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MCOE responded to the 19-20 Grand Jury that they are currently working with the California School Board Association to go through all MCOE policies for updating and to ensure all policies are current. MCOE further stated that following this process all their policies will be available to the public online.

F3. The Committee recommended expenses administered for oversight and administration of the Charter School be defined with separate a profit/loss sheet available to the public. MCOE responded to the 18-19 Grand Jury that the recommendation required further analysis. MCOE noted that county offices of education do not use or create "profit and loss" statements. However, the MCOE stated that the Superintendent would further study whether to implement the spirit of the recommendation, which is to demonstrate that the chartering of a charter school by MCOE benefits Mono County students.

MCOE responded to the 19-20 Grand Jury that the funding stream created by the charter school which benefits MCOE is part of their yearly budget. The ADA (average daily attendance) the charter school generates is part of the state calculation used to determine our yearly funding. This ADA is also used in the calculation the state uses to determine our county special education funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1 and R2: The Grand Jury finds that MCOE has complied with the recommendations they agreed to in their original response.

R3: The Grand Jury recommends that while MCOE has stated the Charter School brings in additional State funding to the benefit of Mono County students, they should also provide a comparison of the Charter School expenses which offset revenues from the State generated by the Charter School. And, provide a method for that information to be available to Mono County residents.

Continuity Committee Mono County Jail Report

FINDINGS

F1: The 18-19 Grand Jury recommended that the Mono County Board of Supervisors and Department of Public Works should make every effort to progress the final planning and construction phases of the New Jail building to avoid cost overruns, provide the best possible long-term facility and be able to incorporate the health clinic for locals. Timeline: End of 2019.

In their response the Mono County Sheriff's Office agreed with the recommendation. According to Mono County staff the jail project was delayed due to the construction of the new County Building in Mammoth Lakes. That is still the case as of this writing.

F2: The 18-19 Grand Jury recommended that the Mono County Board of Supervisors should fund all open jail staff positions. Timeline: The next Fiscal Budget.

In their response The Sheriff's Office agreed with the recommendation. Sheriff Braun requested the funding of all positions during the budget process, and the 2019-2020 Mono County Budget funded 18 out of 20 positions in the Jail, leaving two Public Safety Officer positions unfunded. The Sheriff's Office is currently in the hiring process for three funded positions: one current vacancy and two anticipated vacancies.

The 19-20 Grand Jury verified with the Mono County Jail that the situation is still as the Sheriff's Office described in their response.

F3: The 18-19 Grand Jury recommended the Sheriff's department to provide additional camera coverage for any potential blind spots within the current jail facility. Timeline: Within the next six months.

In their response, the Sheriff's Office agreed with the recommendation and stated that they were assessing the positioning of the current cameras to ensure that all aspects of Jail operations are covered. It should be noted that some aspects that are not covered by cameras are in the constant line of sight of the control center. We will also work with Public Works staff in the planning of the New Jail to install cameras to cover all aspects of Jail operations.

The 19-20 Grand Jury found the cameras have yet to be installed.

F4: The 18-19 Grand Jury recommended that Mono County continue discussions of a possible Joint Powers Authority to manage a new 911 system shared by Mono and Inyo Counties and their appropriate emergency agencies (Police, Fire, Etc.) to provide improved and consistent services to the community.

The Sheriff's Office agreed with the recommendation and is actively engaging with partner agencies in Mono and Inyo Counties on the potential for a regional dispatch center. On August 13, 2019, the Mono County Board of Supervisors approved an expenditure of up to \$25,000 toward a Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan for a regional dispatch center. The Town of Mammoth Lakes also approved a \$25,000 expenditure, and requests are pending with the Bishop City Council and Inyo County Board of Supervisors.

Mono County Jail staff indicated to the 19-20 Grand Jury that Mono County's efforts to create a regional emergency dispatch center in partnership with Inyo County are ongoing.

F5: The Mono County Board of Supervisors is recommended to make an annual visit/tour of the Mono County Jail. Timeline: Annual.

The Sheriff's Office agreed with the recommendation and said they would welcome a visit by the Mono County Board of Supervisors.

The 19-20 Grand Jury finds that no Mono County Supervisors have paid a visit to the Jail Facility

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1-4: The Grand Jury finds that Mono County and Mono Sheriff's Office have made every effort to comply with the recommendations of the 18-19 Grand Jury.

