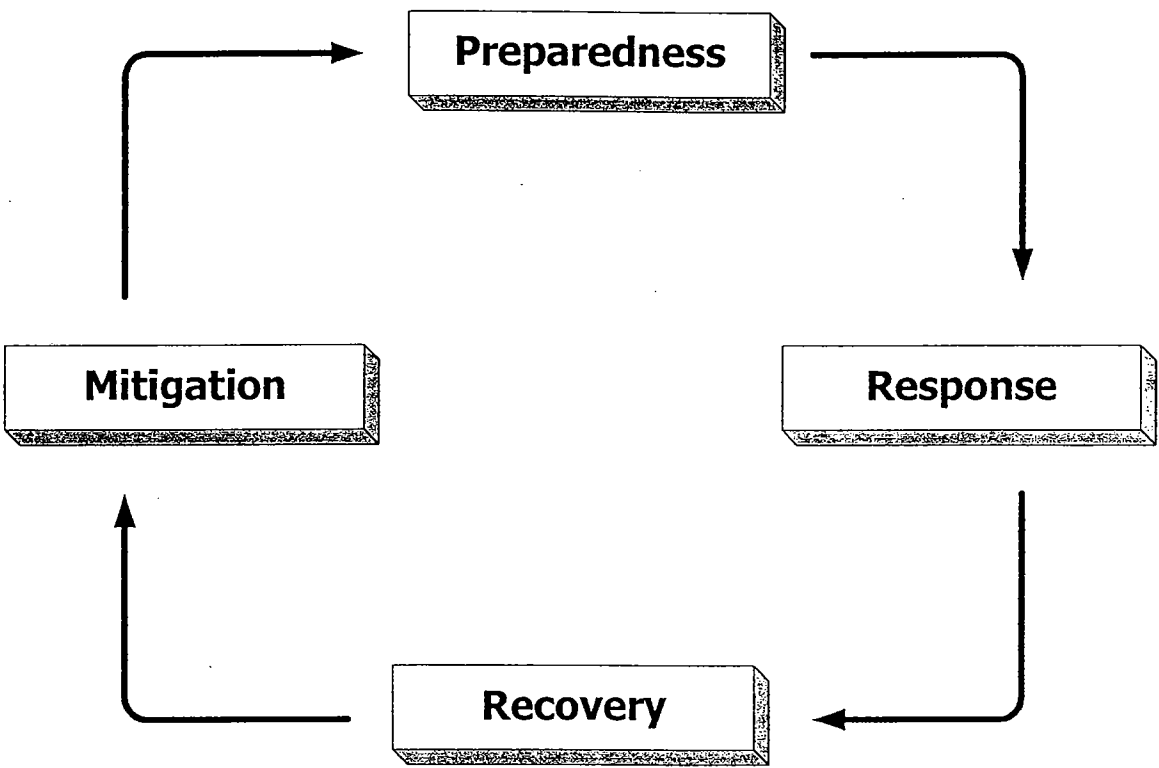
Traveling on Oak Grove Drive about one mile from Perkins Corner, one finds several concrete ponds formerly used as a trout farm business. Further on are several homes and horse corrals located in a large grove of Coast Live Oaks. This area is known as Hulburd Grove and is a part of the Descanso community. In 1884, three spiritualists arrived in the area, bought the 2,000 acres, and named it Mountain View Ranch. In time it became known as Hulburd Grove Resort with cabins for guests, a swimming pool, a picnic area, a small store and a riding stable. This was a resort area until sometime in the 1940,s when Mr. Hulburd died. The area is now occupied by private homes

In 1912 the McDonalds opened a subdivision in the Descanso district giving it the name "Bohemia". This was a cabin site about half a mile south of the main country road which went up old Viejas Grade into Descanso, passing the store and hotel on to what is now route 79. When the old Highway 80 was surveyed and paved, it by-passed Descanso but cut right through the Bohemia subdivision. The corner is now known as Descanso Junction. The Descanso Junction Restaurant and some of the cabins, which have been enlarged and refurbished are still in use today.

The Descanso area has slowly continued to grow. The population is now over 3,000 residents who enjoy the country living and beautiful vistas, as did the early settlers.

This information was taken from the publication "Descanso, A Place of Rest" written by the historical committee of the Friends of Descanso Library, and used with their permission.

# Emergency Preparedness Cycle



**Preparedness:** Actions taken before an emergency or disaster to enhance response capabilities or to lessen the effects of the disaster.

1. Developing/maintaining an Emergency Plan
  - Identifying communications/notification systems
  - Identifying potential evacuation routes and shelter locations
  - Identifying sites suitable for use as Incident Command Posts/Staging Areas/etc.
  - Identifying Sheltering Locations
  - Developing a Resource Directory
  - Pre-stage/obtain emergency supplies
    - Generators, Radios, Blankets, First Aid Kits, Water and food, Batteries, etc.
2. Public Education/Community Outreach
  - Actions to take: ex: turn off gas, close windows, unlock doors
  - List of emergency kit items to have on-hand

- List of other items to keep available
  - Generator
  - Water pump
  - Etc.
- Coordination with other communities/groups/agencies
  - Red Cross
  - SDG&E
  - Sheriff
  - Fire

**Response:** Actions taken immediately after the disaster to rescue people and pets, protect property, evacuate at risk populations, provide care and shelter facilities, etc. These actions are typically intended to help minimize secondary damage and protect life and property.

### 3. Form a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

- First Aid/CPR
- Fire safety
- Light Search & Rescue

**Recovery:** Actions taken to return the community to normal. Response activities typically begin while the response is still in progress and continue long after the response phase has ended.

### 4. Address Short & Long Term Recovery Issues

- Short Term
  - Restoration of essential services
  - Gas
  - Electric
  - Telephone
- Long Term
  - Redevelopment loans
  - Legal assistance
  - Rebuilding
  - Fundraising
  - Crisis Counseling

**Mitigation:** Actions taken to permanently reduce the potential of a disaster or emergency occurring.

### 5. Mitigation actions

- Zoning regulations

- Brush clearance
- Encouraging residents to follow existing ordinances and regulations
- Bracing/bolting/replacing roofs or eaves

**APPENDIX: E**

**COMMUNITY PROTECTION  
AND  
EVACUATION PLAN**

This Community Protection/Evacuation Plan is developed in accordance with the San Diego County Community Protection/Evacuation Plan Template (June 2004), Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) State and Local Guide (SLG) 101: Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning & Emergency Management, and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as amended).

This plan has been established to guide our community's response to a disaster, and to make sure these actions are coordinated with San Diego County, State of California, and federal planning and emergency response agencies and the plans they have developed. It also gives those who have been assigned specific functions in this Plan both the authority and responsibility to perform their tasks.

Appendix E includes:

- Basic information related to the Descanso Community response organization;
- Our plan for communicating within our community and with other agencies, including dealing with emergency power issues.





## BASIC PLAN

Purpose - The Descanso plan does two things:

- ***It provides our community with a plan to respond to a disaster.*** It outlines our preparation and training efforts, describes the resources we have available to us, gives responsibilities to key members of our community, and explains how we will communicate with one another.
- ***It describes how we will work with disaster planning and response efforts being done by other agencies.*** Descanso is under the San Diego County Community Protection/Evacuation Plan, and complements other planning efforts, such as the Mountain Empire Disaster Planning Group. It provides County, State, Federal and non-governmental agencies (American Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc) with information on our citizens, our streets, our team membership, our animal rescue plan, our schools, how we communicate in the rural back-country, our community members that might need special assistance, and our vulnerable water/electricity resources.

Response Method - There is a sequence (which things happen first and how quickly) and scope (how much gets done and how many people or agencies are involved) to our emergency response. Here is the overall approach this plan uses to do what should happen, when, and at whose direction:

- **Notification.** This happens through many methods, usually at the same time, using whatever means might be available. In case of a County-wide disaster, residents may be notified through the media or their places of work. Descanso citizens may be notified by local law enforcement officials of a local emergency through the 911 System, by telephone, postings at Perkins Store, the school, the library, etc. Local, state or federal authorities are usually notified through their official communication networks. Appendix D, "Mitigation Strategy," has more information on these networks.

- **Activation.** Activation of the plan is done by the Team Leader in coordination with the San Diego County Emergency Operations Center and/or local law enforcement or fire officials. The Team Leader notifies the Section Leaders and Staff, who in turn notify their supporting volunteers.

- **Mobilization.** The Emergency Operations Center is set up, an initial meeting of the Team Members is held to discuss the situation, and the plan is implemented to respond to specific needs. Under this plan, establishing communications networks and the Red Cross Care Center is of primary concern.

