**OPERATION SLOW RISE - YUBA COUNTY, CA OCTOBER 23, 2014**

**YUBA SUTTER DOMESTIC ANIMAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**AFTER ACTION REPORT**

Yuba Sutter Domestic Animal Disaster Assistance (YSDADA) took part in the Yuba County Operation Slow Rise on October 23, 2014. A designated Controller was in attendance at the Emergency Operations Center from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm, at which time she reported to the Animal Shelter. The Animal Branch Director (ABD) also attended the morning session at the EOC until YSDADA was directed by Holly Powers to open a shelter for displaced animals.

The ABD notified YSDADA volunteers by way of an automated phone system at 0930 hrs, requesting they report at 1200hrs to Loma Rica School. The logistics of the exercise mandated an "artificiality" in locating the school, so it was established a short distance from the Yuba County offices on Bizz Johnson Drive in Riverfront Park.

Three volunteers arrived early, with the Command Center Trailer (CCT) and the equipment and supplies needed for the exercise. At 1200 hrs, volunteers arrived and were assigned to positions necessary for this event.

Following the Incident Briefing and Safety Briefing, volunteers set-up the shelter. Sutter Buttes K-9 Rescue provided dogs to practice our procedures and techniques. Their foster-parent handlers created various situations from injured animals to agitated owners, in order to test our response.

When YSDADA was notified that the shelter should be closed down, animals were released to their handlers, and volunteers dismantled the shelter. A brief Demob meeting was held as volunteers turned in their ICS 214 and Post-Event Evaluation, signed out and assumed their normal routines. The CCT and equipment were returned to their storage locations.

While the focus of the Emergency Services Office was on the details within and between governmental agencies, it also revealed a need for better communication with outside organizations. Yuba Sutter Domestic Animal Disaster Assistance set up a shelter for dogs and distributed information on how to include pets and livestock in personal emergency plans. While volunteers gained valuable experience establishing and operating the shelter, better communication is needed for the community to be aware of this critical service. This event offered a great opportunity for Yuba County to showcase the readiness of the emergency response community to a disaster. The dogs from Sutter Buttes K-9 Rescue came with the hope and expectation was that they would receive media coverage which might have resulted in these animals finding forever homes. The lack of such publicity made that impossible to achieve.

It is hoped that publicity and media coverage will be an important aspect of any future exercises.

Included with this report are the evaluations from YSDADA volunteers and from an Observer, Maureen Milligan. Maureen is a volunteer with North Valley Animal Disaster Group (NVADG) and generously provided YSDADA with her impressions of our response. The report from our Evaluator will be forwarded to Holly at a later date.

We are aware of our limitations with respect to numbers of volunteers, though part of that was the fact this exercise was conducted on a work day. Some volunteers had arranged to take time off, and it is our belief that in an emergency, more volunteers will make themselves available to the organization. YSDADA is dependent on volunteers to provide equipment storage as well as the means to transport the needed items. It is our hope that exercises like this Operation Slow Rise will help get the word out about our existence, our ability to respond, and our need for more community involvement. We appreciated this opportunity and look forward to a continuing relationship with Yuba County's Emergency Response Services.