



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MADERA

MADERA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
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April 26, 2011

The Honorable Mitchell C. Rigby  
Presiding Judge  
Madera County Superior Court  
209 West Yosemite Avenue  
Madera, California 93637

**Subject: Response to the 2010-2011 Grand Jury Final Report on the "Madera County Hazardous Material Response Team"**

Dear Honorable Judge Rigby:

In accordance with Penal Code Section 933, the Madera County Board of Supervisors submits this response to the Recommendations in the 2010-11 Madera County Grand Jury Report entitled "Madera County Hazardous Material Response Team" (See Attachment #1).

The following are the Grand Jury's recommendations in their Report, and the Board of Supervisors' response to the recommendations:

**Grand Jury Recommendation**

The Grand Jury recommends that the County establish and fund an additional position to relieve paid staff for training purposes.

**Grand Jury Recommendation**

The Grand Jury recommends that the County fully fund the cost of replacing equipment that expires.

**Grand Jury Recommendation**

The Grand Jury recommends that the County work with other mutual aid agencies to standardize the firefighter equipment.


**Grand Jury Recommendation**

The Grand Jury recommends the prompt completion, publication, and implementation of a policy and procedures handbook for the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Hazmat Response Team.

**Board of Supervisors' Response to Grand Jury Recommendations**

The response of the Acting Fire Chief to the above Recommendations is considered appropriate and is submitted as the Board of Supervisors' response. (See Attachment #2.)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Bigelow".

Frank Bigelow

Chairman

Madera County Board of Supervisors

Attachment

# MADERA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

IN COOPERATION WITH  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
CAL FIRE

14225 ROAD 28  
MADERA, CALIFORNIA 93638-5715

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## ATTACHMENT 2

DATE: February 28, 2011

TO: Darin McCandless  
Risk Management Analyst

FROM: Bill Hodson, Madera County Acting Fire Chief  
By: David Irion, Madera County Fire Division Chief

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report entitled "Madera County  
Hazardous Material Response Team"

The Grand Jury Report on Madera County Hazardous Material Response Team dated February 3, 2011 has four recommendations:

1. The Grand Jury recommends the County establish and fund an additional position to relieve paid staff for training purposes.
2. The Grand Jury recommends that the County fully fund the cost of replacing equipment that expires.
3. The Grand Jury recommends that the County work with other mutual aid agencies to standardize the firefighter equipment.
4. The Grand Jury recommends the prompt completion, publication, and implementation of a policy and procedures handbook for the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Hazmat Response Team.

The Fire Department is required to submit a written response per PC 933(c). Penal Code Section 933.05 requires the following:

"...as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) the recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented actions.
- (2) the recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.
- (3) the recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, the time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency

or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.

- (4) the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with the explanation therefore."

*Recommendation 1: The Grand Jury recommends the County establish and fund an additional position to relieve paid staff for training purposes.*

The Madera County Fire Department recognizes that staffing levels of the Fire Department limit many opportunities including training. The Fire Department would like to have increased staffing for training purposes as well as for general staffing throughout the County. The Fire Department will continue to work with the Madera County Administration Office as well as the Madera County Board of Supervisors to accomplish this goal.

This recommendation will continue to be analyzed annually and will be accomplished when the funds are more readily available.

*Recommendation 2: The Grand Jury recommends that the County fully fund the cost of replacing equipment that expires.*

The Madera County Fire Department has an ever-limiting budget and an ever-expanding service need across the County. The Fire Department will continue to provide excellent service throughout the County to the best of its ability while utilizing the finest equipment available at the time. Fire Department funds will continue to be distributed, and redistributed as necessary, to maintain current equipment and supplies. The Fire Department will continue to work with the Madera County Administration Office as well as the Madera County Board of Supervisors to accomplish this goal.

This recommendation will continue to be analyzed annually and will be accomplished when the funds are more readily available.

*Recommendation 3: The Grand Jury recommends that the County work with other mutual aid agencies to standardize the firefighter equipment.*

The Madera County Fire Department has a commitment to standardization. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment is sold by many vendors. Agencies often choose breathing apparatus systems based on cost, reliability, and performance of the equipment, however knowledge of the brand and experience working with it can also be contributing factors. Currently the joint Madera-Merced County Hazmat Team, Merced County Fire Department and Madera County Fire Department use Survivair SCBA equipment. However, the joint Madera-Merced County Hazmat Team and Merced County Fire Department are in the process of getting MSA SCBA equipment. Once this occurs, the Madera County Fire Department would be the only agency in the area using Survivair SCBA equipment since the Madera City Fire Department and CAL FIRE currently use MSA SCBA equipment.

Due to the high cost of this equipment, this recommendation will continue to be analyzed and will be implemented when necessary factors associated with this decision have been fully determined.

*Recommendation 4: The Grand Jury recommends the prompt completion, publication, and implementation of a policy and procedures handbook for the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Hazmat Response Team.*

The Madera County Hazmat Team and the Merced County Hazmat Team are a joint team and Merced has established the current policy and procedures handbook for the hazmat team. This policy and procedures handbook is currently in draft form because it is awaiting approval by the CAL FIRE Acting Unit Chief of Madera-Merced-Mariposa Unit/Madera County Acting Fire Chief.

This recommendation has not been implemented, however it is likely it will be once the new CAL FIRE Unit Chief/Madera County Fire Chief is hired.