



Press Release

The City of Palo Alto
Public Information Office

250 Hamilton Ave
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03/12/2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #03122012

Subject : Communications Center to Temporarily Relocate This Coming Weekend

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Palo Alto, CA - The City of Palo Alto's Communications Center will be temporarily relocated from the basement of City Hall to the Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) between Friday, March 16 and Monday, March 19 to accommodate seismic retrofit work.

The Communications Center, which handles all 9-1-1 calls and provides 24-hour dispatch services for police, fire, utilities, public works, and animal control, will continue to provide the full range of emergency services to the public during the relocation. However, some routine calls for service may be delayed or rescheduled during this time.

"Our public safety dispatchers have been working in the MEOC environment in anticipation of this temporary relocation," said Technical Services Director Charles Cullen of the Palo Alto Police Department. "They have taken live 9-1-1 calls and dispatched our personnel from the vehicle seamlessly."

The MEOC, a 40-foot-long vehicle stocked with some of the most advanced public safety communications technology in the Bay Area, will be parked on Forest Avenue in front of the Palo Alto Police Department between Wednesday, March 14, 2012 and Monday, March 19, 2012. The 200 block of Forest Avenue will be closed to vehicle traffic between Bryant Street and Ramona Street during that time. Once the seismic retrofit work in the Communications Center is complete, normal operations there will resume.

The Palo Alto Police Department purchased the MEOC in 2010 using a combination of public funds and grant monies. It is a state-of-the-art resource that provides technical support for major operations and redundancy for critical public safety technology. The Palo Alto Police Department has deployed the MEOC on a number of large-scale multijurisdictional events in the past year, including dignitary visits, the Cupertino quarry shooting, and a major narcotics operation in Gilroy. A photo of the vehicle is attached.

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