

OCTOBER FIRES UPDATE & AFTER ACTION REPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 23, 2018



The background features several flowing, wavy bands of color. At the top, a band of bright yellow and orange flows from left to right. Below it, a band of deep red and orange flows from left to right. At the bottom, there are more complex, overlapping waves of red and yellow, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is reminiscent of flames or liquid fire.

OCTOBER 2017 FIRES

FIRES OVER SONOMA



SUNDAY MORNING

- Night of October 8th and early morning of October 9th — 5 major and several smaller wildfires began Fueled by high winds, high fuel loads, low humidity
- 3 of 4 main roads into Sonoma Valley were closed — 121, 12, 37
- Fires merged to become the Nuns Fire (Adobe, Nuns, Norrbom and Partrick) which threatened Sonoma Valley and the City of Sonoma

EOC ACTIVATION

- 3:00 AM the City's EOC opened and was activated on Monday, October 9
- Staffed by City staff — too small to staff 24/7 for 8 days
- Brought in outside resources — North Bay Incident Management Team / ACM/PIOs from San Rafael & Novato / Retired Chief Mark Freeman



CITY'S EOC

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Purpose of the EOC is to provide a centralized location where public safety, emergency response, and support agencies coordinate planning, preparedness, and response activities.

EOC Director - Cathy Capriola (includes PIO)

Logistics Section - David Goodison

Operations Section - Bret Sackett

Fire Branch - Retired Fire Chief Mark Freeman

Law Branch - On Duty Sergeant

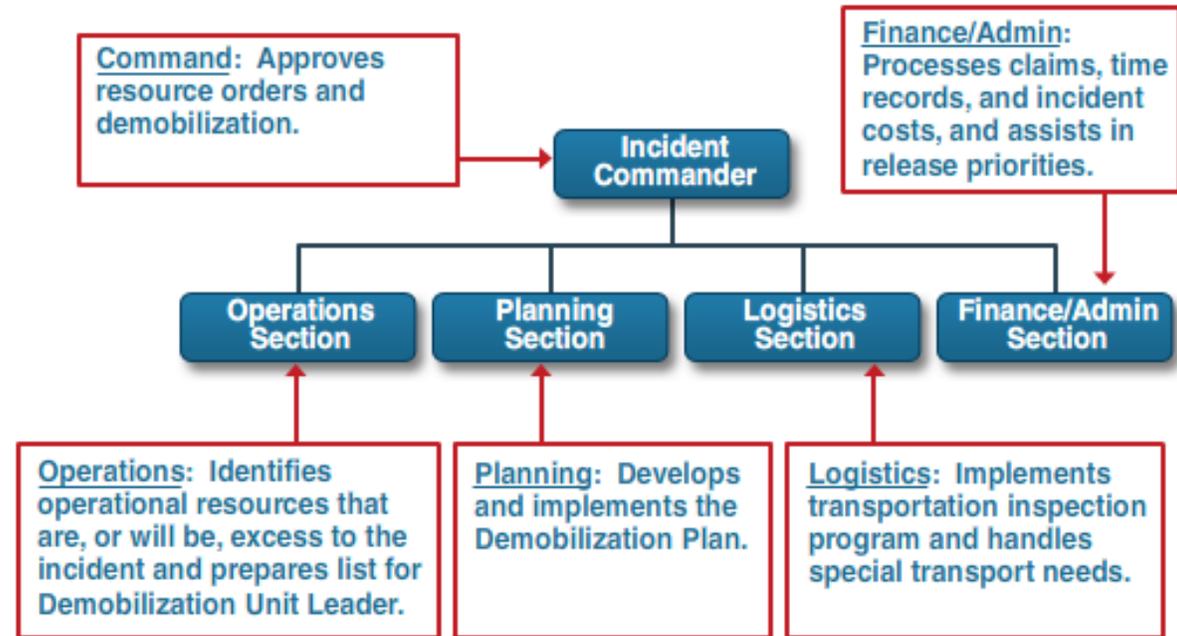
Finance Section - Sue Casey

Planning Section - Wayne Wirick

City's EOC served two roles:

1. EOC for City of Sonoma city limits
2. Mutual aid support to Sonoma County EOC

Operated from 10/9/2017 – 10/17/2017



EOC PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- Maintain the safety of the citizens of Sonoma and provide mutual aid support to Sonoma Valley;
- Support the needs and safety of first responders as needed;
- Maintain the continued operation of the City's water system and other critical facilities and operations;
- Coordinate the opening of emergency evacuation centers as needed to support Sonoma Valley and the Sonoma County EOC;
- Help coordinate meals for volunteers, emergency evacuation center occupants and emergency response staff;
- Provide public information as available and appropriate;
- Assist with the planning and coordination of the evacuation and closure of the two emergency evacuation centers sheltering SDC clients and staff at the Veterans' Memorial Building and Adele Harrison Middle School.

DAY 1- MONDAY SONOMA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SHELTER



- City EOC asking SVUSD to open SVHS as evacuation shelter to support County mutual aid
- Large site away from the edge of town
- General evacuation shelter
- At high, up to 365 individuals in the shelter and 50 individuals in their cars
- SVUSD/SVHS staff managed and operated the shelter for 7 days
- City staff coordinated the community's effort to provide food, cots, blankets and other resources
- Major thank you to SVUSD/SVHS!

DAY 1 - MONDAY SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER (SDC)



- Sonoma Development Center evacuated
 - SVUSD, SDC buses
 - 233 SDC clients sheltered at Adele Harrison Middle School and Sonoma Veterans Building; 148 individuals were non-ambulatory; plus staff
- City staff coordinated efforts to provide food, cots, blankets and other resources
- Stayed 2 nights; relocated to Dixon
- Major thank you to our local veterans and SVUSD!

DAY 1 - VOLUNTEER CENTER SONOMA COMMUNITY CENTER



- City had contract with Sonoma Community Center to serve as Volunteer Center during an emergency.
- Responsible for registering and organizing over 400 community volunteers to assist.
- Thanks to Bank of Marin for their office space when the Community Center was in the voluntary evacuation area.
- Many thanks to SCC!



FOOD AND THE "10 POUND FIRE"

- Local Food Angels – step forward and supply food
 - Rotary, Red Grape, and Girl and the Fig/Suite D -- leadership
 - Grocery Stores
 - Hotels
 - Numerous local restaurants and chefs
- Food for EOC, Shelters, First Responders and all Mutual Aid
 - 10# fire versus water bottle and Power Bar



THANK YOU

CITY WATER CREW BEHIND THE SCENES

- Water Crew worked in 2-person 12-hour shifts
- 24-7 coverage
- Kept water system fully functional
- Pumping water up the hill to Thornsberry tank supplying fire hydrants