R5: The Grand Jury finds that, given current circumstances, a visit to the Jail would not be appropriate at this time.

Hilton Creek Continuity Report

FINDINGS

F1: The 18-19 Grand Jury recommended the HCCSD (Hilton Creek Community Service District) review and restructure their policies and procedures to ensure adequate information is communicated to allow a level of competition and fairness to avoid any appearance of impropriety. Timeline: By January 1, 2020.

HCCSD responded that they had requested help from County Counsel to devise a "quick-reference contracting and purchasing rules" chart and "contract thresholds and requirements" guide. In addition, HCCSD stated they had been trying to get more information about AB2249 regarding its application to HCCSD's public contracts. Their goal was to implement this recommendation as soon as they received the information from County Counsel.

The HCCSD provided the 19-20 Grand Jury with a copy of a detailed chart and guide as referenced above. They also indicated that they have dropped their request for clarification of AB2249 because they still have not heard from County Counsel.

F2: The 18-19 Grand Jury recommended HCCSD create and provide consistent bidding documentation and a delivery process of said documents to interested third-party service providers.

HCCSD responded to the 18-19 Grand Jury that they were in the process of creating consistent bidding documents and procedures relevant to the varying types of HCCSD projects they do. Our goal is to meet all deadlines set by the Mono County Grand Jury.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: The Grand Jury finds the HCCSD has complied with the 18-19 Grand Jury recommendations and continues to improve its contracting and purchasing rules. The Grand Jury has no further recommendations

19-20 Grand Jury Emergency Preparedness Final Report

Background

With the escalating dangers people everywhere face, the Mono County Grand Jury thought it important to report on some of the unique challenges facing Mono County, should the county be faced with a catastrophic event. We focused our report on the ability of Mono County's first responders and emergency planners to respond to such an event by looking at three main emergency response capacities: one, training and personnel, two, infrastructure, and three, communications. We will call these "Response Capacity One/Training and Personnel," "Response Capacity Two/Infrastructure and Response," and "Response Capacity Three/Communications" in the following report.

As the Grand Jury was pursuing its investigation, Mono County found itself confronted with just such an event; the ongoing coronavirus pandemic that was declared to be a county-wide emergency on March 16 and was still ongoing at the time of the writing of this report. At that time, the Grand Jury met and made the decision to discontinue the investigation into emergency preparedness for two reasons: first, in order not to create any distraction as Mono County's leaders responded to the pandemic and second, because the Grand Jury recognized that there will likely be a better opportunity to assess Mono County's emergency response capacity at a future date, once the Covid-19 emergency is over and there is an ability to look back at how the Covid-19 emergency, the longest lasting and most profound in the county's history, was handled.

Summary

Mono County faces a number of potential threats. For example, as a rural county surrounded by forest and desert, wildfires are one of the greatest threats to the county. Along with these increasingly large wildfires, another threat, Public Safety Power Shutoff events, where power can be shut off by utilities for multi-day stretches, are another.

Other events, such as emergencies due to large snowfall and avalanches are a relatively unique threat. Long winters and potentially large amounts of snow can create obstacles to emergency response.

Mono County also lies in an active earthquake zone; earthquakes are a serious threat.

More common threats to Mono County are multi-fatality automobile accidents, or a public health emergency.

What also makes Mono County unusual in facing these threats is two main things: one, its remoteness and geographical distance from large population areas and two, the fact it is a tourist-based economy.

For example, Mono County has a population of about 14,000 people, with a corresponding amount of public resources, staffing and infrastructure, but the county also sees more than 4.7 million visitor days per year.

Mono County's remote location also creates difficulties in receiving help from neighboring agencies. Mono County is considered to be one of only a half dozen counties in the state considered to be a "frontier county" by state and national authorities—(According to the National Center for Frontier Communities, "Frontier America consists of sparsely populated areas (less than six people per square mile) that are geographically isolated from population centers and services. Frontier, like rural, suburban, or urban, is a term intended to categorize a portion of the population continuum. Frontier refers to the most remote end of that continuum...")

As such, significant help by highway is hours away at best, with the most accessible emergency help located in either the Carson Valley about 140 miles away to the north, or in the Ridgecrest/ Palmdale area, about 140 miles away to the south. Plane and helicopter access is also limited, due to the county's extreme weather and terrain.