- **Coordination.** The Team Leader ensures proper coordination between the Descanso Team the State Coordinating Officer (when assigned), the County Supervisor, and nearby community coordinating officers (as appropriate). Section Team leaders coordinate with the agencies in their areas of expertise.

Plan Development and Maintenance - The Team Leader is ultimately responsible for making sure this plan is properly developed and periodically reviewed to keep it current. The Planning Section Team Leader shall obtain inputs from other Section leaders and other sources, make the physical revisions to this Plan, and make sure it is sent out for review and signature. The Planning Section Team Leader shall also include all lessons learned during training exercises.

Authorities - It is recognized that this plan is primarily staffed by citizens of Descanso who fully fall under the jurisdiction of civil authorities (police, fire, government, etc.). Nothing in this plan should be read with the intent that participants are operating in other than a voluntary manner and in accordance with these civil authorities unless specifically indicated. Team members who are also American Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team Members may have additional authority, responsibilities, and liability coverage as "registered volunteers" within the State of California.

References - These documents are the basis of this plan:

## San Diego Community Protection/Evacuation Plan for Descanso, California, 91916

- San Diego County Community Protection/Evacuation Plan Template (June 2004)
- San Diego County Disaster Assistance Plan (latest version);
- FEMA State and Local Guide (SLG) 101: Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning & Emergency Management;
- The R.T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1993.

Logistics - This plan covers general support requirements and the availability of services and support for all types of emergencies, as well as general policies for managing resources. This may include:

- Mutual aid agreements, including local private companies that have agreed in advance to provide assistance are included in Appendix P, Logistics.
- Our general policies on keeping financial records, reporting, tracking resource needs, tracking the source and use of resources, acquiring ownership of resources, and compensating the owners of private property used by the jurisdiction are in Appendix O.

### ORGANIZATION

Responsibilities - As noted in the organizational chart at right (Figure 1), there are key volunteers that will be relied on to respond to an emergency situation. When two or more groups perform the same kind of task, the civil authority (ex: CDF, Red Cross) will have the primary responsibility, and the Descanso team member will take on the supporting and coordination role. Contact information for each team member is located in Appendix K.

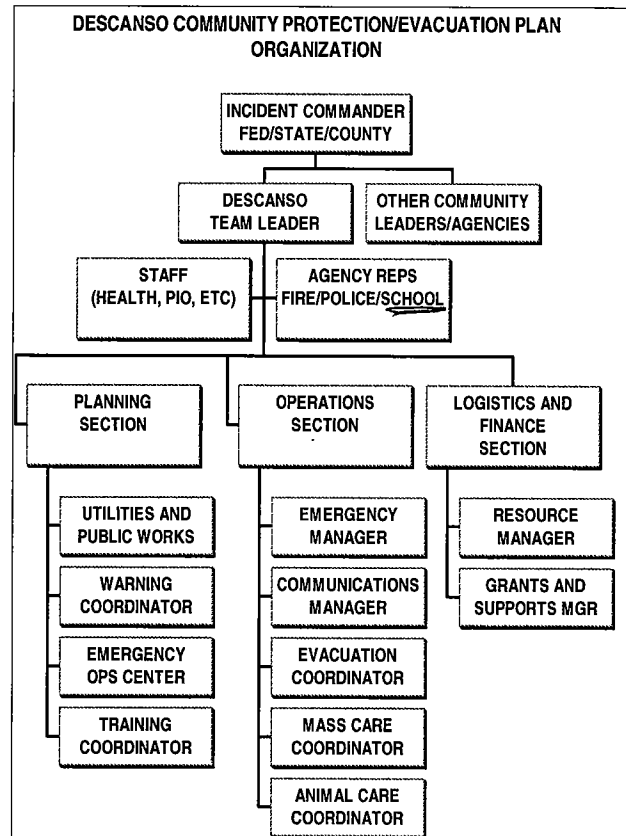


Figure 2. Descanso Team Organization

- Descanso Team Leader (also known as the Chief Executive Officer, or "CEO" in some disaster plans)
  - Sets policy for the response organization.
  - Assumes responsibility for the overall response and recovery.
  - Identifies the individuals responsible for serving as team members.
- Fire and Police Department Coordinator
  - Ensures that fire department and law enforcement resources, including traffic control operations, are fully included in planning and responses.
- Health and Medical Coordinator
  - Coordinates the use of health and medical resources and personnel involved in providing medical assistance to disaster victims.
  - Meets with the heads of local public health, emergency medical (EMS), hospital, environmental health, mental health, and mortuary services, or their designees, to review and prepare emergency health and medical plans and ensure their practicality and interoperability.

- When appropriate, includes local representatives of professional societies and associations in these meetings to gain their members' understanding of and support for health and medical plans.
- Meets with representatives of fire and police departments, emergency management agencies, military departments, State and Federal agencies, and the ARC to discuss coordination of disaster plans.
- Public Information Officer (PIO)
  - Advises the Emergency Manager and "CEO" on matters of emergency public information (EPI).
  - Establishes and maintains a working relationship with local media.
  - Prepares a call-down list for disseminating EPI to groups that do not have access to normal media (e.g., schoolchildren).
  - Prepares emergency information packets for release; distributes pertinent materials to local media prior to emergencies; and ensures that information needs of visually impaired, hearing impaired, and non-English speaking audiences are met.
- School Superintendent/Descanso Elementary School Representative (Principal)
  - Develops and periodically exercises a student evacuation plan.
  - Coordinates with the Evacuation Coordinator to work out arrangements to use school buses to transport school children and other evacuees.
  - Coordinates with the Mass Care Coordinator to work out arrangements to use schools and/or their food stocks for mass care.
  - Coordinates with the Mass Care Coordinator for the transport of school children to mass care facilities.

**Planning Section Team -**

- Utilities/Public Works Coordinator
  - Has input to public works resources and public works operations (e.g., water supply/treatment, road maintenance, trash/debris removal).
  - Coordinates with private sector utilities (e.g., power and gas) on shutdown and service restoration.
  - Coordinates with private sector utilities and contractors for use of private sector resources in public works-related operations.
- Warning Coordinator
  - Determines warning resource requirements, and identifies warning system resources in the jurisdiction that are currently available.
  - Performs a survey to establish warning sites, identifies areas that need warning systems, and develops procedures to warn areas not covered by existing warning systems.
  - Develops special warning systems for those with hearing and sight disabilities.
  - Coordinates warning requirements with the local Emergency Alert System (EAS) stations, and other radio/TV stations in the jurisdiction.
  - Develops a chart of various warning systems, applicability of each to various hazards, and procedures for activating each.
  - Coordinates planning requirements with the EOC Manager.
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Manager
  - Manages the EOC as a physical facility (e.g., layout and set-up), oversees its activation, and ensures it is staffed to support response organizations' needs.
  - Identifies the location of the Red Cross Care Center and communications center (they should be co-located whenever possible).
  - Oversees the planning and development of procedures to accomplish the emergency communications function during emergency operations.

- Ensures a sufficient number of personnel are assigned to the communications and Information Processing sections in the EOC.
  - Oversees the planning and development of the warning function.
  - Reviews and update listings including phone numbers of emergency response personnel to be notified of emergency situations.
  - Designates one or more facilities to serve as the alternate EOC.
  - Ensures that communications, warning, and other necessary operations support equipment is readily available for use in the alternate EOC.
- Training Coordinator
    - Schedules or sponsors training for team members, and leads drills and exercises to practice using this plan.

