



# County of Los Angeles Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan

November 2023



## Acknowledgement

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors gratefully acknowledges the following agencies/jurisdictions who contributed to the development of the County of Los Angeles Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP).

### **County Departments**

Animal Care and Control  
Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management  
Fire  
Health Services  
Internal Services  
Mental Health  
Medical Examiner  
Public Health  
Public Social Services  
Public Works  
Regional Planning  
Sheriff

### **Disaster Management Area Coordinators**

#### **State of California**

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

#### **Non-Governmental Organizations**

American Red Cross  
Emergency Network Los Angeles  
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities - Los Angeles Office  
Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF)  
Harbor Regional Center

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## Executive Summary

The County of Los Angeles Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP) addresses both the County's planned response to extraordinary emergency situations impacting unincorporated areas of the County as well as Operational Area (OA) coordination. This plan does not apply to day-to-day emergency incidents, or the established procedures used to respond to and manage such emergencies. Rather, this plan focuses on the operational concepts related to all-hazards emergency response and recovery, including maintaining the County's continued compliance with the National Response Framework (NRF), National Incident Management System (NIMS), National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), principles of the Incident Command System (ICS), and the National Preparedness Goal. It facilitates multiagency and multi-jurisdictional coordination during emergency operations, public information functions, resource management, and recovery efforts.

The Los Angeles County OA consists of the County and all political subdivisions within the geographical boundaries of Los Angeles County. This OAEOP serves as the legal and conceptual framework for incident management to be utilized by the County and its various departments, as well as OA coordination procedures. Annexes that support this plan further describe the basic considerations, actions, and responsibilities of specific emergency response and management disciplines or functions.

The OAEOP is developed through an extensive planning process that utilized a whole community approach. The process follows established best practices, guidance, and legislative requirements in place at the time of development. The plan will be regularly reviewed (at a minimum of every 2 years), including following significant disasters, and updates will be made as determined appropriate.

### **This OAEOP accomplishes the following:**

- Establishes the emergency management organization required to respond to and recover from any significant emergency or disaster impacting the County.
- Establishes the concepts associated with the management of incidents, including the organization and activation of the County/OA Emergency Operations Center.
- Provides a flexible platform for planning and response to all hazards within the OA. It is applicable to a wide variety of anticipated incident events including earthquake, wildland fires, floods, and public health emergencies.

## Plan Concurrence

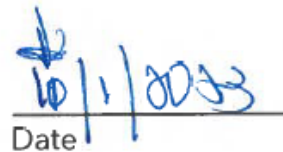
The County of Los Angeles Emergency Management Council (EMC), as established by Chapter 2.68 of the County's Code of Ordinances, has reviewed the OAEOP. The voting members of the EMC include the following representatives:

- Chief Executive Officer, *Chair of the EMC*
- Sheriff, *Vice-chair of the EMC*
- Chair of the Board of Supervisors, or designee
- Fire Chief
- Director, Department of Public Works
- Director, Department of Health Services
- Director, Internal Services Department
- Director, Department of Public Social Services
- Chief Medical Examiner, Department of the Medical Examiner
- Director, Department of Mental Health
- Director, Department of Animal Care and Control
- Director, Department of Regional Planning
- Director, Department of Public Health

As the Chair of the EMC, I submit the OAEOP to the Board of Supervisors with the EMC's recommendation for approval by Chair of the Board as the Operational Area Coordinator.



**Fesia Davenport**, Chief Executive Officer  
Chair, Emergency Management Council



Date

## Letter of Promulgation

November, 2023

To: Officials, Employees, and Residents of the Los Angeles County Operational Area


Preservation of life, property, the environment, and the economy are inherent responsibilities of local, State, and Federal governments. Key Operational Area (OA) partners develop this Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP) to ensure the most effective preparedness, response and recovery efforts for the maximum benefit and protection of the public in time of emergency.

While no plan can fully prevent the negative impacts of a disaster, well-developed plans, carried out by knowledgeable and well-trained personnel, can minimize losses. The OAEOP is a strategic and policy level document. It establishes the OA emergency organization, identifies departmental responsibilities, and specifies policies and general procedures for addressing emergencies impacting the OA. Further, this plan provides for the coordination of emergency operations plans of agencies/jurisdictions.

The OAEOP conforms to the requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). The objective of the OAEOP is to integrate OA resources to be an efficient organization capable of responding to emergencies using NIMS, SEMS, mutual aid, and other appropriate response procedures. The OAEOP is an extension of the State of California Emergency Plan. The OAEOP is reviewed and exercised periodically and revised as necessary to meet changing conditions.

The Board of Supervisors gives its full support to the OAEOP and urges all officials, employees, and residents, individually and collectively, to share in our commitment to the effective preparedness and response for emergencies and disasters.

This letter promulgates the OAEOP which becomes effective upon signature by the OA Coordinator. This plan now supersedes all previous versions.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Janice Hahn**, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Los Angeles County Operational Area Coordinator

11/7/2023

Date

**ATTEST: CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

By  \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy



## Record of Distribution

The following entities have been provided copies of the approved OAEOP:

Receiving Entity	Number of Copies
Board of Supervisors (1 per Supervisorial District)	5
County Departments (1 per department)	38
Cities in the County of Los Angeles (1 per city)	88
Disaster Management Area Coordinators (1 per DMAC)	8
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)	2
American Red Cross	1
Emergency Network Los Angeles (ENLA)	1

Other supporting/coordinating agencies or jurisdictions, as well as members of the public or media, may [access the most up to date version of the approved OAEOP](#) at any time from the OEM webpage.

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# 1 Purpose, Scope, Situation Overview, and Assumptions

## 1.1 Purpose

The County of Los Angeles Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP) and its supporting annexes establish the coordinated emergency management system within the Los Angeles County Operational Area (OA). The OAEOP provides guidance and procedure for the county to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of large scale emergencies regardless of cause, location, or complexity. This plan is intended for use by the County in its dual role that includes incident management for unincorporated areas, as well its roles acting as the lead agency for the OA. The plan conforms to the requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), Incident Command System (ICS) principles, and the California State Emergency Plan for managing response to multi-agency and multijurisdictional incidents and is consistent with federal and state emergency plans and guidance documents. This plan is intended to:

- Establish the emergency organization of the Los Angeles County OA and describe the associated authorities and responsibilities
- Facilitate multi-jurisdictional and interagency coordination in emergency operations, particularly between local government, private sector, operational area (geographic county boundary), and state response levels, and appropriate federal agencies
- Explain the mutual aid process followed during emergencies to contribute to an effective coordination of needed resources
- Remain in effect at all times and apply to the county government and its political subdivisions in accordance with the California Emergency Services Act

## 1.2 Scope

The OAEOP provides an overview of emergency management in the Los Angeles County OA. It is not intended to be a detailed response document. Emergency response plans and other pertinent documentation exist for agencies/jurisdictions in support of this plan. The OAEOP does not supersede the well-established operational policies and procedures for coping with and responding to day-to-day emergencies involving law enforcement, the fire service, medical aid, transportation services, flood control, or other discipline-specific emergency response systems. It is instead a compliment to such systems. This plan applies to the County both when managing

emergencies impacting Unincorporated Los Angeles County as well as in execution of the County's role as the lead agency for the OA. The plan is intended to facilitate multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination and is applicable to any extraordinary emergency situation associated with any hazard which may affect the Los Angeles County OA and generate situations requiring coordinated responses by multiple agencies and/or jurisdictions.

