

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
February 23, 2010

Security Reports

ITEM F.3

Community Alert Siren System and Loudspeakers for Patrol Vehicles

Community resident Kay Rosoff had commented during the January Board meeting about the accidental activation of the alert siren in mid-January. The malfunction was caused by rain water intrusion into the control cabinet of the siren unit which shorted out the circuitry and caused the siren to chirp, warble and wail in an unusual random manner over a period of about 40 minutes. Interestingly, the community alert system does not have a procedure in place for publicizing such a malfunction. Citizens are educated to turn on their TV's or radios to get instructions when the emergency alert siren activates. During this particular malfunction event there were no emergency instructions broadcast over the media.

It was suggested that the District install a PA/loudspeaker in both patrol vehicles for future use in the event of emergencies where the immediate broadcast of information could be useful, especially if the event happens to be another siren malfunction.

The District has since met with the City's emergency planning staff to discuss the obvious concern with the failure to broadcast timely instructions over the media. The City is painfully aware of the problem and is now working with emergency planning staff at San Onofre to develop an immediate media notification procedure when a siren malfunction occurs. They explained that citizens can expect an improved notification protocol in the near future. It was also explained that the City has guidelines already in place to dispatch sheriff's deputies to Beach Road to publicly address the residents via loudspeakers from their police vehicles.

The suggestion by Mrs. Rosoff to equip the District's patrol vehicles with PA/loudspeaker systems turns out to be the clear choice of the local professional emergency planning coordinators as well.

Equipping both vehicles with PA systems may cost about \$600 per vehicle for the electronics and the installation expense.