**Operations Section Team -**

- Emergency Manager
  - Coordinates with the Communications Coordinator, Warning Coordinator, PIO, Evacuation Coordinator, Health and Medical Coordinator, Resource Manager, and the Mass Care Coordinator to ensure necessary planning considerations are included in the team.
  - Coordinates with the local chapter of the ARC, Salvation Army, other public service non-profit organizations, the School Superintendent, etc., as appropriate to identify a lead organization, if possible, and personnel to perform mass care operations jobs.
  - Coordinates volunteer support efforts to include the activities of volunteers from outside the jurisdiction and the assistance offered by unorganized volunteer and neighborhood groups within the jurisdiction.
  - Works with the PIO to develop emergency information packets and emergency instructions for the public.
  - Coordinates planning requirements with the emergency management staff in neighboring jurisdictions that have been identified as potentially hazard-free and have agreed to house evacuees in their mass care facilities.
  - Coordinates the provision of mass care needs for personnel performing medical duties during catastrophic emergencies.
  - Assists, as appropriate, the animal care and control agency staff's efforts to coordinate the preparedness actions needed to protect and care for animals during and following catastrophic emergencies.
  - Assists the Resource Manager as needed to prepare for response operations:
  - Convenes planning meetings for the function in consultation with (or on the advice of) the Resource Manager.
  - Designates Emergency Management Agency staff to serve in key posts, as appropriate. (Whether the Resource Manager should be an emergency management official-- given the emergency resources focus--or a Department of General Services person is left to the discretion of the jurisdiction).
  - Advocates that mitigation concerns be addressed appropriately during response and recovery operations.
- Communications Coordinator
  - Manages or coordinates all emergency communications systems and will set emergency systems operations protocol for all emergency communications operations.
  - Coordinates with representatives from the government departments and public service agencies involved in emergency operations to develop a communication procedure that will be responsive to the jurisdiction's needs and compatible with the communication procedures used by emergency response organizations.
  - Identifies communications and warning resources in the local government available to the EOC.

- Identifies and designates private and public service agencies, personnel, equipment, and facilities that can be used to augment the jurisdiction's communications capabilities. For example, developing procedures with RACES or other available local communications resources and arranging for emergency augmentation of communications capabilities.
- Designates personnel to serve on the Communications Section
- Surveys communications equipment sites for power sources and locations.
- Analyzes equipment locations in relation to potential hazards and disaster conditions.
- Coordinates emergency communications and warning frequencies and procedures with EOCs at higher levels of government (especially the San Diego County EOC) and with neighboring communities.
- Identifies a repair capability available under emergency conditions and coordinates repair and maintenance activities.
- Arranges training programs for all communications staff, including volunteers and repair personnel.
  
- Evacuation Coordinator
  - Coordinates all evacuation planning activities with the Emergency Manager.
  - Identifies high-hazard areas and determines population at risk; prepares time estimates for evacuation of the people located in the different risk area zones. Accomplishment of these tasks requires the preparation of a threat summary, based on the assumptions noted in this Basic Plan section.
  - Identifies transportation resources (e.g., public transit, school buses, etc.) likely to be available for evacuation operations; prepares an inventory of vehicle resources (public and private buses, public works trucks, commercial bus companies, trucking companies, truck rental companies, rail services, marine/ferry, air services, ambulance services, etc.).
  - Ensures that Descansans with special needs are considered in the PLAN
  - Develops information for evacuees' use on the availability and location of mass care facilities away from the threat of further hazard-induced problems.
  
- Mass Care Coordinator/Red Cross Representative
  - Surveys buildings and group quarters areas to select the safest and best possible for use as mass care facilities.
  - Prepares a list that identifies the buildings that have been selected for use as mass care facilities and the number of people that can be housed in each.
  - Compares mass care facility locations with potential hazards and disaster conditions.
  - Prepares a resource list that identifies the agencies that are responsible for providing the resources (cots, blankets, beds, food, water, candles, medical and sanitation supplies, communication gear, backup power sources, etc.) required for setting up and sustaining operations in each mass care facility.
  - Makes provisions to ensure the following items are available in sufficient quantities for use in mass care facilities, when opened (these stocks may be pre-positioned or delivered at the time of need):
    - Food supplies.
    - Water and sanitary supplies.
    - Clothing, bedding, and other supplies.
    - First Aid/medical supplies.
  - Prepares necessary agreements to guarantee access to those non-government-owned facilities that have been designated for mass care use during emergencies.
  - Designates a mass care facility manager and identifies staffing requirements for each mass care facility.
  - Makes necessary arrangements to ensure mass care staff members are trained.
  - Prepares a manager's kit for the designated manager in each mass care facility.
  - Coordinates with the Emergency Manager and PIO to develop a public information program to make citizens aware of availability and location of mass care facilities.
  - Develops a mass care operations organization chart.
  - Manages mass care activities during emergencies.

- Coordinates mass care activities with the Emergency Manager.
- Assists, as appropriate, the animal care and control agency staff's coordination of the preparedness actions that should be accomplished in order to feed, shelter, and provide medical treatment for animals during and after catastrophic emergencies.
- **Animal Care Coordinator**
  - Coordinates with owners and animal care and control agencies to obtain information for dissemination to the public on the appropriate action that should be taken to protect and care for companion and farm animals and/or wildlife during disaster situations.
  - Coordinates with other team members as needed to carry out these responsibilities. Coordinates the services and assistance provided to the animal victims. Activities may include the protection, care, and disposal (if appropriate) of animal victims impacted by disasters.
  - Coordinates preparedness activities with the appropriate public and private sector organizational representatives.
  - Address (where needed) provisions for protection of companion and farm animals, wildlife, animals in animal shelters extensive coordination with State/local agencies such as fish and game departments; farm bureaus; wildlife, natural resources, and agriculture departments; game wardens; the jurisdiction's Emergency Management Agency staff; the individuals tasked in the PLAN to serve as the Evacuation and Mass Care Coordinators, PIO, Health and Medical Coordinator, Resource Manager, etc. and other non-government organizational representatives from the ARC, Humane Society, American Veterinary Medical Association, State veterinarians associations, veterinary technician associations, live stock and horse associations, kennel clubs, and other animal protection volunteer groups will be necessary to ensure the needs of animals are met during disaster situations.
  - Forms emergency response teams (evacuation, shelter, medical treatment, search and rescue, etc.) that includes trained professionals and volunteers to accomplish necessary actions during response operations. Team members may include animal care and control staff, Humane Society staff, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, livestock inspectors, game wardens, farmers, kennel owners, volunteers from animal protection organizations, etc.

**Logistics and Finance Section Team -**

- **Resource Manager**
  - Manages and directs resource support activities during large-scale emergencies and disasters.
  - Chairs the planning meetings for the function.
  - Ensures that resource listings and/or the resource database is current.
  - Ensures that necessary agreements and appropriate public information materials (e.g., regarding donations) are in place.
  - Coordinates resource planning activities with the Emergency Manager and all other Section Team Leaders and Staff to ensure they have the resources needed to carry out their duties.
- **Grants and Support Manager**
  - Coordinates with local, state and federal relief agencies offering grants and financial support for buying emergency equipment, providing training, or assisting Descansans with obtaining disaster recovery funds.
  - Assists with compiling a list of funding requirements for submission to the County Supervisor as needed.

**All PLAN Participants -**

- Includes those identified above, and all other government or private sector organizations that have been assigned tasking in the PLAN to perform response functions.

- Maintain current internal personnel notification rosters and SOPs to perform assigned tasks.
- Negotiate, coordinate, and prepare mutual aid agreements, as appropriate.
- Analyze need and determine specific communications resource requirements. Work with EOC communications coordinator to ensure equipment and procedures are compatible.
- Identify potential sources of additional equipment and supplies.
- Ensure that lines of succession for key management positions are established to ensure continuous leadership and authority for emergency actions and decisions in emergency conditions.
- Protect records, facilities, and organizational equipment deemed essential for sustaining government functions and conducting emergency operations.
- Ensure, if practical, that alternate operating locations are available should the primary location suffer damage, become inaccessible, or require evacuation. Alternate operating locations provide a means to continue organizational functions during emergency conditions.
- Protect emergency response staff. This includes actions to:
  - = Obtain, as appropriate, all necessary protective respiratory devices and clothing, detection and decontamination equipment, and antidotes for personnel assigned to perform tasks during response operations.
  - = Ensure assigned personnel are trained on the use of protective gear, detection and decontamination devices, and antidotes.
  - = Provide security at facilities.
  - = Rotate staff or schedule time off to prevent burnout.
  - = Make stress counseling available.

Ensure the functioning of communications and other essential equipment. This includes actions to test, maintain, and repair communications and warning equipment, and stockpile supplies and repair equipment.

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction - Communications for both individual [personal] communications and group [agency] communications need to be supported in the event of a disaster in the community of Descanso and surrounding areas. This includes both one-way [passive listening or watching], which encompass the elements of broadcast radio and television used to relay public information, and two-way [active exchange or dialog] using telephones, cell phones, the Internet, and radios. Owing to our most recent history with the Cedar fire, this section contains key elements for residents to think about in advance of and during a disaster. It is essential that individuals take personal responsibility for their own welfare. Where necessary, assistance should be given to those that may not be as self-sufficient. As noted in Appendix A, Descanso is a rural community on the "fringes" of civilization in San Diego county. The nature of the lifestyle in the foothills of the Cuyamaca and Laguna mountains suggests a certain level of self-sufficiency necessary for maintenance of security and welfare. We cannot and should not expect that the same level of attention be given by metropolitan authorities in this relatively sparsely populated area compared to what may be anticipated "down the hill" closer to denser population centers. This is the reality of living in a rural area. Being informed and prepared on an individual basis cannot be overemphasized.

