



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**MANAGER'S REPORT**

DATE ISSUED: January 21, 2005 REPORT NO: 05-026

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee  
Agenda of January 26, 2005

SUBJECT: Office of Homeland Security Update

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE OR CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

The Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has requested that the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) provide a quarterly update on our disaster planning, prevention, preparedness, training, exercising, and response and recovery coordination efforts.

This report covers our accomplishments since the October 2004 presentation and our efforts to enhance preparedness within the City and the San Diego region.

DISCUSSION

The City's Office of Homeland Security has accomplished much over the past few months. The FY05 Strategic Plan identifying seven key goals was developed and included action steps necessary to accomplish each objective. Time lines were also developed to assist in tracking OHS progress and accomplishments. The plan is reviewed and updated on a monthly basis and modified as conditions and needs change.

## **OHS Strategic Plan Goals and Accomplishments to date:**

### **Goal 1: Ensure that the City of San Diego Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is in a constant state of readiness and integrated with all City Department Operations Centers (DOC).**

A comprehensive evaluation of the EOC that included an assessment of equipment, materials, documents, training, and other operational issues was completed. A plan was developed and implemented to ensure a base level of readiness, which included completion of the staffing roster to ensure all EOC positions are staffed three deep; implementing a monthly roster update; training of all EOC staff on the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and EOC operations; upgrading of some computers and software; and conducting an EOC tabletop exercise on October 28, 2004, to familiarize staff with their roles and responsibilities during an activation.

OHS is reviewing the County's EOC position checklist and will be incorporating any necessary changes to bring us in compliance with SEMS as well as the National Incident Management System. Training in the use of ETeam, a crisis management software application used in the EOC and all department operation centers (DOC), is planned for February and March, 2005.

The EOC and all city DOC's will participate in a countywide functional exercise in late spring. This will be the first opportunity for the EOC and the DOC staffs to hone their position and ETeam skills under a simulated high explosive detonation and weapons of mass destruction incident.

### **Goal 2: Distribute, manage, and pursue funding through State Homeland Security, Urban Area Security Initiative, and Emergency Management Performance grants.**

Grant administration and management has been a prime objective of OHS. The department is working in partnership with San Diego County Office of Emergency Services to manage \$13,850,981 designated for the City of San Diego in State Homeland Security, Urban Area Security Initiative, and Emergency Management Performance grants from Federal FY 2003 through FY 2004.

Currently, \$2,398,903 in grant funds has been expended on the equipment, planning, management and administration purposes listed below:

- Personal Protective Equipment for Fire, Police, and Emergency Medical personnel
- Decontamination equipment
- Interoperable communications equipment
- OHS staff positions and non-personnel operating costs

Additional funds are budgeted for critical infrastructure protection for the City Administration building. That project is in the Request for Proposal stage and is expected to be awarded and implemented in the next quarter.

The City has \$1,963,293 allocated to provide first responder awareness training to Police, Fire, Hazardous Materials teams, and Emergency Medical Services personnel. Once those disciplines have completed their awareness training, Public Works personnel, dispatchers, government administration, and elected officials will be trained.

OHS will be applying for the Department of Homeland Security's FY05 Homeland Security Grant Program that has allocated \$14,784,191 for the San Diego Urban Area to enhance our capacity to respond to incidents of terrorism, particularly those involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents, as well as natural disasters, through coordinated training, exercises, equipment acquisition, and technical assistance. We expect the grant application to be approved and awarded in late spring.

OHS will also be applying for the FY05 Emergency Management Program Grant and the FY05 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant.

**Goal 3: Establish the City of San Diego Homeland Preparedness Coordination Council (HPCC) as the leadership and steering body for City OHS efforts.**

The City Homeland Preparedness Coordinating Council (HPCC) continues to meet monthly and is assisting in developing the FY06 through FY07 Office of Homeland Security Strategic Plan. Participating City departments include Fire-Rescue, Police, Development Services, Transportation-Streets, General Services-Facilities, Metropolitan Wastewater, Water, and Public & Media Affairs. The group is also focused on development of a downtown Evacuation and Reentry Plan, identification of preplanning issues for seasonal operational needs, and identification of Public Works, dispatch, and government administrative personnel to be trained in the terrorism awareness course.