The OAEOP incorporates and complies with the principles and requirements found in Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines and incorporates best practices defined in FEMA's Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 version 3.0 and State of California's Emergency Plan. The OAEOP is designed to be read, understood, and exercised prior to an emergency incident.

### 1.3 Situation Overview

With approximately 4,760 square miles of total area, Los Angeles County is geographically one of the largest counties in the country. The County stretches along 75 miles of the Pacific Coast of southern California and is bordered to the southeast by Orange County, the east by San Bernardino County, to the north by Kern County, and to the west by Ventura County. The County consists of coastal plains, valleys, mountain ranges, and high desert areas, each with their own unique micro-climates and complexities. Zoning and land-use throughout the County include a wide range of uses, including rural zones, suburban areas, densely populated urban areas, agricultural, commercial, and industrial zones. Los Angeles County includes two National Forests within its boundary, the Angeles and the Los Padres, and two islands, Santa Catalina (75.00 square miles) and San Clemente (60.69 square miles), which are part of an eight-island group called the Channel Islands. Santa Catalina Island has a permanent residential population and includes one incorporated city - the City of Avalon. San Clemente Island is owned and operated by the United States Navy. Within the Los Angeles County OA, there are five supervisorial districts, eight Disaster Management Areas, 88 incorporated cities, 80 school districts<sup>1</sup>, and 137 special districts<sup>2</sup>.

Los Angeles County is the most populated county in the United States (U.S.) with a population of 10,014,009 residents, of which approximately 1,022,160 residents reside

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<sup>1</sup> LACOE Public Schools Directory: <https://schooldirectory.lacoe.edu/los-angeles-county-public-schools-directory.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Special Districts Fiscal Year 2022: <https://auditor.lacounty.gov/special-districts/>



in unincorporated areas. There are only 10 U.S. states that have larger populations. Los Angeles County is also a hub for hospitality and tourism. According to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, hospitality and tourism account for approximately 50 million visitors annually, including millions of international visitors, who contribute more than \$18 billion to the regional economy each year<sup>3</sup>.

Significant incidents that occur in the OA not only have local impacts but can result in nation and/or worldwide consequences, including significant supply chain and economic disruptions. For example, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are the nation's two busiest container ports and combined rank as the ninth busiest container port in the world. They are the primary gateway for waterborne trade between the United States (U.S.) and Asia and cargo from these ports impact every state in the U.S. In 2021, the Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach accounted for 31% of all containerized waterborne international trade the U.S. handled<sup>4</sup>. Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) regularly ranks as one of the busiest airports in the world, for both passenger traffic and cargo. In 2021, LAX ranked as the fifth busiest airport in the world based on passenger traffic and the eighth busiest based on air cargo<sup>5</sup>. Examples of other critical infrastructure in the County includes over 650 miles of freeways and miles of critical rail lines that connect to the transcontinental mainlines.

Los Angeles County is also home to numerous institutes of higher education (public and private), many significant cultural and historical institutions and landmarks, and is well known for the film and media industry based in the County. Additionally, numerous professional sports teams from each of the major professional organizations call the County home. The World Cup, Olympics, Super Bowl, World Series, Stanley Cup Finals, Women's and Men's National Basketball Association Finals, Major League Soccer Cup, College Football Championship, major professional golf tournaments, and other significant events with worldwide attention have been and/or will be hosted in Los Angeles County. Many other significant special events, including visits from dignitaries and heads of state, occur regularly across the County.

### 1.3.1 Demographic Overview

There are many considerations when ensuring a whole community approach to planning. It is important to understand the demographics of the community served,

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<sup>3</sup> LAEDC Hospitality & Tourism in Los Angeles: <https://laedc.org/industry-cluster-development/hospitality-tourism/>

<sup>4</sup> The Port of Los Angeles Facts and Figures: <https://www.portoflosangeles.org/business/statistics/facts-and-figures>

<sup>5</sup> LAX Improved to Fifth-Busiest Airport in the World in 2021: <https://www.lawa.org/news-releases/2022/news-release-025>

possible barriers to service accessibility, and any other variables that may be important considerations to ensure culturally competent planning practices. Los Angeles County has an extremely diverse population and understanding the demographic variables of the County allows emergency management representatives, government officials, and the public to better understand and address the needs of their respective communities and then determine the best ways to organize and strengthen resources, capacities, and interests.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects, consolidates, and publishes comprehensive population data every 10 years. The OAEOP planning team utilized data from the 2020 Decennial Census and the 2020 US Census Bureau American Community Survey<sup>6</sup>. Demographic variables were analyzed at the macro-level of the County to provide a baseline understanding of the population served. OA partners should conduct more targeted analyses of these data when conducting future planning efforts that support the OAEOP. The following table details the Race and Hispanic Origin census data for Los Angeles County:

Race and Hispanic Origin	Number of People (approximate)	Percentage of Population
Total Population of Los Angeles County	10,014,009	100%
Hispanic or Latino	4,804,763	48%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	2,563,609	25.6%
Asian alone, not Hispanic or Latino	1,474,237	14.7%
Black or African American alone, not Hispanic or Latino	760,689	7.6%
Two or More Races, not Hispanic or Latino	313,053	3.1%
Some Other Race, not Hispanic or Latino	58,683	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, not Hispanic or Latino	20,522	0.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, not Hispanic or Latino	18,453	0.2%

Table 1: Race and Hispanic Origin Census Data

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<sup>6</sup> United States Census and American Community Survey: <https://data.census.gov>

The ability to access information, understand protective actions, or otherwise access services can be impacted by language accessibility. Census data provide a high level overview of languages spoken at home in Los Angeles County (Figure 1). More nuanced language figures vary, but it is estimated that there are over 220 total languages that are spoken in the County. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) identified 98 languages spoken by students in the district during the 2021-2022 school year<sup>7</sup>. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk provides multi-lingual voting services in compliance with the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965, which was expanded by Congress in 2006. Based on the VRA, a language is considered to be mandatory for the County's translated election materials if (1) more than 5% of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient OR (2) more than 10,000 of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient. Based on these requirements, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is required to provide language assistance in the following languages:

