Last month, the Board of Supervisors charged EMD to work with the Economic Development Agency to purchase a building for a new West County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The purchase of this existing building gives us an opportunity to roll up our sleeves and build a modern EOC. This opportunity is not possible with the current EOC designed as a Cold War Era bomb shelter.

We’ve long been in need of a new EOC. It’s been a standing request for 24 years. While our current West County EOC has some interesting points of nostalgia, the three feet deep concrete walls pose a tough situation for running IT and communication lines. We saw within a relatively small EOC activation during the Liberty Fire that the rooms in the EOC were at or near capacity. In a larger activation, the current EOC will max out before our staffing needs are met.

CONTINUED ON PG. 2

EMD hosts second annual Riverside County Preparedness Summit

The Emergency Management Department (EMD) hosted its second annual Preparedness Summit at the Riverside Convention Center on April 4, 2018. The Summit, titled “From Response to Recovery,” drew a crowd of over 260 people from across the region. “The summit was a regional event, it crossed county borders,” explained EMD’s Donna Mayer. “It was all about building capabilities identified in grants, coordination, and collaboration.”

Mayer, alongside a team of enthusiastic players, including Reyshawn Bobo, Sandy Olinga, Anne Accurso, Laronte Groom, Carol Gonzalez and Brooke Federico, worked vigorously over six months to make the Preparedness Summit a hit.

The event kicked off with Riverside County CEO George Johnson and Kim Saruwatari, Riverside County Public Health director and former director of EMD, engaging the crowd and underscoring the importance of emergency management.

Speaker Brian Henricksen of Napa County shared lessons learned from the response and recovery to the 2017 Northern California Wildfires, which ultimately destroyed thousands of homes, hundreds of thousands of acres and resulted in 44 deaths.

During lunch, EMD Director Bruce Barton presented the Award for Resiliency to San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services. CONTINUED ON PG. 2

Coming soon: New West County EOC

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Josh Dugas, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health/Division of Environmental Health Services, accepts the Award for Resiliency for their recovery from the Dec. 2, 2015 terrorist attack.
BRUCE, CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Collocating our daily operations with the EOC will make it a hot location, which is an EOC maintained in a constant state of readiness, ready to go with a flip of the light switch. As you know, we could activate the West County EOC on any given day and we must be ready for that. Our new department slogan – RivCo Ready – reminds us that we must be in a position to activate on a moment’s notice.

The new West County EOC location is indicative of the tremendous support the Executive Office and Board of Supervisors have for emergency management. The Board prioritized the EOC, at a time when they are balancing many difficult fiscal demands, because they support our mission and the Operational Area.

The building was just acquired by the Economic Development Agency last month, purchased from the Western Municipal Water District. Several IT upgrades, security enhancements and equipment purchases are needed before we are ready to move in. The project is slated to be completed by the end of 2019.

As always, thank you for continuing to dedicate yourself to our department and our mission. I am honored to work with each of you.

Regards,

Bruce

SUMMIT, CONT. FROM PG. 1

The recipients received an emotional standing ovation from the crowd.

Throughout the day there were various presentations in designated breakout tracks on credentialing, lessons learned from 2017 hurricanes and wildfires, and active shooter incidents to name a few. New to the summit this year, was PrepIn15, which consisted of two 15-minute short talks on informative subjects. The first session was on developing a peer support system in the aftermath of trauma, led by Heather Williams of the Orange County Sheriff’s Department. The second session featured Kim and Mitch Saruwatari, demonstrating how they prep for a “Party of Five.”

EMD’s Martin Baxter said his biggest take away was from the last presentation by Brooke Buddemeier on responding to nuclear terrorism. “Staying indoors and away from outside walls for two days could help you avoid most of the radiation from a nuclear fallout,” said Baxter. “I was amazed to learn that.”

“This event wouldn’t have happened without everyone who worked so diligently,” said Mayer. “The core planning team and everyone who stepped up to help in the days leading up to the summit – everyone played a vital role in the success of the day.”

