

been checking his wind-up radio for any evacuation news and hadn't received any.

On getting out of Berry Creek: "It was hell," he said. "It was such a rush that even my grandma's ashes got left in the fire."

Bisping doesn't mince words when talking about his views on the job that emergency responders did during the fire: "Those we count on to protect us let us down."

"There are a lot of people that do not have cellphones and the power was off, so there were many, many people that got no word of warning," he said.

Though the Butte County Sheriff's Office equipped every patrol vehicle with high-low evacuation sirens in July 2019, none of the residents the CN&R spoke with heard them during the North Complex Fire.

Honea said that deputies used them, but he acknowledged that they couldn't get through more remote parts of the foothills due to the rough terrain.

"It was not for a lack of real effort on our part to get that message out," he said. "There is no way to guarantee 100 percent saturation of your message, especially in remote, difficult-to-reach localities. That's why we have tried really to develop as robust a system as possible."

Honea acknowledged other communication issues that transpired that

day. He told the CN&R he found out about the danger to Butte County after receiving a call from the Plumas County sheriff, who'd attended a briefing with the Plumas County incident management team, which did not have a BCSO representative. Honea said he immediately alerted his team, which worked in conjunction with Cal Fire to communicate evacuation information to the public as quickly as possible.

"Our position is that the [Plumas] incident management team should have been keeping us better apprised of what was going on," he said. "That was one of the frustrations we had. ... We don't feel they provided us with timely info."

Honea has since worked to improve inter-county communications by including a representative from his department as part of the incident command team of fires in neighboring counties, starting with the Dixie Fire. That representative is still working with the team today, even though the fire is no longer active in Butte County.

"We're continuing to embed personnel, so I can be assured that we're getting info that we need in a timely fashion should the situation change and a threat to Butte County arrives again," he said.

The CN&R reached out to Plumas National Forest representatives, who did not respond to questions as of press deadline. A video update posted to the

WILDFIRE CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



The Beach Boys



2021 Feel Flows

W O R L D T O U R

THURSDAY, SEP 9

All ages show • Doors at 5pm, Show at 7pm

THE AMPHITHEATER AT ROLLING HILLS CASINO AND RESORT

TICKETS ON-SALE NOW

ROLLINGHILLSCASINO.COM

Gambling problem, call 1-800-522-4700 for live confidential counseling 24/7.

I-5 AT EVERETT FREEMAN WAY • EXIT 628

ROLLING HILLS
CASINO • RESORT