Methodology

The Grand Jury conducted interviews with Mono County and Town of Mammoth Lakes (The TOML is the only community in Mono County that is incorporated) leaders in the areas of emergency response and communications. We also reviewed publicly available documents. We did not ask TOML or Mono County to provide documents, once the Coronavirus crisis arose, after March 13, 2020.

Supporting documents:

- <https://www.sierrawave.net/mammoth-lakes-fire-council-receives-grant-for-lakes-basin/>
- Resolution 2016-02, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department
- Community Planning for Wildfire "Final Recommendations for the Town of Mammoth Lakes" 2018
- Chapter 26.040 Transient Standards & Enforcement Mono County General Plan
- First Net info: <https://firstnet.gov/newsroom/press-releases/firstnet-authority-unveils-roadmap-plans-investment-principles>
- Quick Reference Contracting and Purchasing Rules
- Mono County HCCSD Contract Thresholds and Requirements (2019):
- All Hazards Team Contract
- Interagency Mutual Aid Agreement
- AB2249 Contracts by Public Agencies

Discussion

The TOML maintains an EOC (Emergency Operations Center) that is set up in the Minaret Mall's second floor (in a room called Suite Z) for emergency response purposes. This is the main EOC for the town; other places have included the Community Center on Forest Trail or field offices when needed. The county has a mobile EOC capacity, where an EOC can be set up in a trailer and moved, if need be, as well.

Response Capacity One: Training and Personnel

For the purpose of looking at the county's response capacity in terms of personnel and training, the Grand Jury focused on interviews with the MLFD (Mammoth Lakes Fire Department), the TOML (Town of Mammoth Lakes) government, and MCSO (Mono County Sheriff's Office).

The county responds to most emergencies using a "Mutual Aid" system, which is an agreement entered into by the TOML, Mammoth Fire District, and Mono County. From this group, an EOC can be created.

The county is also working on creating and training and certifying an AHIMT (All Hazards Incident Management Team) that would be available during emergencies. The team consists of a standing group of personnel from the three agencies taking part in the agreement. According to interviews with these groups, anyone on the AHIMT team must be given time by their prospective agencies to take part in training exercises. They will still be employed by and receive their normal benefits from their employer when they are working with the AHIMT.

At the time of this report, it was estimated that they are about halfway through their training regimen, which is based on the ICS noted above.

The county and TOML employees have already been through hundreds of hours of training in the ICS: they "are all at the 100 to 200 to 300 levels" according to Town officials.

That said, there are limits to what the team, called a 'Type 3 Team' under the ICS training, would take on alone. For example, active wildfires would generally be outside the scope of the team, as wildfires are generally handled by state or federal agencies who specialize in wildfire management, such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, CalFire, etc.

The AHIMT has been used recently on some small events. The system was used last summer at times when fire danger was extremely high, but it operated in coordination with other wildfire responding agencies. The team receives technical assistance from the California Office of Emergency Services, or OES.

If an incident goes on for more than 24 hours, an EOC could be formed in Suite Z. This is a different multi-agency group comprised of various entities within the county, such as Public Health, the Mammoth Lakes Police, the Mammoth Fire Department, the Town's various departments such as Public Works, the county and various agencies from the county, Mammoth Hospital and possibly more, which could then make an emergency declaration.

A declaration can then pave the way to receive funding and resources from State or Federal agencies.

RESPONSE CAPACITY 2: INFRASTRUCTURE

For the purpose of examining how an emergency is responded to in terms of infrastructure capacity, the Grand Jury looked at wildfires in the most detail. Here is what the Grand Jury found:

Wildfire hazard mitigation is an important part of being prepared. Mono County has a three-pronged approach to fire mitigation. The first, initial focus is at the parcel level, because the most common method of fire spread within a community is from embers blown in front of a fire. So, efforts to harden the structure and manage fuels on and around the property are an important aspect of fire prevention.

The second priority is to focus is on hot spots around the area where debris or vegetation or terrain would make a fire especially hard to put out, once started; for example, a ravine, or heavily wooded or very steep area.

The third focus is perimeters around towns and neighborhoods. The Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council received a grant last year for \$1 million dollars from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to be used for a 'Lakes Basin Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.' This is a project which focuses on thinning and fuels reduction on Inyo National Forest lands in the Lakes Basin area, located at the end of Lake Mary Road above the town of Mammoth Lakes. The grant is especially useful because the U.S. Forest Service Inyo National Forest, which manages the Lakes Basin, has no funds set aside for fire mitigation work at this time, mostly because of the heavy financial toll of recent wildfires. However, a CalFire organization, the California Conservation Corps, has received funds to do fire cleanup projects and MLFD is in talks with them to see if they are able to do any projects in Mono County.