By the numbers

- **356,500** Americans experience Sudden Cardiac Arrest annually.
- **30-35%** of cardiac arrest victims (non-hospitalized) receive CPR prior to the arrival of 9-1-1 responders.
- **8%** of people who suffer cardiac arrest survive (leaving **300,000** deceased from cardiac arrest each year).
- **66.5%** of cardiac arrest patients shocked by an AED used by a bystander are significantly more likely to survive (versus **43%** when shocked by EMS responders).
- **25%** of adults treated by EMS had no symptoms before the onset of cardiac arrest.
- **51%** of cardiac arrests are unwitnessed.

*Data collected from the American Heart Association, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association and the Heart Rescue Association*

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER GEORGE JOHNSON DELIVERS OPENING REMARKS AT THE SECOND ANNUAL RIVERSIDE COUNTY PREPAREDNESS SUMMIT ON APRIL 4.
Bring them back to life

With the right tools, you have the power to bring someone back to life during cardiac arrest. Not a paramedic? This still applies to you.

The PAD Project, better known as Public Access Defibrillation, places automated external defibrillators (AEDs) directly into the community so they are easily retrievable when needed. The PAD project is administered by the Riverside County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMD/REMSA).

“Our goal is to make an Automated External Defibrillation device as accessible as possible to the public through the Public Access Defibrillation Program,” said Emergency Medical Services Specialist Ralph Serrano.

Making AEDs available to the public is the intent of the county’s PAD Project, an initiative that’s been underway since 2001.

Several studies have shown that survivability and full or near full recovery dramatically increase when an AED is quickly applied to someone experiencing cardiac arrest. But an AED isn’t something most residents carry around in their car or golf cart.

The process for determining where the AEDs will be placed involves a number of factors, such as age demographics for the area, average response times, accessibility to the AED location and training. The AEDs are supplied by American Medical Response as part of its contract requirement to invest in enhancements to the emergency medical services system.

Placing the AEDs throughout the county is no easy task.

First, Serrano must secure a public location for the AEDs, which means the facility owner agrees to placing the equipment and the training that’s required for surrounding personnel.

In addition, EMD must maintain a database of hundreds of installed AEDs throughout the Riverside County area.

One way EMD is improving the program is by providing public safety dispatchers with locations of nearby AEDs in the PAD Program. Taking this one step further, EMD is planning a smartphone app that will use the phone’s location to display a map with nearby AEDs.

Healthy motivations

April is Stress Awareness Month.

Did you know that stress is correlated with heart disease, depression, and a lowered immune system? Life can be stressful, no doubt. But the people who adapt to it, live healthier, longer lives.

Tips to healthy coping with stress:
- Treat yourself to something nice and out of the ordinary.
- Laugh (the louder the better)!
- Exercise and be active.
- Meditate by giving yourself a few minutes each day to feed your brain with silence.
- Get plenty of Zzzzzzzzs.

May is Physical Fitness Month.

Exercise controls weight and combats disease, resulting in a healthier body more apt to fighting off illness. Plus, it releases endorphins to increase our happiness and sense of well-being. It boosts our energy and promotes better sleep. So, let’s take the stairs!

June is Safety Month.

Please keep these important safety measures at the top of your mind:
- Medication safety – Use caution with dangerous medication and keep them out of reach of children.
- Learn how to perform basic first aid and take emergency preparedness precautions in your home. Not sure where to start?

CONTINUED ON PG. 4
EMD welcomes new staff members

You may have noticed that the staff list has gotten longer. Four rows longer to be exact. That’s because EMD added four new staff members to its ever-growing cast of characters.

REMSA welcomed Evelyn Pham as an Administrative Services Assistant back in February. Pham worked with the Riverside County Department of Social Services (DPSS) in the Homeless Program division before coming to EMD. Pham enjoys tasting new foods, outdoor activities and watching movies.

February was a popular month for hiring, with the Preparedness Division adding two new staff members. Emergency Services Coordinator Daven Solis and Health Education Assistant II Kandis Snowball joined the Preparedness division through the Temporary Assignment Program (TAP).

Solis is currently working on his masters in Emergency Services Administration. Solis deployed to Texas to assist with Hurricane Harvey as a Federal Emergency Management Agency volunteer and spent time working as a Floodplain Management Specialist. In his spare time, Solis likes to snowboard and play water polo.

Snowball came to EMD after interning at the Bakersfield Heart Hospital in the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. She also worked at Chevron for Corporate Wellness and at California State University Bakersfield in Student Health Services mostly doing outreach. Her hobbies include cooking, spending time with family and being outdoors.

