

July 30, 2001

Honorable Rodney S. Melville
Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Response To Grand Jury Report On Emergency Power

Your Honor,

The Montecito Fire Protection District pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05 provides this response. The Grand Jury made five findings and recommendations regarding emergency power in our fire stations. The fire district has addressed each of the findings and our actions are summarized below.

Station One- 595 San Ysidro Road

Finding #36- “There are inconsistencies in the identification of emergency powered outlets and switches.”

The fire district agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #36- “Inspection should be done on the entire facility to correctly identify switches and receptacles. All plates should be labeled as to what is, and what is not, powered by the emergency generator.”

The fire district will have an electrical contractor identify the affected outlets and mark them. This work will be completed by the end of 2001.

Finding #37- “ The 3-foot rule was violated in the basement in front of the electrical panels.

The fire district agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #37- “Correct the violation.

The fire district has corrected this violation.

Finding #38- “The emergency generator does not power the entire fire station.

The fire district agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #38- “Evaluate the generator capacity to see if it could feed the entire facility or at least increase lighting from that which is presently available.”

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The emergency power needs of the station were designed to take into consideration the minimum practical power needs. Increase capacity would mean a larger generator with resulting increase in fuel consumption and air pollution. A larger generator would also run at a lower load and therefore be less reliable.

Fire Station Two- 2300 Sycamore Canyon Road

Finding #39- “The emergency generator was not working properly.”

The fire district agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #39- “The Montecito Fire District should repair the emergency generator as soon as possible.”

The generator has been repaired.

Finding #40- “Emergency power does not illuminate the change-out room or the computer area.”

The fire district agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #40- “Connect additional lighting in the change-out room and the computer area.”

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The entire station is going to be replaced with a new station in the next two years.

Finding #41- “There is no UPS unit for the computer in this fire station.”

The fire district agrees with this finding.

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Recommendation #41- “Install a UPS unit for the computer.”

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted for the same reason as indicated in recommendation 40.

The fire district thanks the Grand Jury for their efforts and hard work. Please contact Chief Ron McClain if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Roland Jensen, Board President

Cc: Grand Jury