

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
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**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 4/11/05  
**Department Name:** First District Supervisor  
**Department No.:**  
**Agenda Date:** 4/19/05  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimate Time:** 30 min  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Salud Carbajal  
First District Supervisor

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bruce Carter, Emergency Services Manager  
County Fire/OES x5559  
Jay McAmis, Emergency Services Coordinator  
County Fire/OES x5545  
Commander Sam Gross, Information Services Division  
County Sheriff x4286

**SUBJECT:** Mission Canyon Voluntary Wildland Fire Evacuation Drill, First District

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## Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors receive a report on the plans for the April 30th, 2005 Voluntary Wildland Fire Evacuation Drill in Mission Canyon.

## Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2, A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work and Visit.

## Executive Summary and Discussion:

The purpose of this recommended action is to receive a report on the Voluntary Wildland Fire Drill that will occur on Saturday, April 30, 2005 in the Mission Canyon area. The voluntary drill is a collaborative effort that is being coordinated through the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council by the County Fire Dept, Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff and Public Works Departments, City of Santa Barbara Fire and Police Departments, Los Padres Search and Rescue, California Highway Patrol, Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council, Mission Canyon Association, Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), American Red Cross, Earl Warren Showgrounds, the First District Office and other community members.

The Fire Safe Council (FSC), an excellent example of public/private partnerships, is dedicated to making our urban interface communities as fire resistant as possible. With the support of the fire agencies, the FSC has

identified fire prevention projects, as well as conducted "Walk & Talks" throughout Santa Barbara County's urban interface areas in pursuit of this goal.

In addition to these preventative measures, The "Wildland Fire Task Force" began the process of developing a working plan for evacuation of the Santa Barbara Front Country. The Mission Canyon Voluntary Wildland Fire Evacuation Drill is the natural next step in this process and it offers a rare opportunity for the public and private sectors to learn first hand what could or might happen if a real evacuation were called for.

A key component of the evacuation drill will be a test of the Reverse 9-1-1 emergency notification system. The Sheriff's Department operates as the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for 911 telephone calls for the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County and four contract cities within the county. The department recently purchased a computerized notification system to rapidly communicate emergency messages to the community utilizing Verizon's telephone directory database and an ESRI based mapping structure. In the event of an emergency, the ability to use the Reverse 9-1-1 system will enable a dispatcher to rapidly formulate a voice message that will be dialed by a large bank of telephones to notify residents. As preparation for the April 30<sup>th</sup> Mission Canyon exercise, the Sheriff's Department will be coordinating the installation and training of this system within the Communications Center. The systems mapping should encompass all areas of Santa Barbara County and be integrated so that a dispatcher can easily notify based on geographic locations as well as the Verizon telephone database. The Sheriff's Department is currently coordinating with Verizon for the installation of additional phone lines and the retrieval of all residential and commercial phone lines for Santa Barbara County.

The voluntary evacuation drill is a direct result of the County's Fire Safety and Public Education/Outreach efforts. The inclusion of a greater number of participants is essential in developing effective communication and interoperability between local agencies in their ongoing efforts to improve the services they provide.

In addition, this drill will also allow local agencies and organizations to exercise and test existing plans and procedures for an evacuation. Data that is collected will be used to update these plans and procedures and to establish a data baseline to use for future planning models. These models can then be used to validate other plans and procedures relating to evacuations during local emergencies.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

None

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

None

**Special Instructions:**

None

**Concurrence:**

Sheriff's Department

Fire Department

Public Works Department

**Attachments:**

None