

**Best Practices for Fire Rescue/Response:  
Incorporating Safety, Emergency Management and Operations**

**Marla Blagg**

*San Francisco Bay Area Rapid  
Transit (BART),  
Emergency Manager  
Oakland, California*



Rail Conference



# Key Presentation Take-Aways

- Making Fire Training a Priority
- How to Develop a Fire Training Program
- Incorporating Emergency Management
- Communication Challenges and Solutions
- Best Practices and Lessons Learned



# Making Fire Training a Priority

- Challenges to fire training
- Making THEIR priority, YOUR priority
- Incorporating others in transit system
- Navigating the politics
- Fire Liaison Committee
- Open and frequent communication



# Developing a Fire Training Program

- Fire Manuals and Plans
  - Station Manuals, plans & training DVD's
- Familiarization Training –
  - stations, trains and yards
- All Hazards Drills and Exercises
  - aerials, tunnels, stations and ventilation
- Best Practices and Lessons Learned



# **BART First Responder Training Video**



# Incorporating Emergency Management

- Incident Command System and NIMS
- Emergency Management Cycle
- Pre-planning for drills & exercises
- Multi-discipline collaboration
- Incident Action Plans



# Communications Challenges and Solutions


- 45 stations, 22 cities, 5 counties, +100 miles rail, + 17 different fire departments, + 3 EMS, 1 police department & mutual aid
- Multiple radio systems and channels
- Task Force Committee – get the experts!
- Communication Plan – Programming is key
- Protocols a must

# Best Practices & Lessons Learned

- Prepare and Plan in advance
- Communications – real time
- Response Logistics – who, what & where
- All Hazards scenarios: not just fire/smoke
- Collaboration and Sharing
- Training, Drills and Exercises – get on the calendar



# What the Future Holds?

- Protection of Life Safety, Property and Environment
  - Improved response operations
  - Participation in future station designs
  - Identification of solutions before issues
  - Seamless response across jurisdictions
  - A better and Safer BART!
- 

# Station Drills



# Field - EOC Interface





# Questions?