Another issue that presents a challenge to Mono County during fire season is that many property owners in fire-prone areas in California are increasingly having problems getting fire insurance. Insurance companies often deny insurance based on zip code, the Grand Jury was told, without considering the actual fire mitigation efforts that have been done, whether they are community wide or at the parcel level. That said, there is currently a bill, AB2167, working its way through the California legislature which forces insurance companies to consider individual and regional efforts to reduce fire risk and provides the resources for them to do so.

Another issue is that during a fire or other catastrophic event, it could become necessary to evacuate parts of the TOML or the rest of Mono County. There are several challenges which could impact the TOML's ability to evacuate some areas in an efficient manner. One is that there are only two points of egress from TOML, the Mammoth Scenic Loop and State Route 203. If a significant evacuation was ordered within the Town, especially during a busy period with large numbers of visitors in town, the two routes and internal routes within the town could become overwhelmed.

To add to the difficulty in evacuating some neighborhoods, such as Old Mammoth, or the Juniper Lodge area, have limited routes out of their neighborhoods, which makes access for firefighters, as well as evacuation, difficult.

The Lakes Basin in summer has many campsites and cabins with limited access, in or out, and very narrow, winding roads that are little more than one lane roads in some cases. And, there is only one viable way out of the Lakes Basin: Lake Mary Road.

Any resources which are not available locally would be at least 24 hours in getting to our area, even in the best of times. High winds, typical during fire weather, could hamper high profile vehicles from reaching our area. In addition, Mono County, as a governmental agency established to meet the needs of a permanent population of about 14,000, has limited resources to respond to an evacuation order. Even local responders could be coming from some distance away due to the large geographical area of the county.

Another challenge is providing temporary shelter for evacuees, especially if a large number of people were evacuated. Shelters take time and specialized resources to set up. Depending on the nature of the hazard most of the hard buildings which could be used as temporary shelter are in a small area in Mammoth Lakes and might not be out of danger.

There are also some solutions to these challenges currently in place. For example, MLFD can work with CalOES to facilitate pre-placement of remote resources in the local area, if CalOES parameters indicate a severe fire hazard exists in the area.

Another partial solution is that during the PSPS events last summer, the local radio station tasked by law with getting out emergency information to the public, KMMT at 96.5 FM, found out that their generator was not working. AmeriGas donated a generator and the TOML is now supporting that propane tank to power the generator.

RESPONSE CAPACITY THREE/COMMUNICATIONS:

This topic will be broken down into two parts: a) communication within emergency response agencies and b) communication to the public.

a) Communication within the County/TOML agencies:

Communications between Mono County leadership and citizens in both directions is an important component of emergency preparedness. The Grand Jury focused on interviews with the EOC's Public Information Officer and the Mono County Sheriff. (The Covid-19 emergency interrupted interviews with the county's IT department and many others.)

Internal communications among local first responders is critically important to daily operations, as well as during emergencies. The MLFD is using a radio system which has become outdated and unreliable. There have been many recent instances where the system has been down for as long as 24 hours at a time according to MLFD. To create an up to date system, it will be necessary to upgrade from the current VHF system to a digital system. The estimated cost for such an upgrade for Mono County is \$12 million dollars.

That said, the radios being used by the Sheriff's Office, which are within a system called "Land Reach Radio" or LRR, are under constant upgrading at this time; and, they are modern radios. The radio system itself functions in a rudimentary way, and there are significant issues with the ability to fully hear the information coming across the radio due to static. The terrain of the county limits some working radio signals; cost issues have limited the fixing or upgrading of the bigger system, such as repeaters and other infrastructure. This is a critical issue because the existing LRR system is used by far more than emergency responders; it is used by the schools, by the county's public work department, by the county sheriffs' dispatcher, by the public schools, and many other organizations and agencies.

