



EOC Coordination City of Benicia Valero Refinery

Valero Community Advisory Panel
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FEMA



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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



What is an EOC

Emergency Operations Center

- A physical location designed to support emergency response
- Staff meets at the EOC to manage preparations for an impending event or manage the response to an ongoing incident
- Provide coordinated support to incident command, on-scene personnel and/or other EOCs



What is an EOC

EOCs generally perform the following primary functions:

- Collecting, analyzing and sharing information
- Supporting resource needs and requests, including allocation and tracking
- Coordinating plans and determining current and future needs
- Provide coordination and policy direction

City of Benicia EOC

The City of Benicia's Primary EOC is located at Fire Station-11

150 Military West, Benicia, CA

- City Emergency Managers regularly train in emergency operations.
- Most commonly: Tabletop Exercises and Functional Exercises



Valero Refinery EOC

Valero's Primary EOC is located in their administration building at 610 Industrial Way

According to the Valero Emergency Procedures Manual, the EOC is...

“a facility from which Site Management provides support and coordination during emergencies.”





EOC Training

EOC training is a critical component of emergency preparedness. The two most common types of EOC training are

- Tabletop Exercises
- Functional Exercises

Benicia Fire personnel have been invited and have attended drills at the Valero EOC

and

Valero Emergency personnel have been invited and have attend drills at the City EOC

City's Responsibilities

The City of Benicia Fire Department has the legal **Authority and Responsibility** for providing emergency response within the city limits, including Valero.

The overarching mission of the Benicia Fire Department is to protect the lives, property and the environment



Valero's Responsibilities

The Valero refinery has a legal responsibility to notify the Benicia Fire Department of any incident significant enough to affect the health and safety of the public or impact the environment

This requirement is based on both Federal, State, and City regulations and is outlined in detail in the Valero Emergency Procedures Manual



May 5th, 2017 EOC Activations

Early in the incident, Benicia Fire administration activated the City EOC (0745 hours)

Valero also activated their EOC (unknow what time)



May 5th, 2017

EOC Coordination Challenges

It is important to note that Private-Sector EOCs are not uncommon

It also must be recognized that some of the goals and objectives of a Private-Sector EOC are going to be different from a Public Safety EOC



May 5th, 2017

EOC Coordination Challenges

In reviewing the incident, it became clear that there was a lack of communication between the two EOCs which created numerous challenges

There are differing opinions on exactly what happened with attempts at coordination.

(Invites, evacuation zones, timing, etc.)

The intent of this presentation is not to place blame but to discuss what has been done to improve coordination in the future.



EOC Coordination Solution

January 2018: Valero staff Joe Bateman and Don Cuffel meet with Benicia Fire Chief Chadwick, and Police Chief Upson to develop a plan to improve EOC coordination moving forward



EOC Coordination Solution



An understanding was reached that it is unrealistic to say that we would always have a unified and co-located EOC



EOC Coordination Solution

Valero has committed to having a Valero representative present in the City EOC whenever an activation may impact the refinery

The City has committed to having a City representative present in the Valero EOC whenever an activation may impact the City

The representatives will fill a liaison role

EOC Coordination Emergency Plans

Both Valero and the City have committed to incorporating the Liaison positions into each respective Emergency Operation Plan





Questions?