

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Annual Report 2015



Wildfire



Flood



Earthquake



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Emergency Services Coordinator

MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Palm Springs Office of Emergency Management's mission is to create a community of citizens and city employees who are aware, prepared, and empowered to quickly recover after a disaster.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the City of Palm Springs Office of Emergency Management is to provide our community stakeholders with the tools, skills, and knowledge to minimize the impact of a significant disaster by coordinating and integrating the four phases of Emergency Management: Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation practices.

FOUR PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- **Preparedness** - The continuous cycle of planning organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to insure effective coordination during response to an emergency, major disaster, or special event.
- **Response** - The mobilization of the necessary resources and people into a disaster area to keep the situation from escalating.
- **Recovery** - Restoring conditions to normalcy to allow the community to thrive.
- **Mitigation** - Implementing control measures to limit or prevent future impacts of similar incidents, emergencies, or major disasters.



PREPAREDNESS



This preparedness cycle is one element of a broader National Preparedness System to prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other human-made disasters.

Public Outreach and Education and Volunteers

The Office of Emergency Management outreach and education is accomplished through the tireless efforts of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers. They are the ones who educate fellow community members, on how to be prepared for an emergency or major disaster whether it is through organized outreach events or by organizing their block to become better prepared.





Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The purpose of CERT is to educate community members on disaster preparedness and help them be better prepared to take care of themselves, their families, and neighbors after a disaster.

The Office of Emergency Management conducted two 20-hour CERT Academies in 2015. This was the second year the Office of Emergency Management partnered with Palm Springs High School Health Academy to prepare students for the CERT Health Occupation Student Association (HOSA) competition. The students placed third in the Nation in the CERT competition.

CERT is comprised of nine modules:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Search and Rescue
- CERT Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT
- Disaster Simulation

After, completing the 20-hour CERT course community members have the option to further hone their skills through monthly refreshers. The topics of the monthly refreshers were:

- Ways to communicate in a disaster
- Electrical safety by Southern California Edison
- CPR and First Aid
- CERT Skill Review: Fire suppression, search and rescue, and cribbing
- CPR/First Aid
- What's for dinner? How to cook when a disaster strikes



As part of the training CERT members got to sample blueberry disaster cobbler and walking tacos.



Table 1: Volunteer Activities

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Statics-2015	
Monthly Refreshers	8
Disaster Preparedness Outreach Events	21
Assisted with City Special Events	8
Branch Leader Subcommittee Meetings	9
Number of CERT members attending monthly refresher training	323
Number of hours volunteered for Outreach Events and City Special Events	940



Disaster Medical Assistance Containers (DMACs)

DMACs are metal storage containers that have a limited supply of basic items that CERT members will need to assist their neighbors after a disaster. The CERT Branch Leaders are responsible for opening and staffing them after a disaster once they take care of their families. The CERT Branch Leaders maintain the inventory count on the containers. DMACs are strategically placed in eight locations in the community.



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) was created through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC Part 97, Section 407). Volunteers serve the City of Palm Springs to maintain the City's amateur radio equipment in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Mobile Command Post (MCP).

When traditional methods of communications fail, these volunteers will be the ones to get information where it needs to be.

In 2015, one volunteer helped with researching specifications for satellite Internet hardware bid. The MCP has not had satellite Internet service since 2012 and the EOC needed increased bandwidth. This project will bring both locations up to date satellite Internet hardware.





CERT and Amateur Radio Operators Exercise June 27-28, 2015

On June 27 and 28, 2015, volunteer groups from the City of Palm Springs Office of Emergency Management partnered with Los Angeles County Area E, Cerritos, and Norwalk CERT for a 28-hour continuous training and exercise to test shelter operations and disaster skills. In addition, the Desert Rats Amateur Radio Club held ARRL Field Day in the City of Palm Springs Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The purpose of ARRL Field Day is to test amateur radio communication systems inside and outside the emergency area.

The CERT and Amateur Radio volunteers worked through the challenges of communications, logistics, and collaborating with other volunteers that they do not traditionally work with. The exercise and training provided for a collaborative environment for all volunteers to learn from one another and the share of ideas and experiences. This training and exercise was a great collaboration of CERT and Amateur Radio volunteers from the cities of Palm Springs, Cerritos, Norwalk, and Los Angeles County Area E CERT program.



Photo by: Chris Andersen, CERT Volunteer / Branch Leader



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Grants



The Office of Emergency Management wrote and was awarded grant funding under the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMPG). The Office managed FY 14 and FY 15 grant funding in 2015 for a total amount of \$115,736.

The funding has paid for or will pay for:

- CERT 20-hour course instructor costs
 - FY14 SHSP: \$8,219
 - FY15 SHSP: \$7,511
- Water filtration system
 - FY 14 EMPG: \$36,148
- 800 MHz repeater tower
 - FY14 SHSP: \$53,175
- Tactical Protective Equipment
 - FY 15 SHSP: \$10,683

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program awarded threat assessment evaluations of the City's Police Station, Fire Administration and Fire Station 442, and the Convention Center . The Assessments will be completed in 2016.



The water filtration system will take 26,000 gallons of water non-potable water into potable water in a 24-hour period.

