



Gavin Newsom,
Mayor

Department of Emergency Management



Vicki Hennessy,
Executive Director

Event Summary

Severe Winter Storm 01/04/08

Pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code §7.4-1, which requires that: "Following any declared emergency, activation of the City's Emergency Operations Center, or credible disaster warning the [Department of Emergency Management] shall submit a written report to the Disaster Council and the Board of Supervisors..." this Event Summary is respectfully submitted to the Mayor as Chair of the Disaster Council and to the members of the Board of Supervisors.

Date of Report: March 14, 2008
Date of Event: January 3-6, 2008
Name of Event: New Year Storm 2008
Type of Event: Severe Winter Storm
Report Prepared by: Rob Dudgeon

Situation Summary: *The following is a very brief overview of the January Storm response. A full After Action Report is in development and will be available soon.*

Beginning New Year's Eve the Weather Service began sending notices of an impending storm that was shaping up to have a significant impact on the Bay Area. As the situation developed it became apparent that the City was likely to experience wind and water damage as well as transportation disruptions upon the arrival of the storm.. Over the ensuing days, DEM convened an Incident Management Team (IMT) coordinated conference calls with the other City Departments in order to put in place a strategy of pre-impact mitigation efforts. On Friday, January 4th, the storm came ashore and the City suffered localized flooding, wind related incidents, power and transportation disruptions due to the weather system. After an earlier morning conference call revealed that several departments were busy with numerous storm related incidents, the Alternate EOC was opened. It remained open until approximately 6:00PM. The Incident Management Team then reverted to monitor and coordinate status and convened conference calls on Saturday and Sunday.

Actions Taken:

- IMT convened on January 3, 2008 and organized several mitigation actions:
 - Scaffolding was inspected for safety and a reminder regarding proper securing of scaffolding sent to all the major scaffolding companies in the Bay Area by DPW.
 - All involved departments planned for increased staffing on Friday the 4th.
 - DPW issued a press release instructing people to use 311 for non life threatening problems and a location to

Outcome(s):

- obtain sandbags.
 - DPW distributed sandbags to the public
 - Alternate EOC activated on January 4th
 - DPW served as Operations Chief
 - GSA served as Plans Chief
 - Utilized LEO Virtual Command Center for situation updates
 - Joint Information Center was activated
 - Local Emergency declared by the Mayor on January 4th.
 - Monitoring conference calls on January 5th and 6th
 - A full after action report was ordered and is in development
1. Activation of the Alternate EOC, while challenging, was successful and helped in the coordination of multiple departments and agencies.
 2. Convening the Incident Management Team early had a positive outcome on the event, as all those working on the situation were aware of what was already in progress when they reported to the EOC.
 3. While an emergency was declared, damages didn't reach the threshold for recovery of expenses from the State or from FEMA.
 4. Non-public safety departments did an outstanding job in key staff positions in the EOC.

Analysis & Lessons Learned:

1. Notification and information sharing protocols, while improved, still needed work.
2. The Alternate EOC needed some improvements for better functionality.
3. Overall, the Severe Weather Plan provides solid guidance and will be updated to reflect lessons learned from this storm.