

County of San Luis Obispo

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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COUNTY AND RELATED AGENCIES TO HOLD EMERGENCY DRILL NOVEMBER 7

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, November 6, 2012 – The County of San Luis Obispo along with numerous other local and state agencies will participate in a day-long emergency exercise (drill) on Wednesday, November 7, 2012. The drill will be based on a simulated emergency at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and will be held in collaboration with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

While drills and exercises are often held throughout the county, this exercise will involve simultaneously testing a number of communications systems, interagency coordination procedures, and emergency response plans in order to help determine the effectiveness of existing emergency readiness procedures.

Since various jurisdictions will be participating, there will be simulated emergency communications over radios and telephones. Though all communications will include the statement “this is a drill”, members of the news media or the public who may hear incomplete portions of such communications can rest assured it is only a drill. The Emergency Alert System will not be activated for the drill.

The simulated emergency will involve activating the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and other local agency emergency coordination and support facilities. Since this drill generally concentrates on

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Emergency Operations Centers and related emergency management plans and procedures, the public should not notice any unusual public safety agency activity related to the drill on Wednesday. The exercise will be anticipated to run from the early morning hours until late afternoon.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be evaluating the performance of local, state, and other agencies during this exercise, while the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be evaluating PG&E.

Diablo Canyon Power Plant and other emergency preparedness information can be found in the white pages of the San Luis Obispo County edition of the AT&T telephone book or on the County Office of Emergency Services website at <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/OES.htm> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SLOCountyOES>

Should an actual emergency happen simultaneously with the drill, simulated activities will be suspended and the public will be advised as necessary through the local media or other public notification methods.

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EDITOR'S NOTE, Twitter: County OES has established a Twitter account that we are just in the early stages of using. We plan to use it or a second account that we have established in case of a large scale emergency or other unusual incident that involves our office. In the meantime as we establish our in house procedures for use, we will occasionally send out basic information related to emergency readiness or other issues, such as before or the days of the quarterly Early Warning System siren tests and related activities. We are slocountyoes on Twitter. @slocountyoes

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