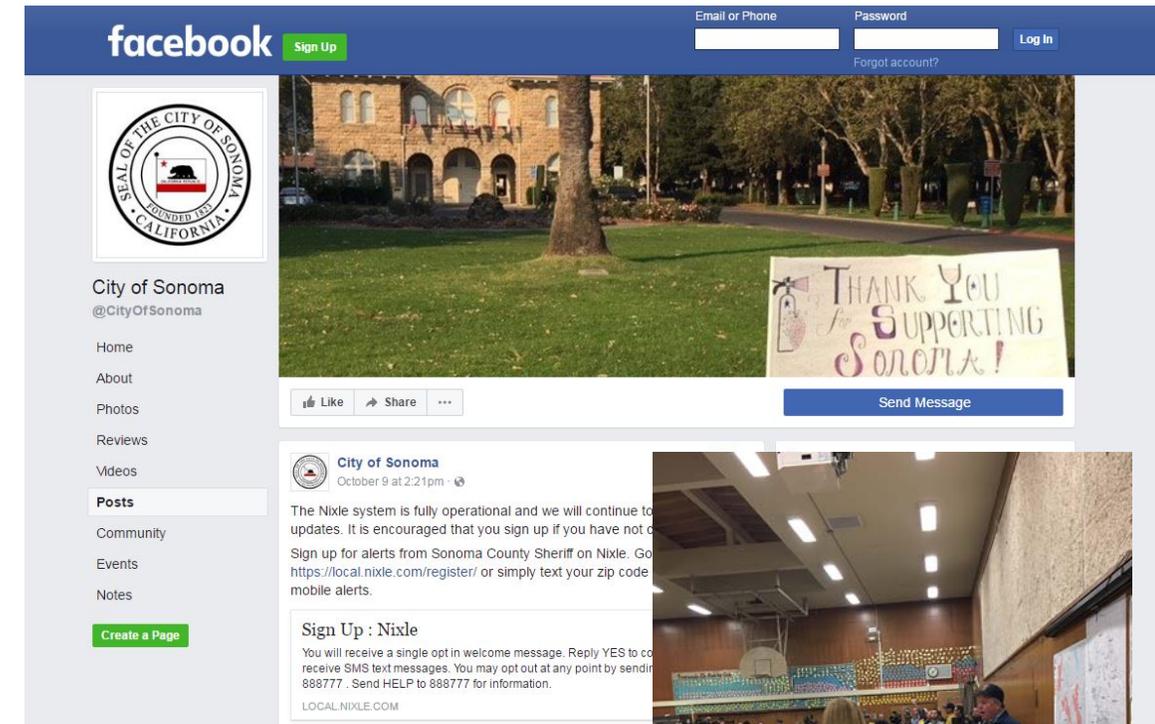
OTHER PARTNERS

- North Bay Incident Management Team
- Retired District staff
- Sonoma County
- Red Cross
- PIO support – cities of Novato & San Rafael
- Sonoma Valley Hospital
- La Luz
- Sonoma Raceway
- Pets Lifeline
- Sonoma Valley Community Communications
- Sonoma Index Tribune
- Native Sons
- Many other volunteers and donors



PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Supported Nixle updates through Sheriff's Department
- 129 Facebook posts which were viewed by up to 46,000 unique individuals (during period of 10/9-10/25)
- Coordinated with KSVY/SVTV to share info on local radio and TV
- Produced several videos with Mayor, Fire Chief, Police Chief and City Manager; also CalFire, including bilingual (shared via social media and SVTV)
- Held a Town Hall meeting (televised and streamed live via Facebook)
- Rolled new City website early to provide a Fire Recovery page and continue public information efforts



The image shows a screenshot of the City of Sonoma Facebook page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Facebook logo, a 'Sign Up' button, and fields for 'Email or Phone' and 'Password' with a 'Log In' button. Below the navigation bar is the City of Sonoma profile picture, which is the Seal of the City of Sonoma, California, founded in 1857. The profile name is 'City of Sonoma' with the handle '@CityOfSonoma'. The page features a cover photo of a large brick building with a sign in the foreground that reads 'THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SONOMA!'. Below the cover photo are 'Like', 'Share', and 'Send Message' buttons. A post from 'City of Sonoma' dated October 9 at 2:21 pm is visible. The post text reads: 'The Nixle system is fully operational and we will continue to provide updates. It is encouraged that you sign up if you have not done so. Sign up for alerts from Sonoma County Sheriff on Nixle. Go to <https://local.nixle.com/register/> or simply text your zip code to 888777 for mobile alerts.' Below the post is a 'Sign Up : Nixle' section with the text: 'You will receive a single opt in welcome message. Reply YES to confirm you want to receive SMS text messages. You may opt out at any point by sending 888777. Send HELP to 888777 for information.' and the URL 'LOCAL.NIXLE.COM'.