Emergency Power Sources - While not specific to communications, power sources are inherently needed for communications. Power sources are critical during disasters. Distribution lines, substations, transmission lines, or even generating plants can be down for indefinite periods of time. This will severely impact our ability to communicate with each other and the outside world during an event. To minimize the possibility of having our lifestyles reduced to the essence of "camping" status, some power sources are essential:

- **Batteries**, large and small, can represent a first line of defense for power generation. Alkaline AA, AAA, C, D, and 9 volt cells have a long shelf storage life. A generous stock of the various sizes appropriate to needs should be kept on hand at all times, and cycled through normal household appliances if possible. Flashlights, portable radios, toys, smoke detectors and other alarms all represent usage possibilities. Try to use items with the same size/style of batteries to reduce your need to stock up.

Rechargeable batteries can be a problem if there is no power source to support recharging. There is no substitute for the ease and simplicity of traditional expendable alkaline batteries, or even the more traditional carbon-zinc battery [non-alkaline] during an event. Use rechargeable batteries until they run out, then replace with alkalines during the emergency for as long as they last [which is usually much longer than a rechargeable], and return to using rechargeable ones once normal conditions are restored.

- **Larger batteries** such as sealed lead-acid or gel cells (computer emergency power supplies) have much longer life before requiring recharging. Power cords can be purchased or made to plug these batteries into various appliances if they have an external DC jack available on them. Again, they are rechargeable and they will need to eventually have another power source for that purpose. Car batteries can be used for various sizes of appliances. In a pinch, these batteries can be removed from cars and placed inside living areas for temporary use as long as the floor area is protected from possible effects of grease, dirt, or acid leakage. Plastic containers like marine battery boxes are useful for handling this type of battery. Alternatively, heavy gauge cords can be temporarily run from a car or garage location into living spaces in order to power various appliances. Deep cycle batteries such as are used in boats, campers, and motor homes will last even longer than car starting batteries, but deep cycle batteries traditionally take longer to recharge than starting batteries.

- **Other battery considerations:** Batteries can be very useful during an emergency, but they tend to be limited to smaller applications such as flashlights and radios. Portable DC televisions typically consume a larger amount of power that is consistent with their physical size, and therefore will not usually operate independently for extended periods without recharging the battery. Refrigerators such as are found in campers or motor homes consume even more power when operating on DC, but at least most of those have the option of being run on propane gas.

- **Solar panels** can recharge batteries if the size of the panel is consistent with the battery so as not to overly stress either. However, they will recharge only during the day, and may not work during a fire (smoke) or flood (clouds). A side effect from earthquakes could be fires with smoke, or damage to the panels. Plan accordingly when considering the use of solar power.

- **Inverters** can convert DC battery power to AC household current. Depending on the load placed on the inverter, they can be very demanding on the battery source used to supply the inverter. Many smaller inverters provide “unclean” power [“square wave” AC as opposed to “sine wave” AC] which is fine for lights but may be totally unsuitable for other appliances. Larger inverters may be listed as “pseudo-sinewave” or “stepped-sinewave” inverters, which may work better, but again, the larger the inverter and the load, the more demand on the battery powering it, so operation is limited. Test them ahead of time to see what they will and will not support.

- **Generators** have no substitute when emergency power for several days is needed. Campers and motor homes equipped with generators can have extension cords run into house living areas in order to power up various appliances from lights to TVs to refrigerators. More serious individuals can even provide themselves with a dedicated generator suitable for powering up portions if not all of an entire house. Smaller generators less than 4000 or so watts will usually only be 120 volt compatible. Larger generators rated above 4000 watts will usually also have 220 capability, which will enable water/well pumps, electric stoves, and forced-air heaters to operate. Selection of a generator should be made accordingly. Refer to the SDG&E fact sheet included in this plan for more details.

- **Emergency fuel** is essential for any generator. Camper or motor home generators typically run on gasoline fed from the engine gas tank (which might be a good reason to always store these vehicles filled with gas/water and ready for use). Also consider where to refuel during longer events. Chances are the power may be out regionally, so unless your favorite gas station has a generator, he will be unable to pump for you. Gas cans can store fuel, but after a long while the gas can partially turn into gum and varnish that may clog carburetors and injectors when you need them most. Gas stabilizer additives can help, but canned gas should still be cycled through regular usage, especially if stored through summer heat. Diesel vehicles and/or generators will suffer from the same problem as gas if power is out at the refueling station. And diesel similarly has even worse longer-term storage problems, including moisture

contamination, but also relative to growing bacteria and algae over time. Stabilizer additives [biocides to preclude growth] can help here also, but cycling the fuel through regular usage would still be essential. Diesel is an oil and therefore doesn't evaporate like gasoline will. As such, spillage can be very messy, even toxic.

- **Propane powered generators** are by far the best long-term possibility, since propane does not degrade at all with time. Propane-compatible generators can be purchased, dual-mode gas/propane features are also available, and modification kits can be had to convert existing gas generators to work on propane primarily or alternatively with gasoline. Some later model campers even have propane generators because the generator and the propane tank can be an integral part of the camper. Propane has the added advantage for a home generator application in terms of being able to be supplied from the much larger house tank. Five gallon propane "barbeque" bottles can be used with smaller generators, but they can often freeze up due to the rate of consumption, which is the reason larger bottles are preferred for larger generators. Again, refilling of portable propane bottles during an event can be problematic owing to the possibility of no power at the refilling location. Larger non-portable tanks are refilled from trucks on-site, but truck access from outside the area may also be a problem during an emergency. Even the smallest propane bottle can be used for lighting with lanterns, and camping "stems" that have taps for simultaneous use of camping stoves and/or catalytic heaters can be used with barbeque bottles. Obviously, one should be cautious of these gas appliances when used inside; proper ventilation is mandatory.

Finally, some smart power tips: Have a combination of several emergency power options. Using anything all the time will exhaust the fuel supply, so use different items at different times. Dress appropriately to minimize the need for power. Run a generator periodically to "recharge" the refrigerator/freezer, and then open it briefly only when needed. Freezers, especially chest-type, can go without power for surprising lengths of time if not opened frequently. Watch TV only during the refrigerator recharge periods. Use flashlights and/or lanterns for lighting in the meantime. Use your fireplace for heating and light. Above all, CONSERVE, because there is no guarantee when life as was previously known will return to normal.

Personal Communications - One way.

- **Broadcast AM radio** is one of the most traditional and universal means of dissemination of public information. It is typically long range, and for that reason it tends to work well in back county areas. Local stations often change their regular programming over to news formats during a major crisis. FM stations may also do that, but FM does not often carry to some rural areas. Portable battery-operated radios are invaluable during events as long as the power source holds up. Everyone should have at least one, and if you're caught without replacement batteries, don't forget the car radio. There are general purpose portable radios available with AM, FM, and shortwave capability that not only have solar panels on the top of them for recharging, but some even have a hand crank, wherein 30 seconds of charging can give up to 30 minutes of listening.

- **Television** can be a much more informative information source but can be less reliable in the backcountry. Station coverage vs. antenna and/or site effectiveness is always an issue. Some rooftop antennas use mast-mounted preamplifiers and rotators are not likely to be powered when the utility is off, but that can be solved with an extension cord from a generator. Cable service is not yet an issue in Descanso, but it can clearly suffer from the same problem as any utility wires in the aftermath of an event. Despite stories that some satellite receivers have not been known to work well from alternative power sources such as generators, There is no technical reason why they shouldn't work if the power source is clean and pure, which most generators are. Of course, to be of any value aside from entertainment, the satellite service must include local channels for news.

- **Scanners** can provide localized information directly from municipal agencies. Simple and inexpensive units can be found for listening to the few agencies that still use conventional VHF channels such as CHP, CDF, USFS, and the Rural Fire Protection District [at time of this writing]. The National Weather Service maintains a local VHF information beacon for boaters and land-bound residents alike, and it has an inherent emergency alert system that is used primarily for weather-related events.

However, coverage in the eastern back county from their Mount Woodson site has been modified in recent years to favor areas to the west, hence coverage is very poor to the east and south. Much more sophisticated and expensive “trunking” scanners are also available that can hear the county Sheriff’s dispatch. Communications on these channels are intended exclusively within those agencies by trained personnel, These receivers can be very informative and timely, but much of what the listener hears may not be useful, since no attempt is made to be informative for the untrained public listener.

