



**LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
1220 Martin Street • P.O. Box 489 • Lakeport, California 95453

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**Administration** (707) 262-4200    **Central Dispatch** (707) 263-2690    **Coroner** (707) 262-4215    **Corrections** (707) 262-4240    **Patrol/Investigation** (707) 262-4200    **Substation** (707) 994-6433

**Luke Bingham**  
Sheriff - Coroner

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Honorable Michael Lunas  
Superior Court, County of Lake  
255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, Ca 95453

**Supplemental Grand Jury Response. (Grand Jury Findings)**

**Highway Havoc: First Responders' Adaptation During Cattle Truck Overtures.**

**Findings:**

F-1: Cattle trailer turnovers are extremely resource-intensive and require the cooperation and effective coordination of all responding agencies and volunteers.

Agree with finding.

F-2: First responders require expertise and training in trapped, injured, or loose animal handling and rescue.

Agree with finding.

F-3: The command team needs to have immediate and reliable communication via Starlink satellite to be able to acquire volunteer assistance and containment materials to keep persons and animals safe.

Agree with finding: addressed in R-2 response. The Sheriff's Office has several Starlink devices capable of deployment anywhere in Lake County.

F-4: Prepositioning response trailers stocked with appropriate tools and fencing along major livestock transportation thoroughfares would help expedite an effective response.

Agree with finding: Lake County OES is coordinating with local fire districts to obtain necessary response equipment.

F-5: No animals should be released from the truck until the scene is secure in order to prevent secondary injury to responders, livestock, or the public.

Disagree: The decision to release or not release livestock is situationally dependent and should be determined at the scene by the incident commander.

F-6: If euthanasia is necessary, complicated circumstances come into play that should be understood prior to the rollover, with clear lines of authority delineated.

Agree with finding.

F-7: The unique challenges and potential dangers posed by injured and distressed livestock are included in the draft Emergency Response Guide being finalized by a team of fire-district first-responders within Lake County.

Agree with finding.

F-8: This Lake County Emergency Response Team further arranged to receive training in equine rescue at UC-Davis.

Disagree partially with finding: While training in equine and large-animal rescue is imperative for a successful response, UC Davis may or may not be the appropriate provider of such training.

## **Does Lake Pillsbury Have a Future?**

### **Findings:**

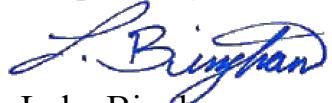
F-7: The Lake Pillsbury area residents need reliable cellular communication.

Agree with finding: While it is agreed that reliable cellular communication will improve the safety of the residents and visitors to Lake Pillsbury. Neither the Lake County Sheriff's Office nor the Lake County Office of Emergency Services has the authority to expand cellular service in the Lake Pillsbury area.

F-8: The residents further request that the County install its designated Repeater on Snow Mountain to facilitate emergency 9-1-1 calls.

Disagree: There is no plan within the Sheriff's Office or Office of Emergency Services to install a repeater on Snow Mountain. As addressed in R-5 response. A repeater has been installed on Goat Mountain as intended and is operational. The repeater's purpose is to increase first responder radio coverage for the areas of Lake Pillsbury, Indian Valley Reservoir, and Spring Valley. The repeater will enhance radio communication and response to emergency calls for assistance; however, it does not and was not intended to facilitate or increase citizen access to the emergency 911 system.

Respectfully submitted,



Luke Bingham  
Sheriff-Coroner  
Emergency Services Director  
County of Lake