OCTOBER FIRES - IMPACTS TO VALLEY

	Total Structure	Residences	Others	Acres Burned	% of District
Eldridge	29	3	26	421	24%
Kenwood	282	140	142	9,402	35%
Mayacamas	109	48	61	7,966	98%
Schell-Vista	99	33	66	5,114	5%
Sonoma Valley / Glen Ellen	375	183	192	6,397	22%
TOTAL	894	407	487	29,300	N/A

SUCSESSES

- EOC operated effectively with staffing augmentation, technology and communication systems in place
- Enhanced public information and use of video over the days of the fire
- 3 shelters opened and operated with community management and support; EOP had outlined Red Cross to manage shelters
- Community support – shelter management / volunteers / food
- SVFRA and Sonoma County Sheriff — management of city and portions of Valley and Glen Ellen meant better coordination and communication — governance matters.
- Public Works ensured water flow for fire fighting
- SVFRA ensured regular medical response/EMS in addition to fighting fires

REIMBURSEMENT

AFTER ACTION / LESSONS LEARNED
NEW INITIATIVES / WORK PLAN



FEMA REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

- Due to the President's declaration of a national disaster for the October 2017 California wildfires, FEMA granted a 30 day window for Public Assistance where all FEMA eligible reimbursable expenses incurred between October 9, 2017 - November 7, 2017 would be 100% reimbursable.
- Normally FEMA reimburses up to 75% of eligible expenses and CalOES reimburses up to 25% of the remaining amount.
- Very cumbersome process requiring great level of detail and justification; not all costs will be covered.

LOCAL REIMBURSEMENT

- Sonoma County
 - Sheriff's Department absorbed all City police personnel for the period 10/09/17 – 10/17/17, since focus of their time was to support the Sonoma Valley. Sheriff submitted for reimbursement; reduced the City's police budget by \$439,362.
 - Sonoma County EOC picked up all cost related to the shelters
 - Reimbursing Sonoma Unified School District directly
 - Reimbursing the City's shelter related costs which totaled \$4,730.
- SVFRA
 - Reimbursed for all personnel time during the response to the October Fires by Cal Fire and Cal OES.
 - Also reimbursed for engine and equipment costs, fuel used by the incident and our administrative and workers compensation costs associated with our response to the incident.
 - Total reimbursed to the SVFRA related to the October Fires is \$822,332.
 - The SVFRA has also worked with FEMA to seek reimbursement for some additional costs that were not reimbursed specifically through the incident. Our initial application has been denied by Cal OES and we are in the process of appealing this decision. The costs that we are seeking reimbursement for amount to \$15,864.46.
- City
 - Total FEMA Eligible Reimbursable Expenses complied to date: \$95,218.
 - Total FEMA In-eligible expenses to date: \$21,238.10.
 - Total expense for extra fleet services charged to the City by the County was \$10,343. These charges will not be eligible.
 - Total expenses related to engineering consulting and cost to file notice of mitigation work for soil erosions on burned slopes of WPCD were \$6,622.33.
 - Total In-direct Administrative Costs (FEMA Disaster Recovery Specialist) - \$4,860.57. This is the total for travel expenses and it is not reimbursable by FEMA

AFTER ACTION EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION / EOC

- **Emergency Notification** — Continue to work with Sonoma County on notification for evacuations
- **Evacuation Terminology and Messaging** — Educate public and create clear evacuation terminology and communication
- **Road Closures / Check Points** - Update policies for identifying authorized personnel; create emergency identification cards for employees
- **Sonoma Valley EOC / Governance** — Explore localized County presence and how the City's EOC could function as an EOC for the Valley in partnership with Sonoma County
- **Agreements** — Prepare agreements with vendors and partners for food, shelter, equipment, EOC management, public info, etc.
- **Training** — Provide training for City staff in NIMS / SEMS;
- **Augmented Staffing for EOC** - Plan for augmented staffing in EOC for various functions; develop MOUs/agreements
- **ID Badges/Vests** — Ensure ID badges, vests and other identification are in place
- **Communication with City Hall** — Maintain daily communication with EOC/City Hall staff to support those doing regular business operations
- **Physical materials donations** — Develop plan for dealing with material and food donations; appreciation to Rotary for handling this in October
- **Training / Exercises / Roles** — Increase training, exercises and information for City staff, key community partners, and City Council; seek opportunities to collaborate with Sonoma County or other cities to share resources; enhance communication practices.