Personal Communications - Two way.

- **Telephones** are the most common way to communicate. They typically use a “landline” or wires that traverse the landscape. A disastrous event such as a fire, an earthquake, or a flood can interrupt this hardwired service, but other issues as well. A traditional telephone receives it’s own power from the telephone wire system itself. Cordless phones, however, need power from a conventional outlet. Even though the handset itself has batteries in it, they are charged via the base set and the radio link circuitry in that base set receives all of its power from the wall. It is important to keep at least one traditional old-style telephone in the house. Also be aware that telephone service may be overloaded in an emergency too.
- **Cell phone** coverage in the backcountry is traditionally spotty, but if you are fortunate enough to have cell service in your particular area, know that the cell sites typically receive their power from the utility. Also know that they are typically connected to the broader telephone system by landline. Anything that interrupts your house service may also interrupt cell service depending on where you are and where the cell site is. The best advice: Don’t rely on any one means of communication.
- **Internet/Email via computer** can be used to communicate with friends and relatives or get news updates. It can be affected by interruption of house power, and the newer Uninterruptible Power Sources [UPSs] is recommended. Though they are intended only to save your data during a power outage, they may at least survive long enough to get a few E-mails through [check the UPS instruction manual]. As noted earlier, UPSs batteries are useful for more than just computers, but their batteries also have finite discharge time that is directly dependent on the magnitude of the load. Furthermore, usage of lower capability and potentially unsophisticated UPSs for other purposes like televisions may not work well at all owing to the lack of purity of their power [just like some inverters]. Also, even if the computer is powered, the telephone utility lines may not be active (not a problem for those fortunate enough to have satellite Internet service. Again, there should be no reason why satellite systems cannot be powered from a generator [or UPS] providing a reasonably clean and pure voltage supply. [**Note:** If you are fortunate enough to have this capability, you may end up being a focal point in the neighborhood!]

Radio Communications - Private

- **Citizens Band, or CB**, used to be the most common means for implementing personal radio communications in an unlicensed manner. CB communications has become extremely congested and is marginally useful as an emergency tool; less so in rural areas primarily because of propagation issues. It tends to be unsuitable for shorter range usage unless the distance is extremely short [several miles]. It may work fine back into metro areas, but then the congestion from other usage takes over.
- **Family Radio Service, or FRS**, has taken over the function of short-range communications needs from CB recently. This service is implemented with small battery-operated walkie-talkies commonly found in a variety of warehouse and appliance stores. These are hand-held UHF FM radios that are extremely effective for predominately line-of-sight local communications such as with family and/or neighbors. They do not require a license, are relatively inexpensive, and they are channelized and programmable so there is plenty of room for simultaneous conversations in the same area under normal circumstances. In extreme circumstances, information and even goods can be shared in the immediate area between those with differing capabilities [radios, TVs, food, water, warmth, medical, whatever you need versus whatever anyone else listening is willing to provide], like a local intercom. They typically must be either recharged unless a battery pack with non-rechargeable alkalines is used. Possession of these little radios could work out to be a potential lifesaver in the absence of any other means of personal communications. Since their are intended for a “family,” their features can involve selective tone coding

[called "quiet tone" or equivalent] so only your own family members will hear and be able to respond to you. For disaster purposes where communications between different families and entities would be occurring, a common tone coding format should be selected in advance by prior arrangement or tone coding should be totally disabled [commonly referred to as "off" or a coding set to "zero"]. The frequency selection must also be set identically between units, which can be determined by scanning for activity if no arrangements in advance have been made. The first 7 frequency channels of any given brand of unit are typically common, but the actual frequency desired should be correlated with the reference table found in the owners manual. A representative table of these common channels is included here to serve as a starting point:

Channel 1	462.5625 Mhz
Channel 2	462.5875 Mhz
Channel 3	462.6125 Mhz
Channel 4	462.6375 Mhz
Channel 5	462.6625 Mhz
Channel 6	462.6875 Mhz
Channel 7	462.7125 Mhz

- **Amateur radio or "ham" radio** continues to be one of the most versatile means of personal communications for the public. Licenses are readily available, some of them no longer requiring Morse Code proficiency, and only a reasonable working knowledge of rules and regulations along with minor elements of electronic theory are necessary. Many have acquired their licenses over the course of only a few days of independent study with a guidebook. Self-study files are available from the library for anyone with IBM-compatible computers. Classes are usually available in metro areas for those more inclined to that environment and/or those with no previous electrical or electronic comprehension. Children the age of 5 have been known to get their amateur licenses. Having an amateur license enables one to access a wide range of recreational opportunities that will not be addressed in detail here, but suffice to say that there are tremendous resources and capability available for disaster communications on amateur bands, some of which will be addressed in the next section. Again, note that if you are fortunate enough to have this capability, you will become a focal point in the neighborhood. A list of local hams willing to serve in this capacity appears elsewhere in this plan.

Radio Communications - Public. The capability presented in this section is intended primarily for licensed amateur radio operators. However, there is nothing to preclude the possibility for the general public's monitoring of these frequencies in order to derive their own conclusions in much the same manner as is described in the Scanner section above. Such capability needs to be generally known and distributed for planning purposes so that the community is aware of what means exist for disaster information exchange.

**Before stepping up to this challenge, carefully consider these points:** Might I end up in personal danger such that I may have to take care of myself, my family, or my home as opposed to helping others? How might my individual resources be best utilized to benefit the community? Can I only do it from home? How would I communicate with the community if I do that? Am I able to do this at another location? Can I use my car? Motor home? How long would I reasonably be available to help? Are others also available to back me up? Can I independently sustain myself for that period of time, food, water, power, fuel, sanitation, radios, antennas, and/or sleep? Do I have a readily available copy of the Descanso Plan that identifies who to contact both within the community and outside of the community for givers and takers of assistance? If the answer to all these is "YES", the local Emergency Action Plan Coordinator should be contacted in order to place your name on a list of people potentially available for event purposes. However, if an impending event is sensed, don't wait to be contacted by the coordinator or other designate, even if you are already on a list. Make the first move and contact them by prearranged means, whether in person, by landline, or by radio [example: FRS radio]. They may already be in crisis mode, and need all the unsolicited help they can get.

Considering that Descanso is situated where it is, nestled into the foothills in a valley setting, your ability to access VHF and/or UHF channels may be a challenge depending on your particular location. As such,

coverage to the various mountaintop repeater locations within the various bands should be individually evaluated in advance from wherever you might intend to use them. If your situation is such that you can take your equipment to any of various center locations where communications might be needed, do so before an event so you know what works and what doesn't. Alternatively, if you intend to carry out your mission from your home location with existing capability that is already configured, consider the use of FRS walkies for linking back to the center. This will, of course, likely mandate that you be located within the metropolitan Descanso valley area having reasonable line-of-sight distance to a potential center location [school, library, church, etc.].

Don't rely on only one frequency or band for communications outside the affected area. Multi-frequency and multi-band capability with alternative hardware is highly preferred for redundancy. Aspects of convenience, efficiency, and timeliness also come into play in being able to get through despite unit failures, interference, or congestion from other traffic. HF clearly does not suffer from the same coverage constraints as VHF and UHF, but it can become similarly limited due to ionospheric propagation which is variable with time-of-day. The keyword here is "versatility." Not putting all your eggs in one basket is still sage advice.

Activate and test your hardware [and your location] by checking the various net frequencies and first listening for what is already transpiring or what may be about to transpire. This applies both to checks made at your leisure in advance of an event [such as regularly scheduled net exercises or drills] and pursuant to a real disaster. If no established net can be detected, inquire if there is one on frequency, as others may be listening and waiting for the same thing you are. If there obviously is a net already established, figure out who the net control station is, and determine what the control station's operating protocol is. When appropriate, check in on-air initially by callsign only. After acknowledgement by net control, identify who you are, where you are, and on whose behalf are you there [example: community of Descanso]. Emergency nets are nearly always directed nets with a control station. Never communicate independently with other stations without the concurrence of the net control station.

Always stand by for emergency traffic unless, of course, you have emergency traffic. Be brief, clear, and specific while on-air. Speak with determination in military-style using phonetics where necessary [Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, etc.] by first stating the word or sequence in question and repeat phonetically [example: "quantity three catheters, spelling Charlie Alfa Tango Hotel Echo Tango Echo Romeo Sierra"]. If making a formal request that requires written copy, pause at reasonable intervals to allow the receiving station to catch up. Do not monologue or editorialize; briefly present just the facts.

