

READ AND CONSIDERED
DATE 8/16/2021 BY B

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Emergency Alerts and Communications

Report Date: June 20, 2021

Response by: Gerard Giudice Title: Mayor

Agency/Department Name: City of Rohnert Park

FINDINGS: F4, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F20

I (we) agree with the findings numbered F4, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F20

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: N/A

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS: R1, R4, R5, R15

Recommendations numbered: R4, R5 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: R1, R15 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

Recommendations numbered: N/A require(s) further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.)

Recommendations numbered: N/A will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8/10/21 Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 1
(See attached Civil Grand Jury Response Requirements)

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Attachment 1

I. Summary Describing Implemented Actions

Recommendations R4 and R5 have been implemented. In the past year, the City has worked with the Department of Emergency Management, the Sheriff's Office, and the rest of the Sonoma County municipalities to define and coordinate evacuation zones. The map of Rohnert Park's evacuation zones have been published on the City website and the notice of the new maps have been published to the City's social media channels.

The link to the City's webpage which publishes the updated evacuation zones is below:

https://www.ci.rohnert-park.ca.us/city_hall/departments/public_safety/evacuation_and_disaster_preparedness

II. Timeframe for Recommendation Implementation

Recommendations R1 and R15 will be implemented by October 31, 2021, as recommended in the Grand Jury Report.

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Attachment 2

I. **Follow-up Actions (please attach this form to the Rohnert Park Response submitted on August 10, 2021.)**

The City of Rohnert Park implemented Recommendations R1 and R15 as recommended in the Grand Jury Report.

In response to Recommendation R1, action steps have been included in the City's Emergency Operations Plan to reach subpopulations who may not otherwise receive an alert. In Rohnert Park, this system is the deployment of Hi-Lo sirens to areas of the City where they will be needed in an emergency, coordinated by the Operations Section of the Rohnert Park Emergency Operations Center. In addition to the action steps to deploy Hi-Lo sirens in the Emergency Operations Plan, Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety has also developed a Standard Operating Procedure with the department's operations manual to regularly test (twice a year, once before fire season) and maintain the Hi-Lo siren system.

In response to Recommendation R15, the City of Rohnert Park convened a meeting of the Rohnert Park Emergency Operations Center Section Chiefs on October 5, 2021, to discuss the most up-to-date information and lessons learned from recent years' EOC activation events (2017 Tubbs Fire, 2019 and 2020 PSPS, 2019 Sonoma Complex Lightning Fire, and 2019 COVID Pandemic). Lessons learned have been updated to the Rohnert Park Emergency Response Plan and include:

- The equipment at the EOC is maintained in working order and updated as necessary. (page 80)
- Another alternate location is that of a virtual EOC. Where the circumstances of the event and the status of digital communication capabilities allow, and at the discretion of the EOC Director, personnel may remain at separate physical locations and meet virtually using platforms such as Zoom. (page 80)
- The City utilizes Veoci, a cloud-based crisis management / emergency response software, to facilitate the development and dissemination of all EOC information, including action plans, status boards, and logs. (page 86)
- Patrol vehicles are equipped with hi-lo sirens which may be utilized to notify residents to evacuate. (page 93)
- The City's updated evacuation zones are available to the public and are part of Sonoma County's emergency plans. (page 93)

The Rohnert Park Emergency Response Plan is posted on the City of Rohnert Park website and can be found at this link:

https://www.rpcity.org/services/emergency_services