Two organizations in the Eastern Sierra, the Mono County Sheriff's Office and Mono County paramedics, have a different communications system which is used alongside the LRR system. Their vehicles have a unique communications infrastructure; every patrol vehicle has a computer in it that is linked to the county dispatch system and as such, every deputy can hear all dispatch traffic and calls through their patrol car computers. In the Mono County Sheriffs' Office, this vehicle-computer-based system is used "98 percent of the time," in place of the radio system. (That said, a LRR radio system is still considered to be critical and must be maintained county wide, in the event of a cell service

disruption or an internet shutdown. In that case, the LRR radios could be the only way to communicate. “We are also committed to a non-digital system,” the county sheriffs’ department said.) The computers in the Mono County sheriff’s office vehicles are GPS-enabled, allowing, for example, dispatch and responders to know which deputy is closest to the scene of a 911 call. Sheriffs’ deputies can run a license plate or rap sheet using the computers; again, they are the only agency in the county or the region that can do this directly. All other agencies, such as the Bishop Police Department, the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office, the MLFD and more still must use their dispatch centers, either in Bishop or in Bridgeport, and get the info over the radio, which triggers privacy concerns since all people monitoring the radios can hear all information. The GPS system in the sheriff deputy vehicles also can show the best route to the scene of an incident, another valued capacity in a large county with more gravel and dirt roads than paved roads. Some other agencies, such as the MLPD, do have mobile apps on their cell phones where they can hear some dispatch information, such as the information available on RIMS, but they do not have computers in their patrol vehicles at this time.

Another challenge is that some agencies operating in the Eastern Sierra, such as the CHP, are not open to allowing access to their communications to be heard by other agencies. They have a separate communication system which other agencies are not allowed to listen to (although CHP can monitor the rest of the county’s emergency traffic).

Mono County has a unique opportunity to be an early adopter in this project to provide a proof of concept. Mono County is currently involved in a demo project of a nationwide program called FirstNet, which has created a public/private relationship to set up a network which enables existing cell towers, wi-fi, and VHF repeaters to be accessed from the same device. The system could also be utilized by a possible ‘regional’ dispatch system manned by the Mono County Sheriff’s Office. The project, which is a collaboration between the First Responder Network Authority (a branch of the Commerce Dept.) and AT&T, is in development now. There was a demonstration of the system scheduled for March, 2020 but the Grand Jury was unable to obtain any information about it (or if it even occurred) partly due to an NDA (non-disclosure agreement) Mono County is a party to.

There is also a study going on now involving the county, the City of Bishop, Inyo County and the TOML to support an option that would use this FirstNet system if it were to be implemented and each of these agencies has contributed \$25,000 toward it; the study is looking at implementing a new, regional dispatch center in the Eastern Sierra (see more on this below). The state is a party to this study and has agreed to fund part of the study. It is considered a “pilot program” concept. This idea of regional, versus local only, dispatch centers is a relatively new concept for the state, which is increasingly interested in getting more regional dispatch centers operating. In fact, such centers are slowly becoming more common; there is one in Shasta County, for example, called SHASCOM, and more in the pipeline coming soon for Imperial County and several other counties in the state. They are a “force multiplier” and, as such, are more efficient in terms of cost and capacity. But there are still major issues to be worked out with such a regional dispatch center, such as who would fund them, who would train the employees, where they are located, a myriad of union issues associated with each agency’s respective purposes, and more. For example, a significant issue is that the room holding a dispatch centers must be “hardened” by law so they are secure and very few buildings in the Eastern Sierra can be repurposed for this – the current dispatch buildings in both Mono and Inyo

county are too small for a regional dispatch center. This will cost money and that is a big issue that needs to be worked out as well.

Another challenge facing communications during an emergency is that the existing dispatch center for the entire county is in Bridgeport in the county jail. There is an unusual personnel situation in place here; the dispatchers on duty at any given time are also jailers; this is part of the job – to be both. This is unusual in the state of California; in most cases, dispatchers are trained to be dispatchers; and jailers are jailers. But in Mono County, the two jobs are combined. This can be an obstacle to training and retaining good employees, since the two jobs are very different; a good dispatcher might not be a good jailer. While isolation and limited housing in the Bridgeport Valley area are a challenge, the County Sheriffs' Office said they have been able to keep positions staffed relatively well.

b) Communicating with the public:

The other side of the communications coin is emergency responders must also, in times of widespread emergencies such as a wildfire or a pandemic, communicate with the public at large, or with a group of people who might be affected by the emergency. In that case, they have a few options; one is a governmental alert system called IPAWS (Integrated public alert and warning system) which is now integrated into most mobile phones and can only be disabled by the user, if they choose to do so. Most users do not know the alert system is there and, as such, it is usually not disabled. IPAWS can be “geo-targeted”, that is, set to send alerts to only a geographically defined area, such as in the case of the big winter of 2016-17 when it was used to inform residents of the Down Canyon area of June Lake that the dams on Rush Creek were in danger of overflowing. The system can also be set for a wider, or smaller, geographical area and all users within that area will get the alert. That capacity is useful in Mono County where a large part of the population is likely to be visitors, not residents, at any given time.

