

READ AND CONSIDERED

DATE 8/27/2021 BY B

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Emergency Alerts and Communications

Report Date: June 20, 2021

Response by: Evelyn Mitchell Title: Mayor

Agency/Department Name: City of Healdsburg

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

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

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F8

(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: R1, R4, R5, R15 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

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

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



Date: August 24, 2021 Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: 2
(See attached Civil Grand Jury Response Requirements)

City of Healdsburg Response to Grand Jury Report

Findings

F8. Due to the topography within Sonoma County, the re-institution of audible alarms such as air-raid sirens could dependably reach residents in remote areas and work as a reliable tried-and-true alarm system.

The City of Healdsburg does not agree that the re-institution of audible alarms such as air-raid sirens will dependably reach residents in remote areas. The City of Healdsburg Fire Department has participated in testing these types of devices, and the results are inconclusive.

Recommendations

R1: By October 31, 2021 the Sheriff's Office, Department of Emergency Management, and nine cities' departments include within their Emergency Operations Plan action steps to reach all subpopulations within the County who may not otherwise receive an alert.

The City of Healdsburg updated its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in 2021. The EOP is a policy level document, and thus does not include specific, department-level action steps. The EOP provides for a "Whole Community Approach" that contemplates the diverse needs of the City's entire community, including the means in which our entire community may receive alerts. Further, the EOP establishes a Cultural Liaison Officer with specific duties designed to ensure all subpopulations within our community receive critical information and services, including assessing the impacts to and the needs of culturally diverse communities in the City, obtaining and sharing information with those communities, and coordinating resource and services to address unmet needs. When the EOC is activated, the Cultural Liaison Officer will assist with ensuring that all subpopulations within the City receive alerts.

R4: By October 8, 2021, the Sheriff's Office, Department of Emergency Management, and nine cities work together to ensure consistent naming for all evacuation maps used by the public and first responders.

The City of Healdsburg has been working in partnership with the Department of Emergency Management Sonoma County Sheriff's Office since July 2020 on pre-defining evacuation zones. Throughout the process, the City and County discussed naming conventions. The City and the County agreed that all evacuation zones that fall within the City of Healdsburg will be identified with "HE," and have no crossover with zones within the County jurisdiction.

R5: By October 8, 2021, the Sheriff's Office, Department of Emergency Management, and nine cities work together to ensure the public is informed of their evacuation zones by publishing evacuation maps in local media, online, and through SoCoEmergency.

The City of Healdsburg posted its emergency evacuation zones on its website and social media channels in June 2021. Additionally, the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management published links to the City website published as part of a larger community outreach effort.

R15: By October 31, 2021, the nine cities update their Emergency Operations Plan to incorporate the most up-to-date information and lessons learned since the disasters of 2017 and post it on their websites.

The City of Healdsburg updated its Emergency Operations Plan in 2021; the City Council approved the updated EOP on May 17, 2021. The update process incorporated current best practices and lessons learned from disasters since 2017 that impacted the City of Healdsburg. The EOP has been posted on the City's website since July 2021.