Joe Arana, TAP Emergency Services Coordinator, joined the Operations Division in March and is no stranger to emergency management. He previously interned for the Long Beach Water Department, working in the Emergency Preparedness and Security Division as an Emergency Preparedness Intern. Arana’s thesis was even on Closed Points of Dispensing for mass prophylaxis.

Although it seems as though Arana is pretty serious about emergency management, he does have interests outside of work. These interests include spending time with his family, cooking, and watching sports.

All four new hires expressed their excitement and appreciation for working with EMD. Snowball summed it up the best, by saying that her favorite thing about working for EMD is the people.

“Everyone has been incredibly nice and welcoming,” said Snowball. “I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to stay on staff and I look forward to learning as much as I can while I am here.”

HEALTHY, CONT. FROM PG. 3

Take Community Emergency Response Team training to learn basic disaster response skills, including disaster medical operations and light search and rescue.

- Wear a helmet when riding your bike.
- Don’t take on too much while working. Ask for help. A safe work environment is everyone’s responsibility.
- Just drive! Distracted driving is just as bad as driving under the influence.

1) Send and read texts and emails before you start driving.
2) If you’re on a longer drive, schedule breaks to stop, park safely and respond to messages.
3) Know where you’re going before you put the car in drive. Put your destination into your GPS so you do not need to touch it while the car is moving.
4) Social media can wait. No update, tweet or video is worth a life.
5) If you must take a call, park in a safe area to return a text or check email.

This driver may look productive, but the most dangerous thing in his car is an arm’s length away.

Disconnect your bluetooth, hang up your phone and just drive. Learn more at www.nsc.org/justdrive.
Regional stakeholders mind the gap

Earlier this month, stakeholders from Riverside and San Bernardino counties joined to strategize best practices among the region during the Regional Capability Assessment/Gap Analysis workshop. Top of the discussion was identifying gaps that all stakeholders collectively agree upon in emergency management and first response.

The regional gap analysis addressed 10 core capabilities as priorities, three of which were planning, cyber-security and intelligence/information sharing. Preparedness is far more involved than simply buying equipment. It involves planning, identifying gaps at the local and regional levels, and leveraging the combined capabilities of our partners to respond to any emergency.

The results from the multi-day, multi-agency workshop, will be a three year homeland security strategic plan that will be completed by end of May.

“We will need to depend on each other to respond to a major incident,” added Groom. “Emergencies do not occur with respect to the county line, and neither should our planning efforts.”

WebEOC - the next gen

WebEOC is an emergency manager’s best friend during an incident. It’s where EOC and field responders gather, post, validate and share information. It plays a critical role in establishing situational awareness. Without it, we would be relegated to redundant communication systems solely used during pre-internet times.

One of the latest enhancements to WebEOC is integrating the platform to deliver Alert RivCo messages directly from WebEOC. “Think of WebEOC as becoming a one-stop website that will allow us to navigate faster and easier between intelligence posted and sending out time-sensitive messages to our affected communities,” said Emergency Services Coordinator Ralph Mesa.

Another big enhancement to WebEOC is establishing a resource management tool for the Countywide Hazmat Operational Group (CHOG). Several agencies are part of CHOG, each with highly-trained personnel and special equipment. The new resource sharing board in WebEOC allows each CHOG agency to see what equipment is available and then track resources deployed throughout the county, including personnel and equipment.

Coming up next for WebEOC is applicable integration with the SALUS system, which is a mapping system combining information reports and public information needs.
Toast to better public speaking

There is a saying that the two things people fear most are public speaking and death by fire – in that order.

If you’re not comfortable speaking in front of an audience, you aren’t alone. Knowledge and preparation won’t overcome the distractions that arise from a lack of confidence in public speaking.

One of the best ways to improve is to practice, get feedback and learn from others. These are benefits to Toastmasters membership. Toastmasters started in 1924 with Club #1 in Santa Ana, CA.

The Toastmasters Club provides a supportive and positive learning experience to empower members to develop communication and leadership skills.