AFTER ACTION SHELTERS / VOLUNTEERS / MEALS

- **Local Shelter Management** — Develop local shelter management plan and guidelines that does not rely on Red Cross resources
- **Medical Equipment and Needs** — Develop protocols/plan for medical equipment and needs local medical community and Sonoma County
- **Medically Fragile Evacuees** — Work with health agencies to develop protocols/plan for best ways to support medical fragile residents
- **Medical Staff** — Develop protocols/plans for verifying medical professionals and licenses to provide medical services to shelter
- **Volunteer Systems and Procedures** — Work with Sonoma Community Center to enhance equipment, systems and procedures for volunteer center coordination
- **Food Contracts / Plan** — Develop food plan and protocols; contracts and agreements with food providers

AFTER ACTION PIO / COMMUNICATION / DISASTER COUNCIL

- **PIO Staffing** — Put contracts/agreements in place for outside PIO assistance; update PIO resources and outreach plan for emergency
- **Sonoma County EOC Communications** — Investigate joint training for County EOC/City EOC communications; explore direct liaison from Sonoma County for shelter
- **Internet Service at School Sites** — Seek back-up Internet options for shelter sites
- **Hospital / Medical Community / EOC Communication** — Increase training, coordination and communication with Sonoma Valley Hospital and Sonoma Valley Community Health Center
- **Update EOP / Agreements** - Bring updated EOP and agreements to Disaster Council

AFTER ACTION OTHER ITEMS

- Reconfigure EOC layout for more effective use based on multi-day event
- Group email/text for contacting employees for emergency call-out
- Updated emergency resource contact lists
- Train staff on EOC email system and communication
- Back-up for GIS map printing
- System to review outside liaisons coming to the EOC
- Explore additional radios for EOC use to connect to field staff
- Emergency response checklist in event of mass evacuation
- Investigate additional back-up EOC options outside of the City limits

WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

- Council sub-committees through the fall/winter -- appreciation/recognition, housing, storm/environmental mitigation, non-profit, fundraising
- November was appreciation/recognition – came together as a community
- Monitored winter storms for runoff and flooding
- FEMA reimbursement process and record keeping
- After Action reports / Lessons Learned / 2018 work plan going forward
- Monitoring economic impact assessment – Dip or a bounce?
 - Chamber / City's ED partner – annual business survey with Fire focus
 - Transient Occupancy Tax - City down \$215K for month of October
 - Property Tax - \$55K reduction; year 1 impact only; then goes to specific agencies

ACTIVITIES/FOCUS POST FIRE

Steve Akre – Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority

Serving the City of Sonoma and the Valley of the Moon and Glen Ellen Fire Districts





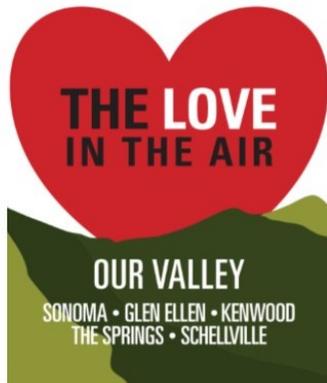
UPDATE ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES POST OCTOBER 2017 FIRE

- Emergency preparedness
- Fire prevention
- Fire operations (Response)
- Administration

IN SUMMARY

- Complicated, immense multi-jurisdictional fire -- CalFire as lead.
- City of Sonoma was very fortunate ... yet significant losses in the Valley and County overall
- Worked this fire as a valley together ... resilient / coming together
 - 3rd largest "city" in Sonoma County ... 45,000 population
 - Integrated Police/Sheriff leadership for Valley
 - SVFRA (City, VOMFD, Glen Ellen)
 - City / SVUSD / Non-profits / Business Community / Residents – coming together
 - City as hub with culture of Valley collaboration and support
- All disasters are local ... the outpouring of support from Sonoma community was amazing.
 - Many partners and many people and organizations that helped
 - Thank you to the Council, City staff and our community

MOVING FORWARD...TOGETHER



coming
TOGETHER



QUESTIONS / FEEDBACK

