

# **NOVEMBER 2011 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SEVERE WIND STORM AFTER ACTION REPORT**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On November 30, 2011, a powerful windstorm with damaging high winds impacted Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The wind storm initially damaged approximately 42 homes, toppled trees, and downed power lines causing a power outage in the peak of the storm affecting approximately 481,000 residences and businesses. The debris management was overwhelming for many of the cities. Several sporadic fires and water shortages occurred in various areas of the counties. Cars and homes were damaged from fallen trees. For the numerous residences deemed unsafe for habitation, the American Red Cross opened two regional shelters to assist residents affected by the wind damage and power outages. The windstorm necessitated closure of school districts throughout the impacted area. California American Water Board issued an advisory to boil water for specified areas. All power was restored by December 9, 2011.

The damaging winds affected several cities throughout Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. A Local Emergency was proclaimed by Los Angeles County and each of the following cities within Los Angeles County; Alhambra, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Glendora, Rosemead, Temple City, San Marino, South Pasadena, Pasadena, Arcadia, La Canada/Flintridge, Irwindale, San Gabriel, Monterey Park and Duarte. In addition, San Bernardino County and the city of Rancho Cucamonga proclaimed a local emergency due to the effects of the windstorm.

On December 9, 2011, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency in Los Angeles County and the City of Rancho Cucamonga specifically directing Caltrans to request Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) emergency highway repair funding.

As a result of Severe Wind Storms in Los Angeles County, a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) was completed. The damage survey revealed more than 25 homes and businesses sustained damage which met the threshold for requesting a declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). A request was submitted to SBA December 13, 2011, and was approved on December 19, 2011. The SBA declaration made available low-interest federal disaster loans to residents and business owners affected by high winds in the primary county of Los Angeles, and the contiguous counties of Kern, Orange, San Bernardino, and Ventura. The SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center opened at the Pasadena Fire Headquarters. The total estimated damage for the event was \$33,907,106 which was confirmed by FEMA.

### **Incident Period**

November 30 – December 9, 2011

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**Declarations / Proclamations**

Local Proclamation:

December 1, 2011 – County of Los Angeles and cities of Alhambra, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Glendora, Rosemead, Temple City, San Marino, South Pasadena, Pasadena, Arcadia, La Canada/Flintridge, Irwindale, San Gabriel, Monterey Park and Duarte  
December 2, 2011 – City of Monterey Park

Governor's Proclamation:

December 9, 2011 – County of Los Angeles and the City of Rancho Cucamonga, in San Bernardino County

Federal Declarations:

December 19, 2011 – The counties of Los Angeles, Kern, Orange, San Bernardino, and Ventura received a SBA declaration.

**SUMMARY OF SUCCESSES**

Successful operations were highlighted in the following areas:

Standardized Emergency Management System

- Information was disseminated to the affected public in a timely manner
- There was a great deal of cooperation between responding agencies at all SEMS levels
- Situational information flowed accurately and efficiently as Operational Areas utilized both Regional and State channels appropriately

Support and Partner Agencies

- There was excellent information flow within the Emergency Functions which led to prompt coordination to situations such as boil water orders and health care operations utility requirements

Mutual Aid

- The California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA) provided significant mutual aid resources by using power companies outside of the impacted area to restore power in a timely manner

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Recovery

- The San Bernardino County OA collected Initial Damage Estimates. San Bernardino County OA also assisted in the coordination of the Cal EMA Recovery Branch's applicant briefing which included the collection of debriefing comments from participating agencies

Access and Functional Needs

- The County Public Health Departments in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties issued Public Health Advisories in both English and Spanish for those with limited English speaking ability
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Licensing and Certification monitored health facilities and nursing homes throughout the impacted area to ensure needs and requirements were being met

Communications

- Public information communications were excellent
- CDPH provided information to the public regarding the "Boil Water" order and promptly notified its customers when the order was lifted

**SUMMARY OF AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT**

- No improvements were identified

**SUMMARY OF CORRECTIVE ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

- No corrective action recommendations were identified

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**ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS REPORT:**

California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)  
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)  
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)  
California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA)

AAR Attachments:

Attachment A:	Acronyms
Attachment B:	Issues and Corrective Action Matrix
Attachment C:	Response Summary