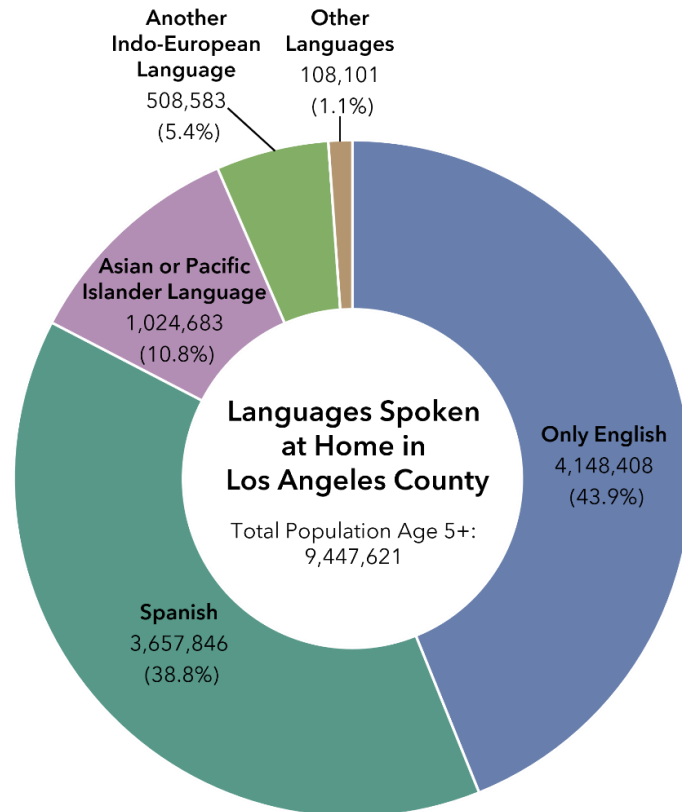


Figure 1: Languages Spoken at Home in Los Angeles County

more than 5% of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient OR (2) more than 10,000 of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient. Based on these requirements, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is required to provide language assistance in the following languages:

- Armenian
- Chinese
- Cambodian/ Khmer
- Farsi
- Korean
- Spanish
- Tagalog/Filipino
- Vietnamese
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Thai
- Russian
- Bengali
- Burmese
- Gujarati
- Indonesian
- Mongolian
- Telugu

<sup>7</sup> LAUSD Fingertip Facts 21-22: [achieve.lausd.net/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/280/Fingertip\\_Facts\\_2021\\_2022.pdf](https://achieve.lausd.net/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/280/Fingertip_Facts_2021_2022.pdf)

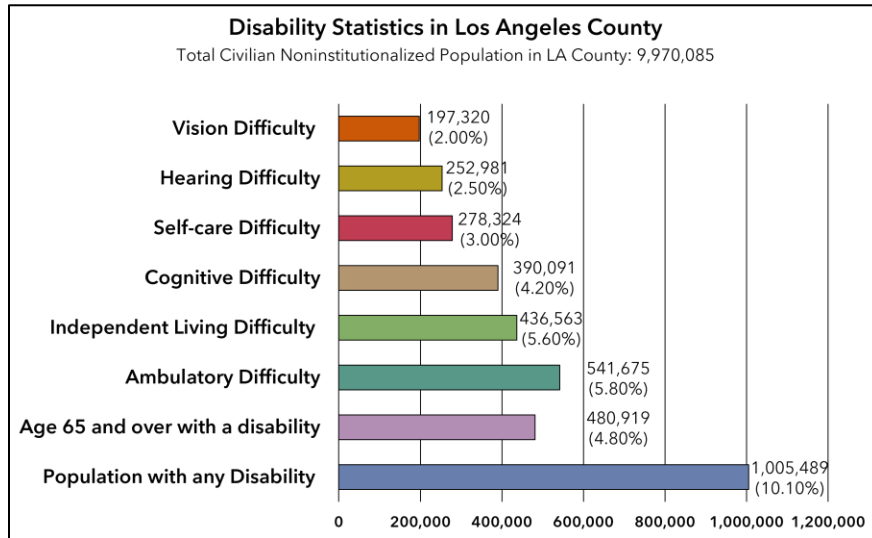


Figure 2: Disability Statistics in Los Angeles County

Most disaster response plans and systems are designed for people who can walk, run, drive, see, read, hear, speak, and quickly respond to alerts and instructions. This can present challenges for people with access and functional needs (AFN). Individuals with AFN include, but are not

limited to, those who have/are: Physical, intellectual, developmental, and mental health-related disabilities, visual impairments/blind, hearing impairments/deaf, mobility impaired, injured, chronic conditions, older adults, infants and children, living in institutionalized settings, living below the poverty line or experiencing homelessness, limited English proficiency or are non-English speakers, or are transportation disadvantaged. Those with AFN may suffer severe and less forgiving consequences without the appropriate support. Figure 3 highlights certain variables in Los Angeles County that may increase vulnerability to emergencies and disasters.

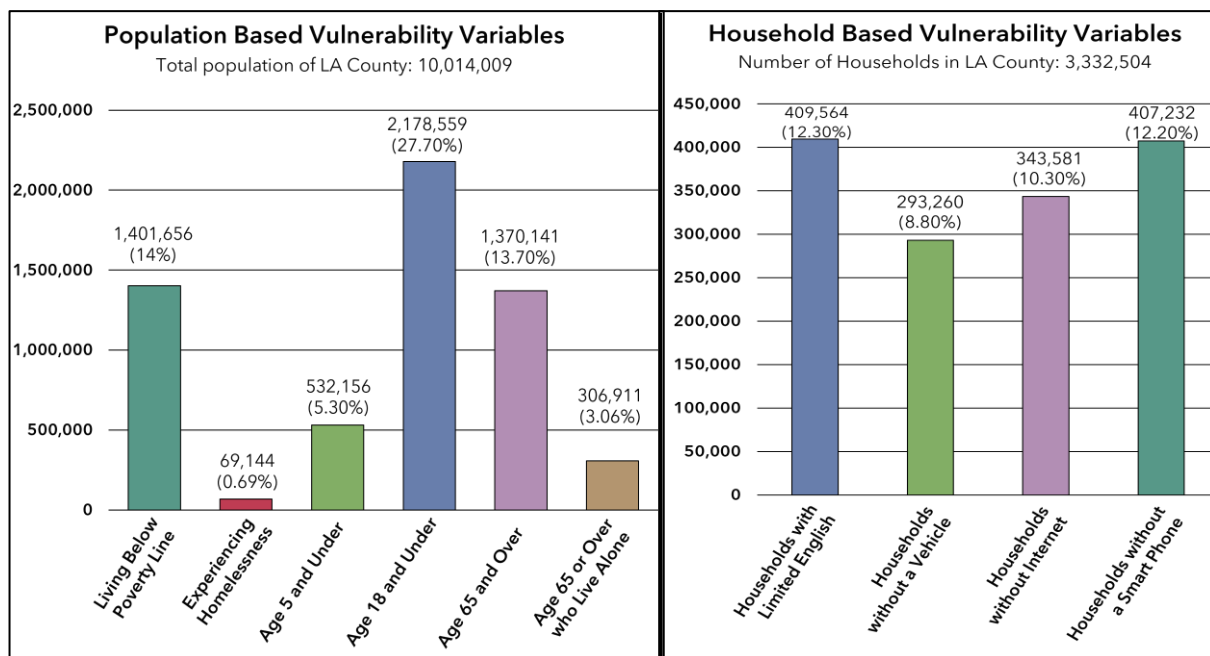


Figure 3: Population and Household Vulnerability Variables

In 2021, the County of Los Angeles completed a vulnerability assessment<sup>8</sup> to understand the risks and challenges presented by a changing climate. As part of this assessment, a social sensitivity index utilizing 29 data indicators within 10 categories was developed. The 10 categories include: Age, community and language, occupation, education, health, housing, income and wealth, race/ethnicity, access to information, and transportation. While that study focused on climate vulnerability, and this plan is an all-hazards plan, the index that was developed is an informative tool in this planning effort to better understand spatially where communities may be more vulnerable to hazards as demonstrated in the map below.

