

# ATTACHMENT B

## **XSB Incident Management Team**

### **Overview**

The all-hazard XSB Incident Management Team (XSB IMT) provides a team of qualified personnel to assist with the management and/or mitigation of large scale emergency incidents.

### **Challenge**

Santa Barbara County has a long history of devastating wildland fires. Managing wildland fires and other large-scale incidents can be difficult, often requiring complex coordination of firefighting resources. Prior to 2014, incidents were initially managed by first responding firefighters until an Incident Management Team, often from out of the area, took command. The Santa Barbara County operational area recognized the need to form its own management team. The challenge was to find a minimum of 28 trained personnel from various disciplines to be on call and available 24/7/365. Team assignments include Incident Commander, Operations, Public Information Officer, Logistics, Planning, Finance, Liaison, Safety Officer and Division Group Supervisors. All positions required back-up personnel to ensure the necessary 24-hour coverage.

### **Innovative Solution**

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD) recognized its inability to effectively staff all required positions during large scale emergency incidents. In 2013, SBCFD Operations Division Chief Woody Enos began working with neighboring fire agencies within Santa Barbara County to form the XSB IMT. Team positions were staffed with personnel from every fire department in the County, including Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara City, Lompoc, Montecito, Vandenberg, Santa Maria and Carpinteria/Summerland Fire Departments, as well as the Los Padres National Forest Service. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol also play a key role on the team as law enforcement liaisons. Coordination with neighboring agencies provided the necessary depth to properly staff all positions on the team.

### **Originality**

The XSB IMT, one of only six recognized Type 3 teams in the State, is an all-hazard team, available to respond to and manage any incident within the County when requested. The team includes all components of a Command and General Staff and provides effective coordination of on-scene operations, including ordering points for resources, logistics,

planning, public information, finance and billing. The team can be relied upon to effectively manage any incident that exceeds the capabilities of first responders in Santa Barbara County.

### **Cost Effectiveness**

Having a dedicated command staff in place on large scale incidents enables the incident commander to focus solely on suppression efforts, which can result in quicker containment and control, thus reducing impacts to lives, property and reducing the cost of fire suppression.

### **Results**

The Santa Barbara County Operational Area Type 3 Incident Management Team was first activated on May 13, 2014 on the "Miguelito" vegetation fire in the unincorporated area south of the City of Lompoc. The fire burned over 600 acres and threatened hundreds of homes. The Type 3 IMT was able to quickly coordinate, organize and successfully manage a complex incident with several cooperating agencies and political concerns. Many homes were evacuated, shelters were set-up, and an incident management base camp was constructed within hours of the fire starting. Since then, the XSB IMT3 has successfully managed numerous incidents, including:

- "Sherpa" Fire; Refugio; June 15, 2016; over 7,400 acres burned; hundreds of structures immediately threatened, evacuations of two state beach campgrounds, oil facilities shutdown, intermittent closures of Highway 101.
- "Rey" Fire; Santa Ynez Mountains; August 19, 2016; over 32,600 acres burned; 300+ residents and campers evacuated from a popular recreational area of Santa Barbara.
- "Canyon" Fire; Vandenberg Air Force Base; September 17, 2017; over 12,700 acres burned; military and civilian employees evacuated from the south base; unexploded ordinances presented unique challenges; live missiles and rockets were loaded and ready to launch when the fire started; garnered national media attention.
- Placed on standby in September 2016 for a possible activation to South Carolina for Hurricane Matthew.

The XSB IMT continues to prove itself as a highly trained and qualified team of individuals from across the County working to keep the citizens of Santa Barbara County safe.

### **Program Contact**

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