Sustainable Tools and Communication Planning for Aiding Public Safety in a Flood Event

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Background

MUSR Project and Yolo County FERP

- The effort was started by the MUSR project

- Yolo County was awarded $1.17 million to develop flood safety plans, related public safety products, and training.

- The County became part of a nine-county effort allowing for regional consistency in final products and cost-effective sharing
Background

Coordination for Evacuation is Complex and Involves a lot of Partners

a. Levee Maintaining Agency Representatives
b. County/City Office of Emergency Services
c. Local Police and/or Sheriff Offices
d. Local Fire Districts
e. Local Charities

In larger scale cases:

a. CHP
b. Caltrans
c. Local Fuel Providers
d. Commercial Real Estate Agents
The Challenges of Evacuations

1. Highly complex operation
2. Every jurisdiction has their own protocols
3. Identify essential operations and purchase equipment in advance
4. Joint planning among numerous jurisdictions over a large area
The Challenges of Evacuations

- Responsibilities of Counties/Cities Remain:
  1) Ordering evacuation
  2) Managing movement and sheltering within their jurisdiction

- Pre-planning is needed!
What Can We Do to Facilitate Planning?
Meetings... Meetings... Meetings...
Public Safety Maps

1. Pre-planned possible evacuation routes and tactical facilities
2. Pre-meetings with involved authorities
3. Blanks for notes and accommodating for unique situations
4. Possible issues pre-identified
5. Tools to assist with evacuation

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Pre-Established Tactical Facilities

Field Command Posts
- Knight’s Landing Yolo-Sutter Boat Club
  - 38°40’05” N 121°42’33” W

Helipads/Helispots
- YH-01 Sci-Tech KL Field
  - 38°47’48” N 121°43’17” W
- YH-10 Intersection of Railroad St. and Front St.
  - 38°48’37” N 121°43’31” W
- YH-11 Beavis Dyer Ct.
  - 38°47’51” N 121°43’32” W

Logistics
Supply Staging Areas
- YCA-02 Knight's Rd at Sutter Basin
  - 38°46’22” N 121°42’62” W
- YCA 33 Rose Valley, Inc.
  - 38°44’55” N 121°43’51” W

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Evacuation Status

- Direction of Travel: Leave City as of
  - Date
  - Time

- Nearest Cross Streets
  - Street
  - Street

- Nearest Gas Station
  - Distance
  - Time

- Nearest Hospital
  - Distance
  - Time

- Nearest Shelter
  - Distance
  - Time

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Schools
- Science and Technology Academy at Knights Landing
  - 3014 Mill Street

Care and Group Homes
- Knights Landing Senior Apartments
  - 3034 Mill Street
Inform Evacuees

Provide Updated Information to Public

• Which way should they go?

• Where should people go if they need help leaving?

• Who should they contact for information?
Citizen Maps

Be Prepared to Evacuate!

Many areas of Yolo County are protected from floods by large levees or dikes that surround local neighborhoods. If you live in one of these areas you should be prepared to evacuate your home in the unlikely event that a problem develops with your neighborhood levees and officials feel you should leave for your own safety.

Officials have identified the streets that residents should use to leave as well as locations in the neighborhood where they can obtain assistance if they cannot leave quickly on their own.

Please keep the brochure with the map for your neighborhood where you can find it in an emergency. Use the map to identify your closest evacuation route, the closest location where you can get help if needed, and the radio frequencies you can listen to for additional evacuation instructions. You should also review the following additional safety information with your family.

- Listen to radio frequency for initial warnings for your neighborhood and radio frequency for evacuation instructions when directed.
- If forced to shelter in a building due to floodwaters, make sure you can access the roof.
- Have a bright cloth or flashlight with you at all times to use to signal rescuers if necessary.
- Do not drive through flooded areas. Standing water is often deeper than it looks.
- Have a plan where your family will meet if separated.
- If time permits, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve prior to vacating your home.

Be Prepared

Have a battery or crank powered AM/FM radio. Critical information in an emergency will be broadcast through commercial and government-owned radio transmitters.

Start an evacuation kit by obtaining a small bag and inserting a zippered plastic bag containing copies of family prescriptions, important family documents, and family contact information with some spare clothes.

Protect your pets by giving them an identification collar and placing their picture and description in your evacuation kit.

Yolo-Alert Reverse 911 System

This mass notification system will alert all landline telephones in case of evacuation. If you wish to receive alerts by email or cellular phone, register at www.yolo-alert.org.

Find more safety information at the following websites:
www.floodsmart.gov
www.ready.gov/floods

Federal and local officials strongly encourage residents living behind levees to obtain flood insurance.

For more information contact:
Yolo County
Office of Emergency Services
(530) 406-4930
Citizen Maps

- Possible Evacuation Routes
- Rally Points
- Traffic Control/Direction Personnel
- Possible flood depths
- High ground areas

**IN CASE OF FLOOD**

- If ordered to evacuate, leave area as directed by law and fire officers
- Help is here if you cannot leave area on your own
- Receive directions on which way to go here
- Potential degree of danger; See Depth Chart
- Move to high ground if trapped
- Levee (higher ground)
GIS-Based Maps

- Easily shared, revised, and transmitted across jurisdictional lines
- No incident is the same
- With multiple areas, one repository

ArcGIS Online
More Emphasis on:

• Multi-jurisdictional Planning and Identifying Resources Before They are Needed

• Engaging the Public

• Coordinating Regular Meetings During an Emergency Event to Ensure Information is Updated

• Effectively Using Mapping and Sharing Tools to Facilitate the Above
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