

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

86 West Main Street
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-1100
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)



February 4, 2003

File No.: 165.11417.11208

Graeagle Fire Department
Chief Daniel West
PO Box 64
Graeagle, CA 996103-0064

Dear Chief West:

On December 30, 2002, the Quincy Area of the California Highway Patrol was tasked with handling an incident with the potential for a major hazardous materials exposure. The enormity of the potential exposure required the immediate closure of SR-70 and the evacuation of the community of Blairsden. The Graeagle Fire Department personnel performed with a high level of professionalism dedication. Their actions aided greatly in making it a smooth operation. Their knowledge and experience were an invaluable asset during the handling of the incident. The use of the Graeagle Fire Station as a temporary shelter for the evacuees was instrumental in providing for the safety and welfare of the residents of Blairsden.

I want to singularly acknowledge the efforts of Fire-Paramedic Steve McNamara. He assumed a leadership role utilizing his knowledge and experience. He directed fire equipment and personnel, and maintained vital communication among the various fire and rescue agencies on scene. He selflessly gave of himself, enduring the many long hours of providing tactical support and emergency response readiness should the incident take a turn for the worse.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the excellent display of cooperation between our agencies to bring this incident to a successful conclusion. On behalf of the Quincy Area of the California Highway Patrol, please convey my thanks to all your personnel who were present for their response and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "P. Davis", written over a horizontal line.

P. DAVIS, Lieutenant
Commander
Quincy Area