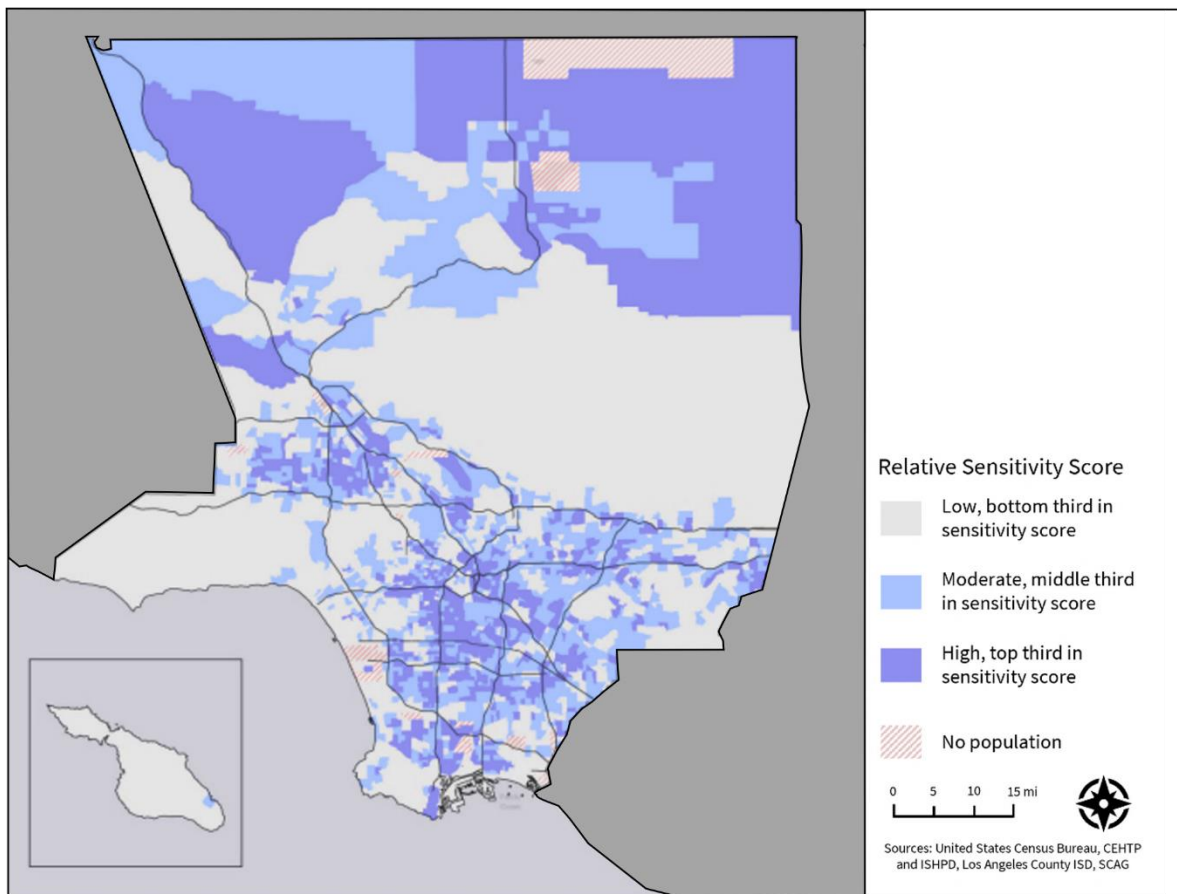


Figure 4: Climate Vulnerability Index Social Sensitivity Score

### 1.3.2 Hazard Overview

The County is susceptible to a multitude of natural, human-caused, and technological hazards. Each hazard has the potential to cause damage, create casualties, disrupt communities, and impact the economy. Between 1969 and 2023, there have been 76

<sup>8</sup> LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment: <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/LA-County-Climate-Vulnerability-Assessment-1.pdf>



federal disaster declarations that include Los Angeles County (54 fires, 7 floods, 6 severe storms, 3 earthquakes, 2 severe freezes, 2 pandemics, 1 hurricane (evacuation from Katrina), and 1 severe coastal storm)<sup>9</sup>. It is not at all uncommon for multiple emergency events in a single year to result in a federal disaster declaration. In 2007, Los Angeles County was included in nine federal declarations - 8 for fires and 1 for a severe freeze. The years 2008 (6 fires) and 2017 (5 fires and 1 flood) each saw 6 federal disaster declarations that included Los Angeles County. There are many additional disasters over this same timeframe that did not receive a federal declaration but were proclaimed as emergencies at the state and/or local level. **Los Angeles County ranks as the community with the most risk in the United States based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Risk Index which assesses possible hazards a jurisdiction is susceptible to in combination with the amount of loss that could result from those hazards.**<sup>10</sup>

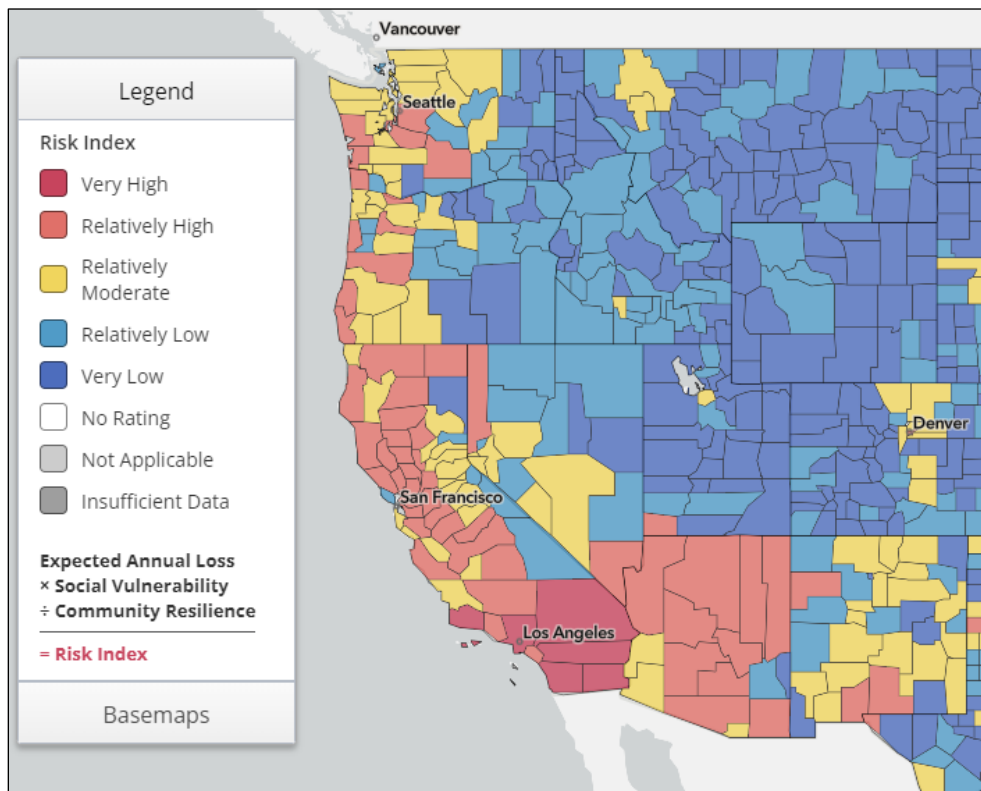


Figure 5: FEMA National Risk Index - Western United States Map

Locally, there have been many efforts undertaken by various partners that inform the types of hazards faced and the associated levels of risk. The three key plans/documents

