

BUTTE FIRE ANALYSIS
WORKSHOP
DEFINING STEPS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The Butte Fire last September was a huge catastrophe for this area as you all know. The goal of this workshop is to learn from this unfortunate event and talk about what we need to do to avoid a similar event in the future and improve our response.

We have shared the beginnings of citizen feedback from this county from a survey completed by District 3 residents. This survey overwhelmingly showed that the primary difficulty of upcountry citizens was a void of information about the status of the fire and whether or not they were in danger. Our agenda for this workshop will be as follows:

1. Public Voice: What were the most challenging issues you faced when you learned of the Butte Fire? Please be specific. There will be a limit of 3 minutes per speaker.
2. Response from Agencies: What lessons did you learn from the Butte Fire and how do you plan to improve your operations now based on those lessons? Are there specific steps you plan to take and if so, by when? There will be a limit of 3 minutes per agency.
3. Open Discussion: What positive actions can agencies take to specifically address the concerns raised by the public today? Again, there will be a limit of 3 minutes per agency.

Thank you very much for your involvement. If you give us your email address, we will get back to you with all of the information raised today as well as the agency commitments for action. We will widely share this information and follow up with agencies for progress.

One area that I will be working on is fire prevention and vegetation control. I will coordinate my work with Amador Fire Safe Council, local officials, CalFire and others.

In our community, 300 people took the time to complete the survey. It is clear that there are important ways for us to improve. As county supervisor for District 3, I want to ensure we are more prepared next time.

I also hope you will get involved in community fire prevention by maintaining a defensible space and emergency planning with your families.

I will keep you updated on the progress being made in Upcountry as we address the problems and concerns raised by all of you.

Sincerely,

Lynn Morgan

Please note: The survey was privately funded by Lynn Morgan and staffed by volunteers. It was not paid for by taxpayer or public money.

November 10, 2015

Dear Upcountry Neighbors,

Thank you for your interest in my **Public Opinion Survey** concerning the **Butte Fire**. I am providing the highlights of the survey, conducted during October 2015 in the Upcountry of Amador County. This survey is an important opportunity to learn of your concerns and problems experienced during the fire and to utilize this information to improve future emergency responses.

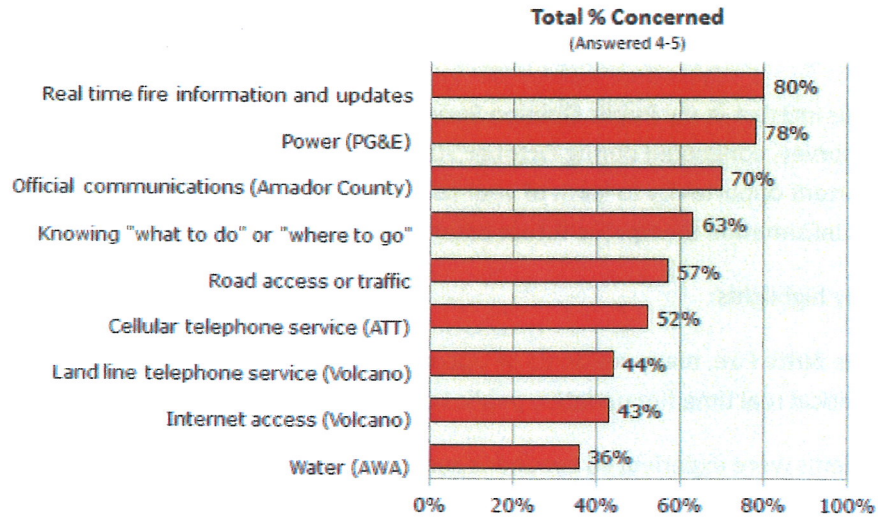
Here are the study highlights:

- During the Butte Fire, many residents of Upcountry experienced major problems, especially getting critical real time fire updates, public safety and official information.
- The problems were experienced simultaneously, and were interdependent, which magnified concerns. For many in Upcountry, there was a total communications breakdown and no official information to guide them:
 - Rotary land line equipment – intended to provide communications even when house power is out – did not work.
 - Cellular phones and boosters did not work without power.
 - Internet did not work without power.
 - Streaming radio did not work without internet. Radio signals for KVGC do not reach many Upcountry.
 - Notification systems, such as reverse 911, worked for some – but not all – registered. No one in this survey mentioned the County's "Code Red" emergency notification.
- The Butte Fire spotlights the need for better communications processes, infrastructure development, more fire prevention and defensible space creation, inter-agency collaboration, emergency planning, safety meetings and drills.
- As one person wrote: *"We were lucky this time! We need to be better prepared!"*

Based on the survey results, I will engage with local businesses, officials and the public to make improvements in the area of communications. In particular, the survey points to the need to "more access to real time information and updates" as the greatest concern.

Summary: Butte Fire Concerns

Question: Which of the following were concerns or problems for you during the Butte Fire?



For a sample of this size, the margin of error is +/- 6% at the 95% confidence level.
Excludes "No Response" Answers

The survey asked "What emergency preparedness and response issues does Amador County need to address?" and we received hundreds of suggestions. In fact, 3 in 4 surveys contained written comments and many thoughtful remarks and ideas were provided. Thank you!

Verbatim Comment Categories

507 Total Comments (Multiple Mentions)

Question: What emergency preparedness and response issues does Amador County need to address?