**Goal 4: Conduct initial OHS office and management assessment, then develop and implement organizational improvements.**

OHS is almost fully staffed with four of the five staff positions filled. The Administrative Aide position was recently vacated when the incumbent was promoted to a position in Park and Recreation. We have secured additional grant funds to hire a second Administrative Aide. We expect the hiring process for both positions to be completed in about two months.

The Office has identified the need for an additional Homeland Security Coordinator and has secured grant funds to support the position; however, the

current office space is too small to accommodate any additional staff. OHS is in the process of researching the availability of larger office space to accommodate our current needs and allow room for growth. OHS has plans to work with San Diego State's Homeland Security Master's Program to hire interns to assist in the office, which impacts our workspace needs.

**Goal 5: Develop and implement an OHS legislative advocacy and public information strategy.**

OHS has been working very closely with the City's Governmental Relations Office to identify legislative issues and priorities. Andrew Poat and Brent Eidsen are working closely with their legislative representatives in Sacramento and Washington to ensure the City's interests are addressed and that San Diego receives its fair share of any homeland security funds.

Our office meets monthly with four other Southern California cities who are also recipients of Urban Area Security Initiative grant funds - Los Angeles, Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Long Beach. This consortium shares information on their respective regional strategies, legislative efforts, and grant management issues. The meeting held on January 21, 2005, in San Diego included Governmental Relations representatives from each city.

The Director of Homeland Security has been meeting with each Councilmember to discuss OHS's mission and strategy to ensure the City's preparedness for any disaster, and to advise of City and regional homeland security and preparedness needs and issues. These meetings have been mutually beneficial and will be continued to ensure our elected officials are informed of our regional efforts.

OHS has established an internal as well as community outreach program to provide informational presentations to City departments, businesses, Community Town Councils, and other community venues. The office has also conducted regular meetings with the City Public and Media Affairs Director to identify speaking points, discuss the establishment of a Joint Information Center policy, and, more recently, to develop public service announcements to keep the public informed of storm related issues.

**Goal 6: In cooperation with the San Diego County Unified Disaster Council (UDC), oversee the implementation, review and revision process for the San Diego Urban Area Security Strategy (SDUASS).**

During the next quarter, OHS, in coordination with the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG), will begin a review and assessment of the SDUASS that was developed in 2003 to identify the goals and objectives that may need to be revised and/or have the timelines updated to better reflect implementation and completion dates. The State's Strategy will be reviewed to ensure consistency and compatibility.

The UAWG has unanimously approved the establishment of regional caches of Multi-Casualty Incident Response and Decontamination/WMD First Responder Equipment vehicles and equipment. This regional approach to purchasing and storing large caches of equipment in various areas of the county will ensure the urban area's preparedness to respond to any emergency and relieve each jurisdiction of the responsibility of acquiring and maintaining the same equipment. This will free up considerable grant funds that can be used for other critical needs throughout the region.

**Goal 7: In partnership with the County Emergency Medical Services Department coordinate pre-hospital improvements to disaster planning activities.**

When a suspected or confirmed act of bioterrorism occurs, it may be necessary to initiate mass immunization or prophylaxis operations. The County Public Health Officer is responsible for the overall management of Public Health Services within the region during such an event. OHS has been working with the County Public Health Officer to ensure a coordinated response effort that will not only protect the health and safety of our citizens but will also foster confidence in the public health system's ability to respond to an emergency.

OHS coordinated with the County Emergency Medical Services Department to secure access to EMAN, the Emergency Medical Alert Network of San Diego County. EMAN was developed by the Community Epidemiology Division of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency to facilitate bi-directional confidential communication between public health and safety agencies and the San Diego County medical community to ensure rapid identification of and response to unusual disease events, including known or suspected disease clusters, outbreaks, and possible acts of bioterrorism. This health alert network allows OHS to receive timely notifications on health issues that may affect the City of San Diego.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

August F. Ghio  
Director, Office of Homeland Security

---

Approved: Rey Arellano  
Deputy City Manager &  
Chief Information Officer

GHIO/DF