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<sup>9</sup> FEMA Disaster Declaration Search: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations> - Data accurate as of April 2023

<sup>10</sup> FEMA National Risk Index Map: <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>

referenced during the OAEOP planning process include the 2020 County of Los Angeles All-Hazards Mitigation Plan led by the County's OEM, the Safety Element of the County's General Plan prepared by the Department of Regional Planning, and the LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment completed by the County's Chief Sustainability Office. These planning efforts have identified several hazards that Los Angeles County is most susceptible too. These include but are not necessarily limited to, earthquake, wildfire, flood, tsunami, mudslides/land movement, heat and drought, and dam failure. Additionally, impacts from climate change are likely to increase the frequency and intensity of many of these hazards. Details of these hazards are highlighted more below. Other technological or human-caused hazards that could impact the County include, but are not limited to, civil unrest, hazardous material incidents, urban conflagrations, terrorism/complex coordinated attacks, public health emergencies, cyber security breaches, and many more.

### Earthquakes and Seismic Hazards

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), 163 earthquakes with a magnitude of 5.0 or greater have been recorded in southern California since 1769. Four of these earthquakes have had a magnitude of 7.0 or greater<sup>11</sup>. In the Los Angeles region, there are over 50 active and potentially active fault segments, an undetermined number of buried faults, and at least four blind thrust faults capable of producing damaging earthquakes in Los Angeles County.

Earthquakes can cause ground rupture, liquefaction, and land movement. In addition, flooding in low-lying coastal areas can result from a tsunami that is generated by a large offshore earthquake or sub-marine landslides. Widespread and localized earthquake induced effects place structures or utility corridors at-risk, and if damaged, can result in fires, failure of large dams, or the release of toxic, flammable, or explosive materials.

Over 75% of unincorporated Los Angeles County is at risk to violent and extreme perceived shaking from future earthquakes. Violent perceived shaking can produce the potential for heavy damage. According to the USGS, this could mean that well-designed framed structures could be thrown out of plumb and substantial buildings could experience partial building collapse. In extreme shaking, the USGS notes that some well-built wooden structures could be destroyed, and most masonry and frame structures with foundations could be destroyed.

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<sup>11</sup> USGS Earthquake Catalog: <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/search/>

## Wildfire

Los Angeles County faces wildland fire threats due to its topography, rainfall patterns, and fire-adapted vegetation. Wildfires can cause loss of life to humans and animals and are capable of burning down vegetation, homes, critical facilities, and infrastructure. Fire can also result in soil erosion, debris flow risks, air pollution, and restriction of access to recreational areas. The rise in temperatures and prolonged periods of drought increase the fire ignition potential and may increase the frequency, rate of spread, and duration of wildfires.

The areas in Los Angeles County that are most susceptible to wildfires are generally located in mountainous or hillside areas, including, but not limited to, the Santa Monica Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, Verdugo Mountains, Santa Susana Mountains, Palos Verdes Hills, Santa Clarita Valley, Antelope Valley, Angeles National Forest, Los Padres National Forest, and Puente Hills. However, the areas that pose greatest risk to people are generally along the wildland-urban interface (WUI) or intermix. These areas are the transition zones between wildlands and human development and often where areas of housing and vegetation commingle. WUIs are common throughout Los Angeles County, particularly in rural and mountainous areas, and can also include urban communities that are located near open space, conservation areas, and national forests. A large portion of the homes built within the WUI are within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).

## Flood

Los Angeles County has a long history of moderate to severe flooding during major storms. In the Los Angeles basin area, an extensive flood control system has eliminated much of this problem. However, in the less densely populated areas where relatively few flood controls have been constructed, flooding remains a problem. In areas with alluvial fans, flood flows discharge from the mountainous canyons in an uncontrolled manner onto the desert floor, thereby resulting in widespread damage to agricultural land, buildings, and infrastructure. In the foothill areas that experience intense rainfall, mudflows pose a risk to those downstream. Finally, along the coast, waves generated by winter storms in combination with high astronomical tides and strong winds can cause a significant wave runup, resulting in erosion and coastal flooding to low-lying portions of the shoreline.

Since 1980, the County has been a voluntary participant in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Community Rating System (CRS). With an approved

Floodplain Management Plan, Los Angeles County is able to get Community Rating System credits that lowers the NFIP rates. The County also identified flood hazard areas associated with the County Capital Flood, which are shown on County Floodway Maps that were adopted into the County Code (Title 11, Chapter 11.60). The County Floodway Maps are used in conjunction with the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps to regulate development in flood hazard areas to meet or exceed NFIP standards.

### Tsunami

Coastal areas are vulnerable to tsunamis. Tsunamis are a series of powerful waves that originate from geologic disturbances in the ocean. Generated by large earthquakes below the ocean floor, underwater landslides, volcanic activity, and meteor strikes, tsunamis grow significantly in mass and height as they approach land and have the potential to cause injury and damage along adjacent coastal areas in Southern California. A locally generated tsunami can arrive and impact coastal communities within minutes. Tsunamis can last for hours and resemble a flood or surge.

The likelihood for the catastrophic inundation of low-lying coastal areas from tsunamis in Los Angeles County is low. However, the risk of losing vital commerce associated with the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach warrants adequate risk reduction measures from tsunamis. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have completed a Tsunami Hazard Assessment to guide disaster planning and mitigate damage from a potential tsunami at their facilities. In addition, the County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan includes risk reduction measures for the coastal areas.

### Debris Flows and Land Movement

In Los Angeles County, more than 50 percent of the unincorporated areas are comprised of hilly or mountainous terrain. Most hillside hazards include mud and debris flows, land movement and land subsidence, hillside erosion, and man-induced slope instability. These geotechnical hazards include artificially or rainfall-saturated slopes, the erosion and undercutting of slopes, earthquake induced rock falls and shallow failures, and natural or artificial compaction of unstable ground. Wildfire events can also lead to increased risk of land movement and debris flows for years following the fire event. These post-wildfire risks are present because of fire induced changes in soil chemistry and vegetation, which ultimately impact absorption and flow of water. The additional runoff can carry debris, inundate stormwater infrastructure, and/or block or damage roadways.

