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Media Advisory

March Nevada Commission on Homeland Security Meeting

Carson City, NV - Governor Brian Sandoval, Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS), along with 16 voting members, determined their top five priorities for investments to be funded in the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). Each Commissioner presented his or her list of priorities and a summarized ranking was compiled.

Taking into consideration state and regional data on the threats and hazards to the State of Nevada along with the preparedness capabilities, the Commission unanimously agreed to focus strictly on the top five priorities for the state.

1. Cyber Security (Mission area: Protection)
2. Intelligence and Information Sharing (Mission area: Prevention)
3. Public Information and Warning (Mission area: All)
4. Operational Coordination (Mission area: All)
5. Mass Care Services (Mission area: Response)

The National Preparedness Goal organizes the 31 distinct critical elements (priorities) into the five mission areas:

Prevention - Prevent, avoid or stop an imminent, threatened or actual act of terrorism.

Protection - Protect our citizens, residents, visitors, and assets against the greatest threats and hazards in a manner that allows our interests, aspirations, and way of life to thrive.

Mitigation - Reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters.

Response - Respond quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of a catastrophic incident.

Recovery - Recover through a focus on the timely restoration, strengthening and revitalization of infrastructure, housing and a sustainable economy, as well as the health, social, cultural, historic and environmental fabric of communities affected by a catastrophic incident.

Chief Chris Smith from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security provided an overview to the commission on the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015. Smith reviewed 2014 funded projects, gave an overview of the current federal funding status, and expressed the sense of urgency to obtain Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds for the Las Vegas Urban Area.

Smith praised the efforts of the Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) comprised of 30 people from state and local agencies and disciplines, including the private sector, from all regions of the state and the collaborative process used to determine what was best for Nevada. The HSWG established by Governor Sandoval's Executive Order in 2011 meets to discuss and rank priorities proposals for the current grant year and how they fit into the Commission's priorities. The recommended projects are then presented to the Finance Committee.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 15, 2015 to review finance recommendations and approve HSGP projects.



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