Remain in simultaneous contact with the Disaster Coordinator and the net[s] pending decisions to set up an Operations Center or a Mass Care Center. If one is set up or soon will be set up, continue to support the needs of the Mass Care Center/Coordinator by any communication means necessary. Forward requests for support to the identified recipient, whether American Red Cross, municipal or governmental agency, or private concern depending on the nature of the request.

In the meantime, arrange for others to support you during your periods of necessary downtime via the volunteer roster. Set up schedules as necessary. Formally hand off communications responsibility to your designate on-air with the net control. Coordinate additional support capability that a center might need and not have via other bands. Ensure your backup power is ready to operate [staged/fueled in an appropriate area, with additional fuel available as may be necessary].

Above all, understand that others you might be in contact with may be under extreme pressure. There may be a sheer quantity of issues for other volunteers to deal with, including medical emergencies, impending doom, trapped or missing people/pets, displacement, lack of shelter, frustration, ignorance, anything that represents our worst fears and nightmares. Do not get emotionally involved with any of it. You represent the cool and soothing forces of the outside world with whom you are maintaining constant contact, the entirety of which is standing ready to lend as much assistance as can be made available at the time. Moreover, that outside world may have some of the same problems as you have, so be patient and perseverant.

Public Radio Networks:

- **American Red Cross** - Pending further negotiation for approaches to disaster relief planning in advance of an event, the American Red Cross remains as the agency in the best position to provide assistance to the public during and after an event. Whether their presence is in the form of a Mass Care Center set up at a local facility, or simply vehicles showing up to help support the needs of the residents, the ARC will need to have communications with at least their headquarters office in San Diego for those purposes. While normally relying on cell phones, they would clearly suffer from the same potential problems with spotty service in the back country, if not total absence of service due to utility outages. The ARC is still in possession of one assigned commercial public service VHF FM radio channel [47.42 Mhz simplex; no repeaters], but their system is not currently functional and it is not known if or when it will be made functional. As such, responsibility for ARC communications will most likely reside with volunteer amateur radio operators. Note that it is not the policy of the ARC to provide public information to those affected by disasters. Their system and/or their volunteer amateur operators are intentionally made only responsible for communications related to their specific presence and purpose. Localized public information is traditionally left to representatives of any number of municipal governmental agencies that are in a better position to give confirmed "official" news [and therefore be the possible bearer of bad tidings].

- **Radio Amateur Volunteer Emergency Service, or RAVES**, is an independent group of hams devoted to disaster communications. They have no formalized sponsor or structure, so suffice to say that their services can be enlisted by anyone at any time. The ARC would most likely be aligned with either these folks or the ARES [to be described], or a combination of both for communications during disasters.

Information on the San Diego RAVES organization can be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.mjpdan.com/raves>

Communications "nets" are held for exercise purposes on a weekly basis per below:

Sat 1900 224.90 Mhz [-1.6txoffset, 107.2 tone] [Palomar]  
Sat 1915 145.63 Mhz (simplex repeat) Packet Net [connect to: W6WYN]  
Sun 0830 146.73 Mhz [-0.6txoffset, no tone] Northern area [Palomar]  
Sun 1900 146.64 Mhz [-0.6txoffset, 107.2 tone] [Otay]  
Sun 1930 147.42 Mhz [input 146.475 Mhz, 107.2 tone]

- **Amateur Radio Emergency Service** - This group of volunteer amateur radio operators, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League [ARRL], will most likely be the focal point of ARC communications. It is a formalized group in which membership is normally preferred for training purposes, but in the context of a disastrous event, no well-intentioned volunteer would be refused participation.

Information on the San Diego ARES organization can be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.qsl.net/sdgarrl>.

Communications "nets" are held for exercise purposes on a weekly basis per below:

Sun 0815 3924 kHz LSB Northern area  
Sun 0830 3933 kHz LSB Imperial County.  
Sun 0845 3925 kHz LSB Eastern area  
Sun 0900 3905 kHz LSB Section-wide  
Sun 0930 3720 kHz CW Section-wide  
Sun 0930 7233 kHz LSB Section-wide  
Sun 1000 1945 kHz LSB Section-wide  
Sun 1900 147.195 Mhz (+0.6txoffset, 114.8 tone) Section-wide [RACES system]  
Sun 1930 146.265 Mhz (+0.6txoffset, 107.2 tone) Central area [Lyons]  
Sun 1930 146.64 Mhz (-0.6txoffset, 107.2 tone) Eastern area [Otay]

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Tue 1900 449.980 Mhz (-5.0txoffset, 88.5 tone] Section-wide [Otay]  
Thur 1930 147.180 (+0.6txoffset, 110.9 tone] Southern area [Coronado]  
Sat 2000 52.68 Mhz (-0.5txoffset, 107.2 tone] Section-wide

Major metropolitan open repeater systems that may be available for alternative emergency usage but not necessarily designated for such are:

the Mt. Lyons repeater system [146.265 Mhz, +0.6txoffset, 107.2 tone],  
the Mt. Laguna repeater system [147.15 Mhz, +0.6txoffset, 107.2 tone]  
the Mt. Otay repeater system [146.64 Mhz, -0.6txoffset, 107.2 tone],

the Mt. Palomar repeater system [146.73 Mhz, -0.6txoffset, no tone],

The Lyons and Laguna repeaters are known to have reliable emergency power sources at time of this writing. Otay has a backup battery power source with limited duration capability. As always, any amateur frequency has the opportunity to be used for disaster communications. These are just some of the more likely ones that have better potential for coverage into the Descanso area.

- **Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, or RACES**, is another group of volunteer amateur radio operators that exist specifically to support municipal governmental agencies as necessary during events. They are a unit of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and the County Office of Emergency Services. They are a formalized group that essentially requires Sheriff's background checks for operation within their organization for the purposes of training and familiarization with procedures and protocol. However, in adverse circumstances, it is assumed that reasonable and prudent on-air emergency etiquette can be maintained by any non-member visitor station requesting assistance via RACES channels. Note that the RACES group is traditionally not dedicated to ARC purposes. In the absence of any other means for contact with the ARC, RACES could be used to assist ARC on an as-needed and as-available basis.

Detailed information on the San Diego RACES organization can be obtained via the Internet at [www.races.sandiego.ca.gov](http://www.races.sandiego.ca.gov).

Communication "net" exercises are held on a weekly basis every Monday evening at 1930 except for the first Monday of the month [a general meeting night] on the RACES high-VHF voting repeater system [147.195 Mhz, +0.6txoffset, 114.8 tone].

A secondary net exercise is then immediately convened on the UHF branch of that same system [448.78 Mhz, -5.0txoffset, 131.8 tone].

A third net exercise is then immediately convened on the low-VHF branch of that same system [52.6 Mhz from Cuyamaca Peak with -0.5txoffset and 103.5 tone Palomar rcv, 107.2 tone Laguna rcv, 114.8 tone Lyons rcv].

A fourth exercise is then convened at 2015 on HF simplex [3995 Khz LSB].

The RACES repeater systems are all owned and maintained by the county Sheriff's Office Wireless Division. As such, their use is generally restricted and otherwise not suitable for idle non-RACES chat. As with the ARC and other related amateur services, it is also equally important to note that it is not the policy of RACES to provide public information to those affected by disasters. Their system and/or their operators are intentionally made only responsible for communications related to their specific presence and purpose. Localized public information is traditionally left to representatives of any number of local, county and state governmental agencies that are in a better position to give confirmed "official" news [and therefore be the possible bearer of bad tidings]. That being said, information derived directly from RACES amateur radio operators is not "official" unless and until it is presented in a public forum by a governmental or municipal official.

- **Volunteer radio amateurs** within and outside the local area are encouraged to step up to the challenge during emergencies, and preferably in advance for familiarization purposes by all concerned. Apart from weekly nets described earlier, community exercises may sometimes be conducted in order to evaluate how well a total process flows, which is a perfect opportunity to re-acquaint oneself with personnel and techniques.

## **Terrorism Planning and Response**

Due primarily to the remoteness of the Descanso area, the proximity to the Mexican border and the prevailing winds, we are not likely to be a primary target of Terrorism. We certainly may feel the secondary effects of a terrorist incident that most likely will manifest itself very much like some of the other disasters that are possible in the immediate and surrounding areas. The San Diego area could offer several prime targets for a determined terrorist group.

