EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview:

IT Services built an iOS application, for Ventura County Sheriff's OES, to educate residents on how to prepare, plan, and stay informed during a disaster.

Challenge:

The goal of the project was to provide another mechanism of getting valuable information to Ventura County residents during a critical incident. There were three major business challenges that were solved by implementing the Ventura County Sheriff's OES Mobile App: 1) educating residents on how to best prepare for any local hazard; 2) getting residents to register for the Ventura County emergency notification system called VC Alert; and 3) providing another avenue of getting information to residents during an emergency.

Innovative Solution:

Ventura County Sheriff's OES is always looking for ways to provide timely and accurate information to residents during a disaster. The implementation of the Ventura County Sheriff's OES Mobile App has enabled the Sheriff's Office to: 1) control the response and recovery messages; 2) be the official source of information; 3) provide information in a timely manner; 4) teach residents how to prepare, plan and stay informed prior to an actual incident; 5) provide alternative ways for residents to register for the VC Alert emergency notification system; and 6) inform residents on how they can become involved through volunteer organizations that will support the community in times of disaster.

Originality:

The Ventura County Sheriff's OES Mobile App features include five main categories: 1) Calls for Service; 2) Creating an Emergency Kit; 3) Making an Emergency Plan; 4) Staying Informed; and 5) Getting Involved. The Calls for Service page shows current Ventura County Fire calls for service, including the: Type of Incident, if En Route or On-Scene, Incident Number, Date/Time, and Incident Location. The Prepare page guides residents through a list of the Essential Supplies needed during an emergency. Users can check-off the items that they

have and add Additional Items or Notes. They can also add Emergency Contacts using Contacts stored in

their iPhone. The Plan page educates users about Meeting Places, Out-of-State Contacts, Utilities, School

Plans, Evacuation Plans and Practicing the Plan. It also allows for User Notes. The Stay Informed page

provides Emergency Information from the Ventura County Emergency Operations Center, local Emergency

Numbers, Disaster Information, a link to register for VC Alert, and information regarding local hazards. The Get

Involved page provides a list of local non-profit organizations that may respond during and after a local

emergency.

Cost Effectiveness:

The design, development and implementation of the Ventura County Sheriff's OES Mobile App was completed

in 417.60 hours for a total of $38,711.52. Providing timely and accurate information to individuals and families

may be difficult to measure when the true mission is to proactively safeguard the lives and property of Ventura

County residents.

Results:

With a population of 850,536 residents, Ventura County is the 12th largest among California's 58 counties.

The Ventura County Sheriff's OES Mobile App is available to anyone through the Apple App Store. To date,

there have been 304 individual iTunes version downloads of the Ventura County Sheriff's OES Mobile App.

http://vcportal.ventura.org/AwardSubmissions/Ventura_County_Sheriff_OES_Mobile_App.pdf

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