American Heart Association (AHA) Training Center

The Office of Emergency Management managed the Palm Springs Fire AHA Training Center that is comprised of four Training Sites that in total taught 351 people cardiopulmonary resuscitation in 2015.



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RESPONSE

The Office of Emergency Management provided support with the Mobile Command Post and the writing of Incident Action Plans for two special events in 2015, the Light Parade and the Pride Parade.

The Mobile Command Post was also used during dignitary visits and in support of Police and Fire Department incidents.



Photo by: Chris Andersen, CERT Volunteer / Branch Leader



RECOVERY

The Office of Emergency Management worked in partnership with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to develop a joint Debris Management Plan. This document will facilitate a seamless debris removal process after an emergency or major disaster. The plan is currently under review with the California Office of Emergent Services (CalOES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



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MITIGATION



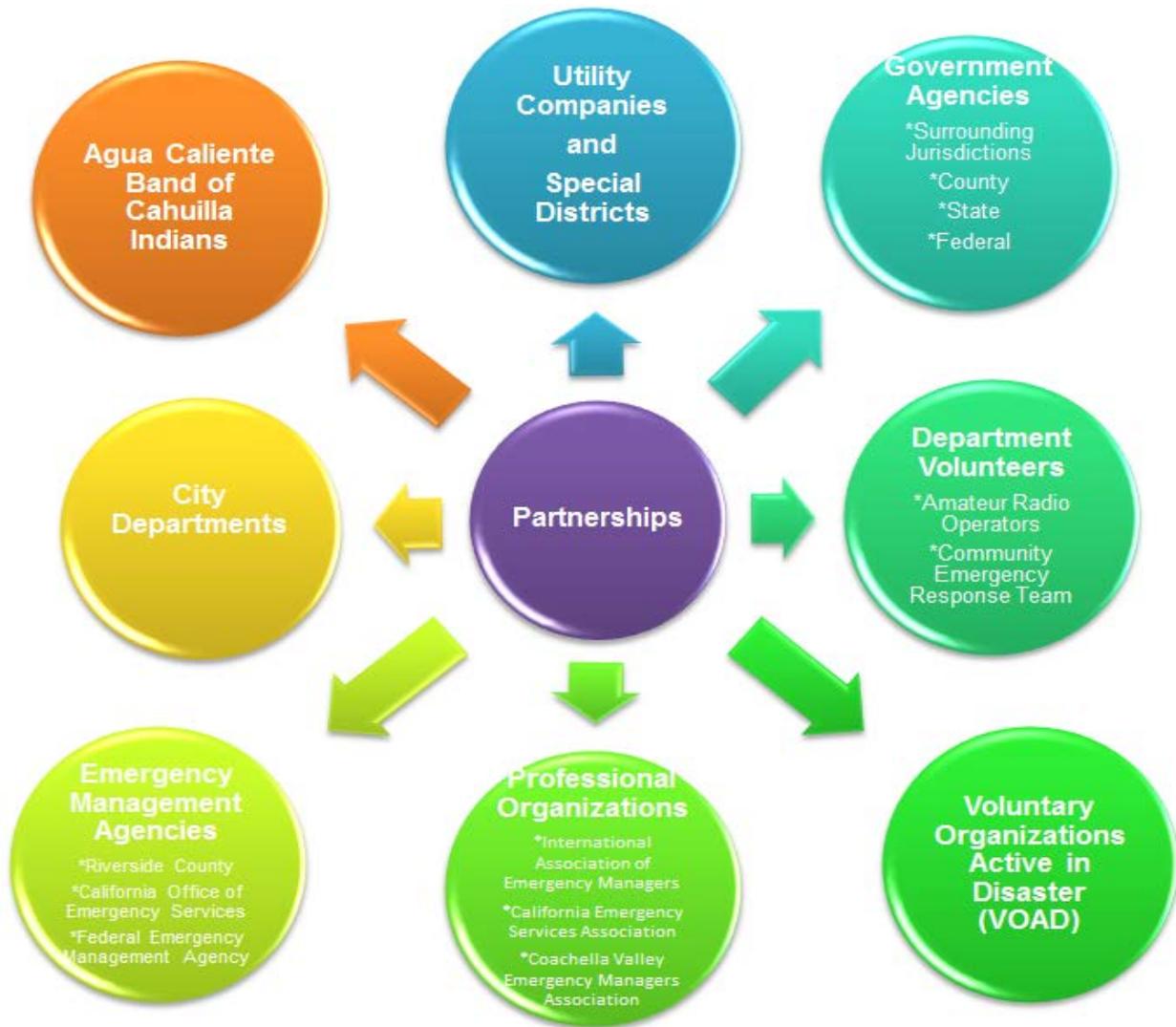
Weather Ambassador Program

In partnerships with the National Weather Service the City participates in the Weather Ambassador and the “Turn Around Don’t Drown” campaign to educate residents on the importance of not driving around barricades when roads are flooded.

PROGRAMS BY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PHASE



PARTNERSHIPS



CONTACT THE PALM SPRINGS OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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Download other emergency preparedness information at our web page:

<http://www.ci.palm-springs.ca.us/government/departments/fire-department>



I am prepared how about you? Take the time now before a disaster strikes.