## Excessive Heat

Excessive heat occurs when temperatures are much hotter and/or humid than average for a particular location and time of year for at least two days. Heat waves, which are prolonged periods of excessive heat, are becoming more common. Excessive heat is a public health concern for all populations but poses additional risk to the following groups: seniors, babies and infants, people living in poverty, those with chronic medical conditions, and outdoor workers. Excessive heat days also place a strain on the electrical grid and may lead to rolling blackouts and brownouts. Interruptions in the electrical system may prevent people from being able to run cooling mechanisms and life sustaining equipment.

Seasonal temperatures can be most extreme in the northern areas of Los Angeles County, where 95th-percentile daily maximum temperatures of over 100 °F are common during the summer months. Natural land cover provides cooling functions, but in many areas of Los Angeles County, development has replaced those areas, serving as a contributor to the urban heat island effect. The urban heat island refers to areas that are artificially hotter due to surfaces that absorb heat (like roofs and pavements) and a lack of vegetation, particularly trees. Dense concentrations of impervious pavement and buildings cause the absorption and retention of heat throughout the day and fails to cool by night.

## Drought

A drought is an extended period of time, typically a season or more, when an area experiences below average precipitation resulting in a water shortage. Droughts can cause altered weather patterns, damaged natural ecosystems, reduced soil moisture, diminished water courses, crop damage, and general water shortage. It is difficult to monitor since it has a creeping effect through its slow absence of precipitation rather than the occurrence of a hazard event. When drought conditions persist and/or intensify, a drought emergency can occur where conditions of disaster or extreme peril pose a threat to the safety of people and property. Water in Los Angeles County is a precious resource, and climate change poses significant challenges to maintaining supplies both for humans and the environment. Los Angeles County gets its water from different sources, such as the Colorado River, groundwater basins, captured stormwater, and recycled water. Heavy reliance on imported water means that the regional effects on water sources can directly affect Los Angeles County. More frequent and intense periods of drought throughout the State of California and neighboring



states could reduce the availability of imported water and drive an increasing use of groundwater.

### Dam Failure

Catastrophic dam or aqueduct failure can devastate large areas and threaten residences and businesses. There are 91 State jurisdictional dams in Los Angeles County. These dams hold billions of gallons of water in reservoirs, and seismic activity or other phenomena can compromise dam structures and result in catastrophic flooding. Seventy (70) of these dams are classified as High or Extremely High hazard and failure of these types of dams will cause loss of human life and/or result in an inundation area with a population of 1,000 or more. Five (5) additional dams are classified as Significant Hazard and 16 as Low Hazard. There are hundreds of other smaller dams that are not under any oversight authority. These dams would not cause catastrophic damage but could result in localized damages.

As of June 2017, all 91 dams that are regulated by the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) except those classified as Low Hazard are required to have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). An EAP identifies incidents that can lead to potential emergency conditions at a dam, identifies the areas that could be affected by the loss of a reservoir and specifies pre-planned actions to be followed to minimize property damage, potential loss of infrastructure and water resources, and potential loss of life due to failure or misoperation of a dam. EAPs also require dam breach inundation maps to be prepared.

### Climate Change

Climate change will affect every person and every area of Los Angeles County and has the potential to increase the frequency and/or severity of the hazards detailed above. Examples include:

- Drier, hotter conditions will make wildfires more frequent and intense, particularly in the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). As this occurs, the risk of injury to residents and damage to property and infrastructure will increase. Secondary impacts, such as smoke from wildfires, can also significantly impact the health of Los Angeles County residents.
- A rise in the number of excessive heat days, with inland county areas experiencing days with temperatures in excess of 100°F more frequently. Extreme heat can trigger a variety of heat stress conditions, such as heat stroke.

Humidity is also rising which prevents cooling off. As the ocean gets warmer, it evaporates more. And as the air gets warmer, it's able to hold more moisture.

- More significant storm activity, including increased potential for significant atmospheric river events that produce significant rainfall amounts.
- Longer and more severe droughts due to higher average temperatures, as well as greater and more frequent floods.
- Secondary impacts like smoke and hazardous air quality from a wildland fire, increased mosquito activity after a flood event, mudslides after extreme precipitation falling on a recent burn area, or poor air quality due to extreme heat events increasing production of smog.

## 1.4 Whole Community Approach

The County, in coordination with OA partners, seeks to foster inclusion and integration in all aspects of emergency planning so that all groups, especially persons experiencing conditions that put them at disproportional risk during a disaster, have enhanced opportunities to be supported by the County's emergency services. Similarly, resources, capabilities, and expertise, especially beyond what government agencies are able to provide, are best leveraged when factoring in the capabilities of whole community partners. Consideration of both the needs of the whole community, but also the capabilities, allows for a more comprehensive approach to emergency management.

The Los Angeles County OA develops and updates emergency plans in accordance with local, state, and federal policies and guidance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides a strategic framework to guide all members of the emergency management community as they determine how to integrate the Whole Community Approach and related concepts into their daily practices. FEMA's guidance and this plan are not intended to be all-encompassing or offer specific actions that require adoption of certain protocols. Instead, the Whole Community Approach is acknowledged as a general process by which the public, emergency management representatives, organizational and community leaders, and government officials can understand and assess the needs of their respective communities, then determine the best ways to organize and strengthen resources, capacities, and interests. The Whole Community Approach, overall, is intended to increase individual preparedness, prompt engagement with vital community partners, and enhance community resiliency and security.

Community resiliency within emergency management consists of three key factors:

1. The ability of first responder agencies (e.g., fire and law services, emergency medical services, etc.) to divert from their day-to-day operations to address the emergency effectively and efficiently.
2. The strength and inclusivity of the emergency management system and organizations within the OA, to include the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), mass notification systems, emergency public information systems, evacuation and sheltering processes, etc.
3. The civil preparedness of the region's people, businesses, and community organizations.

Enhancing all three of these factors constantly focuses the OA on improving resiliency. Emergency response effectiveness largely depends on the preparedness and resiliency of the collective communities within the OA. Different types of communities exist including, but not limited to, communities of place, interests, beliefs, and circumstances, which can exist geographically and virtually (i.e., online gatherings/forums, etc.). While multiple factors can contribute to community resilience and effective emergency management resources and outcomes, FEMA recommends three principles to establish a Whole Community Approach:

1. Understand and meet the actual needs of the whole community.
2. Engage and empower all parts of the community.
3. Strengthen what works well in communities.

This plan was developed in alignment with the Whole Community Approach through collaboration with and guidance from representatives of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Cal OES' Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN), County departments/agencies, cities within the OA, special districts, law enforcement, fire services, emergency management, people with AFN, business and industry partners, and various other public and private stakeholders.

Throughout the OAEOP planning process, the planning team, led by the County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management (OEM), coordinated with various community partners to execute an inclusive and well-informed planning process. This effort included partnering with various groups and individuals who were able to provide input and guidance from the perspective of lived experiences. Partners in this effort included Regional Centers in Los Angeles County, disability advocacy and support organizations, County Commissions and Board Offices, and individual

members of the public through in person engagement and online survey opportunities. These partnerships are essential to properly account for culturally diverse communities and people with AFN are properly served by the plan.