It’s the positive and supportive approach that made the Riverside County Community Health Agency Toastmasters (CHAT) Chapter appealing to EMD’s Nadine Hayes. “It’s nice to get constructive feedback,” she notes. “Sometimes it’s the little things that someone else notices that help the most.”

If speaking to the public or presenting is part of your job and you’d like to improve your skills, check with your supervisor to seek permission to join the CHAT chapter. Meetings are held Wednesdays from 1 to 2 p.m.

Everything you need to know about SharePoint Online

What is it? SharePoint Online (SPO) is a secure website for storing, organizing, sharing, and accessing files. It’s an internal EMD site available wherever there is internet access.

How will EMD use it? Initially, EMD will post shared files, contacts and an EMD calendar so everyone can see upcoming events. Each division within EMD will have their own page containing relevant division information. Most areas will be open to all EMD employees to view. There will also be more secure and controlled areas.

How do I get to SPO? Check with your supervisor or manager for the SPO link.

When will we get access? EMD employees can expect access within 30 - 60 days. We are finalizing content from each division, then we will provide training.

What’s next? We will continue to expand the SPO site to improve overall communication and collaboration within the department.

Sharepoint and Microsoft Office

Sharepoint works well with Microsoft Office products. When using Word, Outlook, and Excel; documents can be uploaded to Sharepoint. When editing a document in Sharepoint, it can either be edited using the online editor or Word.

Word - When editing documents within Sharepoint, Word is the default program that allows you to edit. If you do not have access to Word remotely, you may edit within the browser.

With Sharepoint, multiple people can edit a document in Word at one time. Sharepoint will even notify you of the line another person is editing. If you choose to edit from a document already on Sharepoint, click Save or close out for options to update the document on Sharepoint.

If you create a new document in Word and then decide to upload to Sharepoint, you can also add it directly into the Document Library. In the File menu, select “Save and Send” and choose the “Save to Sharepoint” option. You’ll need the url of the document library.

Outlook - Connect to Outlook from Sharepoint with calendars, tasks, and contacts. Tasks from Sharepoint will synchronize with the tasks in Outlook, kept in a folder labeled Sharepoint. When a task is updated from Outlook or Sharepoint, it syncs with the other. Contact lists can be synced the same way. Need access to a document library offline? These can be added to Outlook.

Any Calendar in Sharepoint can be added to your Outlook calendar list. From the Calendar on Sharepoint, in the Connect and Export section, select Calendar Tools, then select Connect to Outlook. This calendar will be added as a separate calendar in Outlook.

Excel - Any libraries, lists, and pages can be exported to Excel. Using the List Tools or Library Tools, go into the section and select Export to Excel.
Service Awards

Service awards are for total service to the County of Riverside. Anniversaries below are for Feb. 2018 – April 2018. Thank you for your dedication to public service. These anniversaries represent 182 years of service to the County of Riverside. Let’s give it up!

Lisa Madrid – 2 years
Ralph Mesa – 2 years
Nick Ritchey – 2 years
Kelly Moore – 4 years
Jennifer Smith – 5 years
Eric Cadden – 7 years
Shanna Kissel – 9 years
Trevor Douville – 10 years
Bruce Barton – 11 years
James Lee – 11 years
Steve Jensen – 13 years
Patrice Shepherd – 13 years
Dennis Day – 14 years
Diana Rockot – 20 years
Angie Johnson – 24 years
Victoria Jauregui Burns – 35 years

Lend a helping hand

Emergency Services Coordinator Shane Reichardt was caught on Caltrans’ traffic cameras on Feb. 1. Reichardt came across a two car traffic collision on the 91 Freeway. A Moreno Valley Police Department motorcycle unit was on scene, but without protection from the roaring traffic on both sides of the accident. Reichardt blocked the carpool and number one lane until the fire department arrived. Well done!

Many hands make light work

Seven days before our second annual Riverside County Preparedness Summit, a bevy of employees pitched in to build hundreds of name tags, stuff registration tote bags and unwrap training notebooks.

“It was truly inspirational to see,” said EMD Deputy Director Victoria Jauregui Burns.

These tedious tasks left to one or two people to complete, would take days to finish. But with a throng of willing EMD team members coming together, the tasks were finished within an hour’s time.

“It felt like teamwork,” said Carol Gonzalez, Logistics Chief for the summit. “Because it was.”