Some of the types of terrorism that are possible are; biological, radiological, chemical, explosive and firestorms. There are many that could be used in combination and each situation will be unique and will require skill, determination and cooperation to resolve the crisis and return things to normal as soon as possible.

When a terrorist event occurs, the Office of Emergency Services and or the Disaster Command Center for the County of San Diego will give us information about the disaster, its characteristics, and instructions about what actions to take. Agencies such the Sheriff's Dept., the California Highway Patrol and the many Fire Fighting organizations have extensive training for "standard" emergencies and also what to expect and do if it is one of a wide variety of possible terrorism acts.

Our Disaster Center Commander will work very close with the above organizations and take actions based on their advise and our knowledge of our local situation. In a worst case situation where no information is available from those organizations and an obvious disaster has occurred, the Disaster Center Commander will operate independently, making decisions as required, based on the best information available.

San Diego County Fire Departments

Department	Phone	Website
Alpine Fire Protection District 1834 Alpine Boulevard Alpine, California 91901	619-445-2635	
Barona Fire Protection District 1112 Barona Road Lakeside, California 92040	619-390-2794	
Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District 4900 Bonita Road Bonita, California 91902	619-479-2346	
Borrego Springs Fire Protection District P.O. Box 898 Borrego Springs, California 92004	760-767-5436	<a href="http://www.borrego-fire.org">www.borrego-fire.org</a>
Boulevard Fire & Rescue 39223 Hwy. 94/P.O. Box 1273 Boulevard, California 91905	619-766-4633	
California Department of Forestry San Diego Unit 2249 Jamacha Road El Cajon, California 92019	619-590-3100	<a href="http://www.fire.ca.gov">www.fire.ca.gov</a>
Camp Pendleton Fire Department Marine Corps Base, Building 22131 Box 555211 Oceanside, California 92055	760-725-3376	
Campo Reservation Fire Department 36210 Church Road Campo, California 91906	619-478-2371	
Campo Volunteer Fire Department P.O. Box 55 Campo, California 91906	619-478-5310	
Carlsbad Fire Department 2560 Orion Way Carlsbad, California 92008	760-931-2141	<a href="http://www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us/cserv/fire.html">www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us/cserv/fire.html</a>
Chula Vista Fire Department 447 F. Street Chula Vista, California 91910	619-691-5055	<a href="http://www.ci.chula-vista.ca.us/fire.htm">www.ci.chula-vista.ca.us/fire.htm</a>
Coronado Fire Department	619-522-7374	<a href="http://www.coronado.ca.us/firedept.html">www.coronado.ca.us/firedept.html</a>

San Diego County Fire Departments

1001 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Coronado, California 92118		
De Luz Volunteer Fire Department 40020 Cathy Drive Fallbrook, California 92028	760-728-3300	<a href="http://www.deluzvfd.org">www.deluzvfd.org</a>
Deer Springs Fire Protection District 8709 Circle R Drive Escondido, California 92026	760-749-8001	
Del Mar Fire Department 2200 Jimmy Durante Boulevard Del Mar, California 92014	858-755-1522	
Donovan Correctional Facility Fire Department 480 Alta Road San Diego, California 92179	619-661-7855	
Dulzura-Barrett Volunteer Fire Company P.O. Box 418 Dulzura, California 91917	619-468-3256	
East County Fire Protection District 1811 Suncrest Boulevard El Cajon, California 92021	619-579-6034	<a href="http://www.eastcountyfire.org">www.eastcountyfire.org</a>
El Cajon Fire Department 100 E. Lexington Avenue El Cajon, California 92020	619-441-1600	<a href="http://www.elcajonfire.com">www.elcajonfire.com</a>
Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department 20223 Elfin Forest Road Escondido, California 92029	760-744-2186	<a href="http://www.elfinforestfire.org">www.elfinforestfire.org</a>
Encinitas Fire Protection District 505 S. Vulcan Avenue Encinitas, California 92024	760-633-2800	
Escondido Fire Department 201 N. Broadway Escondido, California 92025	760-839-5400	<a href="http://www.ci.escondido.ca.us/fire">www.ci.escondido.ca.us/fire</a>
Federal Fire – San Diego P.O. Box 81226 San Diego, California 92138	619-524-2344	
Imperial Beach Fire Department	619-423-8223	<a href="http://www.cityofib.com/fire.htm">www.cityofib.com/fire.htm</a>

San Diego County Fire Departments

865 Imperial Beach Boulevard Imperial Beach, California 91932		
Intermountain Volunteer Fire & Rescue 1672 Main Street, #E-314 Ramona, California 92065	760-788-0207	
Julian Cuyamaca Fire Protection District P.O. Box 33 Julian, California 92036	760-765-1510	
La Mesa Fire Department 8054 Allison Avenue La Mesa, California 91941	619-667-1355	<a href="http://www.cityoframesa.com/departments/fire/index.htm">www.cityoframesa.com/departments/fire/index.htm</a>
Lake Cuyamaca Volunteer Fire Company P.O. Box 28 Julian, California 92036	760-765-0418	
Lakeside Fire Protection District 12365 Parkside Street Lakeside, California 92040	619-390-2350	<a href="http://www.firedept.net/lakeside">www.firedept.net/lakeside</a>
Lower Sweetwater Fire Protection District 2711 Granger Avenue National City, California 91950	619-470-4557	
Mesa Grande Fire Department P.O. Box 270 Santa Ysabel, California 92070	760-782-0795	
Miramar Fire Department P.O. Box 452006 San Diego, California 92145	858-577-1962	
Mt. Laguna Volunteer Fire Department P.O. Box 51 Mt. Laguna, California 91948	619-473-8065	
National City Fire Department 333 East 16 <sup>th</sup> Street National City, California 91950	619-336-4550	
North County Fire Protection District 315 East Ivy Street Fallbrook, California 92028	760-723-2005	<a href="http://www.ncfire.org">www.ncfire.org</a>
Oceanside Fire Department	760-435-4100	<a href="http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/fire/default.asp">www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/fire/default.asp</a>

San Diego County Fire Departments

300 N. Coast Highway Oceanside, California 92054		
Ocotillo Wells Fire & Rescue 5841 Highway 78 Borrego Springs, California 92004	760-767-7430	
Pala Fire Department P.O. Box 15 Pala, California 92059	760-742-1632	
Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department P.O. Box 235 Palomar Mountain, California 92060	760-742-3701	
Pine Valley Fire Protection District P.O. Box 130 Pine Valley, California 91962	619-473-8445	
Poway Fire Department 13050 Community Road Poway, California 92064	858-679-4340	<a href="http://www.firesafe.com/poway.html">www.firesafe.com/poway.html</a>
Ramona Fire Protection District 829 San Vicente Road Ramona, California 92065	760-788-2250	
Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District P.O. Box 410 Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067	858-756-5971 x101	<a href="http://www.rsf-fire.org">www.rsf-fire.org</a>
Reservation Fire Protection District 2200 Highway 76 Pauma Valley, California 92061	760-742-2251	
San Diego Fire Department 1010 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue Suite 400 San Diego, California 92101	619-533-4300	<a href="http://www.ci.san-diego.ca.us/fireandems">www.ci.san-diego.ca.us/fireandems</a>
San Diego Rural Fire Protection District 14145 Highway 94 Jamul, California 91935	619-669-1188	
San Marcos Fire Department 1 Civic Center Drive San Marcos, California 92069	760-744-1050 x3401	

San Diego County Fire Departments

San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District 2850 Via Orange Way Spring Valley, California 91978	619-670-0500 <a href="http://www.smgfire.org">www.smgfire.org</a>
San Pasqual Fire Department 208 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Escondido, California 92025	760-745-9565
San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department 16150 Kumeyaay Way Valley Center, California 92082	760-749-7542
Santee Fire Department 10601 N. Magnolia Avenue Santee, California 92071	619-258-4100 x207 <a href="http://www.ci.santee.ca.us/fire">www.ci.santee.ca.us/fire</a>
Shelter Valley Volunteer Fire Department 7217 Great Southern Overland Julian, California 92036	760-765-2888
Solana Beach Fire Department 500 Lomas Santa Fe Solana Beach, California 92075	858-720-2410 <a href="http://www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us/firemarine.cfm">www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us/firemarine.cfm</a>
Sycuan Fire Department 5449 Dehesa Road El Cajon, California 92019	619-445-2893
UC Campus Fire Marshal UCSD Department 0920 La Jolla, California 92093	858-534-1062
USFS – Cleveland National Forest 10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, #200 San Diego, California 92127	858-673-6180
Valley Center Fire Protection District 282234 Lilac Road Valley Center, California 92082	760-751-7600
Vista Fire Department & Fire Protection District 175 N. Melrose Drive Vista, California 92083	760-726-2144 <a href="http://www.ci.vista.ca.us/gov/fire/bulletin0012.htm">www.ci.vista.ca.us/gov/fire/bulletin0012.htm</a>
Warner Springs Ranch Fire Department P.O. Box 10 Warner Springs, California 92086	760-782-3555

APPENDICES: F

## **FIRE AGENCIES RESPONSE PLANS AND RESOURCES**

Insert agency's response plan and resources here and save to CD.