## 1.5 Assumptions

Certain assumptions were used during the development of this plan. These assumptions translate into basic principles associated with conducting emergency management operations in preparation for, response to, and recovery from major emergencies. Assumptions provide context, requirements, and situational realities that must be addressed in plan development and emergency operations.

- The “emergency management cycle” consists of four phases: Preparedness, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. These phases function more as a spectrum as there is often crossover between them. Very few actions or considerations are isolated to a single “phase”.
- Large scale emergencies and disasters may occur at any time with little or no warning and may result in casualties, fatalities, and displace people from their homes. Any emergency can result in property damage/loss, interruption of essential public services and goods, damage to infrastructure, as well as significant harm to the environment.
- Multiple large-scale emergency incidents may occur simultaneously. The principles and concepts of this plan are scalable and adaptable to manage multiple incidents at once.
- In the event of a large disaster, residents may need to be self-reliant. Residents are encouraged to store non-perishable foods for up to 10 days, 3 gallons of water per person per day, any medical equipment or other essential support items necessary for the resident.
- All incidents are local - local authorities maintain operational control and responsibility for emergency management activities within their jurisdiction.
- Disasters may exhaust local resources and assistance from mutual aid partners may be necessary. The Los Angeles County Operational Area will coordinate resources to save lives, minimize injury to persons, and damage to property and the environment.
- Individuals with access or functional needs may suffer severe and less forgiving consequences without the appropriate planning and support.

- Individuals, community-based organizations, and businesses will offer services and support in time of disaster.
- The greater the complexity/scope of an incident, the greater the impact, requiring more multiagency coordination and resources.
- Emergency response plans and other pertinent documentation exist for agencies/jurisdictions in support of this plan.
- Any response will be in accordance with the concepts of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), both of which also require the use of the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- County departments will mobilize to deliver emergency and essential services under all threats and emergencies. Emergency response and recovery considerations are covered by this plan, but following an emergency or disaster incident, departments still maintain authority over their areas of responsibility and may still be required to manage other tasks not addressed in this OAEOP. These tasks will often relate to ensuring departmental continuity of operations for which departments maintain specific plans.
- Only County departments and non-County agencies that have a role in emergency operations support are included in this plan. The departmental and agency roles listed are limited to those applicable to emergency operations support.
- The County will provide a reasonable accommodation to constituents seeking and receiving resources.
- The OAEOP and supporting plans and procedures are living documents that will consistently be refined and updated over time to account for new requirements, lessons learned, and best practices.



## 2 Emergency Management Organization

## 2.1 National Incident Management System

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a comprehensive, whole community, whole government approach to incident management for all hazards. NIMS integrates existing best practices into a consistent nationwide approach to domestic incident management that is applicable to all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines. NIMS is based on a balance of flexibility and standardization that allows government and private entities at all levels to work together to manage incidents, regardless of their cause, size, location, or complexity. NIMS defines operational systems, including the Incident Command System (ICS), Emergency Operations Center (EOC) structures, and multiagency coordination that guide how personnel work together during incidents and is organized into three major components: resource management, command and coordination, and communications and information management.

The State of California and its political subdivisions are responsible for compliance with the requirements of the NIMS as defined in the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) - 5: Management of Domestic Incidents and Presidential Policy Directive - 8: National Preparedness. Local, state, territorial, and tribal nation jurisdictions are required to adopt NIMS in order to receive federal preparedness grants. As such, this OAEOP conforms to all NIMS requirements.

## 2.2 Standardized Emergency Management System

The California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is the Statewide system for managing response to multi-agency or multijurisdictional emergencies in California. As provided in California Government Code Section 8607(e)(1), local governments must use SEMS to be eligible for reimbursement of their response-related costs under the State's disaster assistance programs. SEMS integrates the concepts and principles of NIMS and incorporates the use of the Incident Command System, the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement, the Operational Area Concept, and multi-agency coordination.

There are five SEMS organizational levels which are activated as necessary:

- **Field:** The Field Level is where emergency response personnel and resources, under the command of responsible officials, carry out tactical decisions and activities in direct response to an incident or threat.

- **Local Government:** The Local Government level includes cities, counties, and special districts. Local governments manage and coordinate the overall emergency response and recovery activities within their jurisdiction.
- **Operational Area (OA):** An OA is the intermediate level of the State's emergency management organization. An OA encompasses a county's boundaries and all political subdivisions located within that county, including special districts. The OA facilitates and/or coordinates information, resources, and decisions regarding priorities among local governments within the OA. The OA serves as the coordination and communication link between the Local Government level and Regional level.
- **Region:** The Regional level manages and coordinates information and resources among OAs within California's administrative and mutual aid regions and between the OAs and the State level. The Region also coordinates overall State agency support for emergency response activities within the region.
- **State:** The State level of SEMS prioritizes tasks and coordinates state resources in response to the requests from the Regional level. The State level coordinates mutual aid among the mutual aid regions and between the Regional level and State level. The State level also serves as the coordination and communication link between the state and the federal emergency response system, including coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) when federal assistance is requested.

Pursuant to the provisions of the California Emergency Services Act, SEMS, and Chapter 2.68 of the County of Los Angeles Code of Ordinances, the County is the lead agency for the operational area, and the Board is its governing body. The County's EOC serves a dual role as the OA EOC.

## 2.3 Disaster Management Areas

Due to the size and complexity of Los Angeles County, the OA has been sub-divided into eight geographic areas known as Disaster Management Areas (DMAs). DMAs are an intermediate level between the Local Government and OA levels of SEMS and are unique to the Los Angeles County OA. These DMAs are established through a joint powers agreement (JPA) between the Board and all 88 cities within the County. Each DMA has a Disaster Management Area Coordinator (DMAC) who works with every city within their area to coordinate throughout all phases of the emergency management

cycle, including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. DMACs work to advocate for their cities and serve as liaisons between the OA and cities.