This IPAWS is a “redundancy to what we have, which is CodeRed,” according to the sheriffs' department. CodeRed is based on a resident or visitor choosing to sign up and can only be used if the owner of the phone has signed up.

To communicate with the public, there is also something called “Next Gen 911” which is in place in Mono County but is not yet common in many other parts of the state. If someone calls Mono County dispatch, they are automatically identified using this technology; “we can pinpoint someone moving through their house” according to the sheriff's department. That means the location or address of the person is automatically entered into the call; this is called “ANI/ALI” or Automated Name Identification/Automated Location Identification. It allows the dispatcher to save time as they do not need to ask the public where they are located, etc.

The county is also looking at large, electronic signs which can be placed in strategic areas on roadways and updated as needed. And, free-standing boards placed in areas frequented by the public, such as the Post Office and Vons in addition to other ways of communicating. The County and/or the TOML can place signs at all the transit centers, and bus shelters, if there is no power as an alternative to getting information out digitally. The TOML, in conjunction with the EOC, may also utilize the large CalTrans digital signs to inform the public. There is a move by local officials to get

the CalTrans signs powered by solar; as of now, if the power goes out they cannot run these large signs.

Another challenge is the patchwork nature of cell service in Mono County. While cell service has greatly expanded in the past ten years, due to Digital 395 and an investment in the area by various companies, there are still issues. For instance, the eastern part of the county, the Tri-Valley area, can only be accessed using AT&T, while other parts of the county, such as the Crowley Lake area, can only be accessed using Verizon.

Another challenge is that cell towers typically have had only have enough backup battery power for a few hours. This was revealed during last year's PSPS situation. Now, the main cell tower companies have committed to creating backup systems that could provide power for 24-48 hours but that is not entirely in place at this time. Verizon had a better backup battery system at the time; ATT was lagging but has since "stepped up."

The media, which includes local radio stations and newspapers, will be given up to date information for public access, based on protocols set by the town and the county. To be sure there is a unified message, the EOC will dedicate one person to do it; most likely the EOC PIO (Public Information Officer). The PIO is trained and meets regularly with all PIOs up and down the Eastern Sierra regularly, including the PIO for Caltrans, the U.S. Forest Service, the County Sheriff's Office, and more.

The TOML and the County are also talking about designating a "one stop shopping" website where the EOC PIO downloads approved information in real time and as such, people can get up-to-the-minute details on any given emergency. It will probably be located on the county page. They will also send information out via a subscriber list. Then, radio and print can pick it up, but they do have to opt in, as does the public.

Transient rentals, or short term rentals, such as condominiums, hotels, cabins, etc., are required to include signage which list local emergency phone numbers; however, the required signage does not include listings of websites where visitors can find emergency information in the event of a town or county wide emergency event and as such, get updated information. Transient use properties are inspected at the time their permits are issued but are not re-inspected on a routine basis, only if there is a complaint. The TOML has the right to enter these properties at any time.

Findings:

F1: The radio system currently being used by MLFD and much of Mono County is fast becoming obsolete and unreliable. The TOML, Mono County, and other agencies within the County have begun the process of upgrading internal communications. They also have a unique opportunity to participate in the "FirstNet" nationwide communications system, they have been asked to participate in a pilot project which would bring this system to Mono County to provide a proof of concept.

F2: MLFD, Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council, and other agencies throughout the County are making good progress in wildfire mitigation efforts.

Recommendations:

R1: The Grand Jury recommends that Mono County and the TOML continue to support Mono County's participation in the FirstNet communications system and/or any appropriate improvements to the system as resources allow. The Grand Jury further recommends that these improvements be made within the scope of a unified plan for the entire County.

R2: The Grand Jury recommends that Mono County and the TOML continue to support wildfire mitigation efforts in the areas surrounding Mammoth Lakes and in the County as a whole.