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27 September 2016

Ventura County Nuclear Response Plan

Not to start subjectively, but I really appreciate what the Ventura County NRP is trying to do. It really seems like whoever wrote it genuinely cares for the citizens of the county and is trying to put a plan together to ensure survival and well-being after a catastrophic event. Many hard decisions are discussed and choices tend to be made based on what would be best for the most people. Overall, it’s a plan to be proud of, and it really does focus on outreach for all civilians, which I agree with.

Off the bat the plan discusses a hypothetical scenario wherein Los Angeles, New York, and other US cities are simultaneously attacked between Christmas and the New Year, in an attack designed to maximize casualties. The plan discusses survivors coming in from LA, how to handle gridlock, how to handle contamination, potential physical and mental health efforts, medical care, risk education, and more. All of this is understandable and respectable, and shows a definite priority given to the well-being of as many people as possible.

The plan continues with an approximate timeline of events to unfold, with focus given primarily to assumed chain of command and government response. It moves into the intermediate and late phase discussions, which talk about steps to take to facilitate recovery in the short-term and the long-term. They go on to discuss non-government organizations like the Red Cross, citing their impressive structure and recommending that they be included in Unified Command. Fire departments are discussed as the lead agency for decontamination. Public works come up, including barricades on roads, water tankers, construction, sanitation, and more. Emergency Medical Services are given special attention.

An entire section is dedicated to sheltering in place. Emergency radio will be broadcast and everyone will be told to stay inside and to stay tuned. The county developed a “Plume Mappers’ Group” to create redundany among fallout plume maps, enabling more trust in these estimates. They will be used to understand if evacuation is necessary. Buildings for shelter are discussed, as are methods to prevent inhalation if that is a concern.

All of these plans point to a great focus on all civilians, not just first responders. I think this is very appropriate – counties should focus on their citizens. The immediate and longterm safety of the largest group of people possible is the focus of this plan; seems very thorough, and I find it hard to find enough words to make that point without sounding very redundant.