## CHAPTER 5 – DISASTER LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE

The Sheriff's Department will be represented by liaison with the Incident Command. When fire officials direct, or if sheriff's deputies see that it is necessary to conduct an evacuation advisory of the community, they will provide the evacuation advisory in the areas with the most imminent threat first. The evacuation advisory will be based on the information known at the time.

Depending on circumstances, there may be time to collect valuables, or the evacuation advisory may be urgent, where there is only time for evacuees to get into their vehicle and follow the route that the deputy provides. This underscores the importance of preparation on the part of residents.

Citizens have the legal right to refuse to evacuate, however if this act endangers children, they are subject to arrest. If a citizen refuses an evacuation advisory he/she does so at his/her own peril, and assumes the inherent risks.

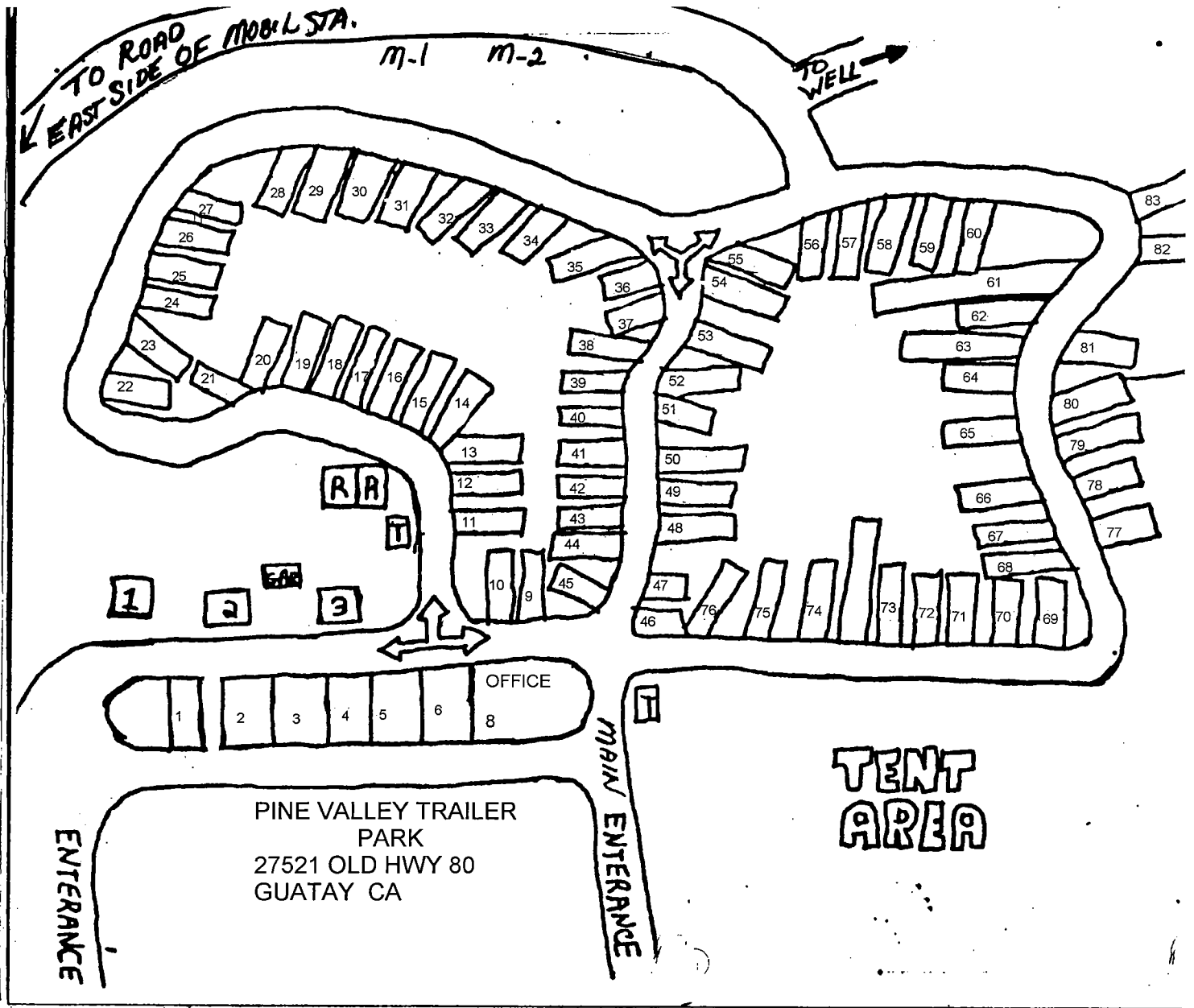
In the event that the County activates a computerized mass phone calling disaster alert system, the call will provide some directional information and most probably the location of a temporary evacuation center. Residents need to be aware that such a system only calls land line telephones and will not call cell phones. If telephone poles and wires close to the disaster are damaged, the system may not activate in a particular area.

After an area has received an evacuation advisory, the Sheriff's Department will, if possible, conduct patrols to prevent theft and looting.

### REGARDING PETS AND LIVESTOCK:

- Always keep identification on your pets and take photographs for identification purposes. Consider microchipping your animal to permanently identify them and make sure to keep your contact information current.
- In addition to your regular supply of pet food, have at least a week's worth supply of food and water on hand to use during a disaster.
- Have a leash, harness or carrier for each animal ready, in an easily accessible place in the house, in case you have to leave in a hurry.
- Make sure your family knows the "evacuation plan" and have contact information for friends to assist you if necessary. Don't wait until the last minute to leave your house; this can make the difference between taking your animals and leaving them behind.

- For large animals, make sure there is access to an adequate size trailer for your livestock. Practice loading the animals ahead of time to make sure they will load quickly. Identify each animal with a halter or collar, also consider microchipping the animals for permanent identification.
- Know the name, address and phone number of the local animal control agency and/or humane society, you may need to go there to identify your found pet or look for your lost pet.





## **San Diego Animal Rescue Reserve**

The San Diego Humane Society's Animal Rescue Reserve (A.R.R.) is a team of trained volunteers dedicated to assisting people during disasters, by safely evacuating horses, livestock and household pets. A.R.R. also works throughout San Diego County to rescue domestic animals or livestock that are trapped and cannot free themselves. A.R.R. provides these services free of charge.

### **Callout Procedures**

Animal Rescue may be contacted 24 hours a day at our hotline number **(619) 299-0871**. This number is answered by a dispatch service who immediately contacts the on call Lieutenant. The on call Lieutenant then contacts the appropriate people in our unit to respond to the situation.

We also respond to calls for service when requested by Law Enforcement and Fire Agencies. If there is a fire or natural disaster taking place we have personnel that monitor emergency frequencies and we usually dispatch Scout Units to evaluate the situation prior to be called. This pro-active type of response allows us to get a better understanding of what were up against and allows us to call in the right type or resources.

**24 HOUR HOTLINE (619) 299-0871**

**MAIN SHELTER (619) 299-7012**

### **History**

The San Diego Humane Society and SPCA saw the need to organize the animal Rescue Reserve after the Laguna Fire of 1970 so that animals could be safely evacuated from dangerous situations. Now, after more than 25 years of service, Animal Rescue Reserve is recognized as part of the County's official Disaster Team. Each member is specially trained to save and care for animals threatened by wildfires, floods and other life-threatening situations. These unique volunteers are available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. When needed, the A.R.R. can count on the outstanding services of San Diego County RACES for communication assistance.

### **Training**

Animal Rescue Reserve provides monthly training for all its members. This training is designed to create awareness of safety procedures and the proper use of equipment. Some examples of the training are:

- The California Department of Forestry and Fires teaches about the importance of safety practices and the nature of wild land fires
- Local veterinarians teach first aid for animals as well as the transportation techniques and handling of wild animals
- Other experts train about unusual animals that are raised in San Diego County (llamas, buffalo, ostrich, etc.)
- Various law enforcement personnel discuss their roles in emergencies and how we work with their agencies.