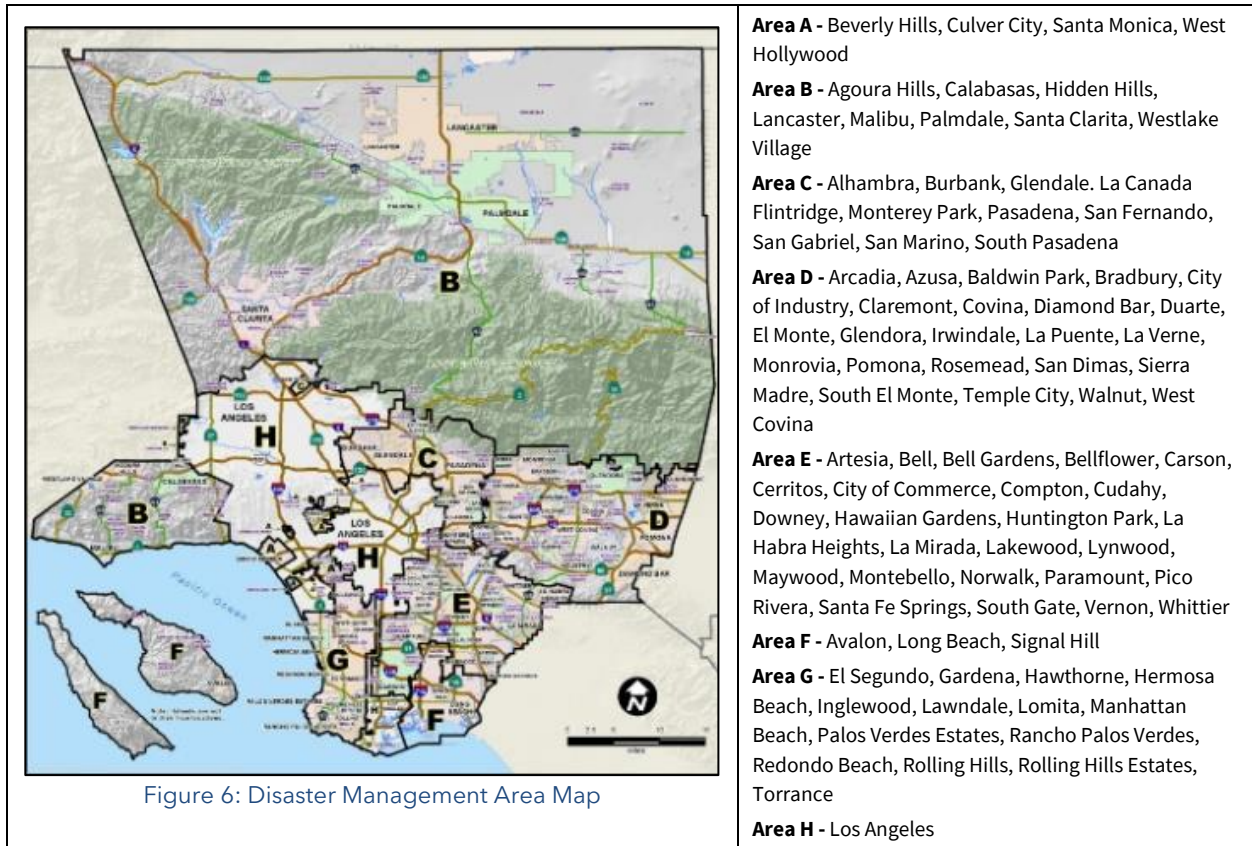


Figure 6: Disaster Management Area Map

Table 2: Disaster Management Areas

## 2.4 Incident Command System

Utilization of the Incident Command System (ICS) is a requirement of both NIMS and SEMS compliance. The ICS is a nationally used standardized system specifically designed to allow the user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. The principles of the ICS address both organization and process. ICS is used to manage facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications through the use of a common organizational structure and standardized procedures. The ICS is utilized by all field emergency response personnel in the Los Angeles County OA and the principles of the ICS are the primary organizational structure for the County/Operational Area EOC in accordance with both NIMS and SEMS guidelines.

## 2.5 Emergency Support Functions

The National Response Framework (NRF) and Comprehensive Planning Guide (CPG) 101 establish the concept of Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) as an emergency management coordinating structure. The federal government, most states and some local jurisdictions use ESFs to group response resources and capabilities from various departments and agencies.

### 2.5.1 Federal and State Emergency Support Functions

At the Federal level, 15 ESFs are utilized as function-specific groupings of organizations that work together to deliver core capabilities to stabilize community lifelines in support of an effective response. Each ESF is composed of a department or agency that has been designated as the ESF coordinator, along with a number of primary and support agencies. Primary agencies are designated on the basis of their authorities, resources, and capabilities. Support agencies are assigned based on resources or capabilities in a given functional area.

At the State level, California utilizes 16 emergency support functions (CA-ESFs). CA-ESFs are designed to bring together discipline-specific stakeholders at all levels of government to collaborate and function within all phases of emergency management. A single State agency is assigned to lead each CA-ESF based on its authorities, resources, and capabilities. Each CA-ESF member agency, lead or support, is responsible to assist in coordinating the state's response to emergencies, including provision of mutual aid and the allocation of essential supplies and resources.

Federal ESFs	California ESFs
ESF #1 - Transportation	CA-ESF #1 - Transportation
ESF #2 - Communications	CA-ESF #2 - Communications
ESF #3 - Public Works and Engineering	CA-ESF #3 - Const. & Engineering
ESF #4 - Firefighting	CA-ESF #4 - Fire and Rescue
ESF #5 - Emergency Management	CA-ESF #5 - Management
ESF #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services	CA-ESF #6 - Care & Shelter
ESF #7 - Logistics Management and Resource Support	CA-ESF #7 - Resources

Federal ESFs	California ESFs
ESF #8 - Public Health and Medical Services	CA-ESF #8 - Public Health & Medical
ESF #9 - Search and Rescue	<i>CA-ESF #9 was merged between CA-ESF #4 and CA-ESF #13</i>
ESF #10 - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response	CA-ESF #10 - Hazardous Materials
ESF #11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources	CA-ESF #11 - Food & Agriculture
ESF #12 - Energy	CA-ESF #12 - Utilities
ESF #13 - Public Safety and Security	CA-ESF #13 - Law Enforcement
ESF #14 - Long-Term Community Recovery	CA-ESF #14 - Recovery
ESF #15 - External Affairs.	CA-ESF #15 - Public Information
	<i>CA-ESF #16 (Evacuation) was merged into CA-ESF #13</i>
	CA-ESF #17 - Vol. & Donations Mgt.
	CA-ESF #18 - Cybersecurity

Table 3: Federal and State of California Emergency Support Functions

### 2.5.2 Los Angeles County Emergency Support Functions

Los Angeles County has adopted the general concept of ESFs (LAC-ESFs) as the primary emergency management coordination structure. This adoption was initially based on the Federal and State level coordination structures, as well as the guidance in CPG 101 that identifies how large jurisdictions generally benefit from incorporation of the ESF model. LAC-ESFs are designed to group function-specific stakeholders who will coordinate throughout all phases of the emergency management cycle. Each LAC-ESF has pre-identified departments and agencies assigned with the following roles and responsibilities:

- Coordinator:** The Coordinator assigned to each LAC-ESF coordinates with the identified primary and support departments and affiliated agencies during the preparedness phase. This includes coordinating the planning process to develop the LAC-ESF Annex to the OAEOP, ensuring training and exercise activities are conducted, and supporting other ESF readiness priorities. The

Coordinator is solely responsible for enhancing coordination and communication, but Primary and Support Departments, as well as affiliated agencies, are responsible for the actual work conducted under each LAC-ESF to meet the needs of any incident. The OEM currently acts as the Coordinator for each LAC-ESF.

- **Primary Department:** A single County department is assigned as the primary for each LAC-ESF. The Primary Department for each LAC-ESF is determined based upon which department has significant authorities, roles, resources, and capabilities related to that support function. Primary Departments represent their ESF within the County's emergency organizational structure, including within the County/Operational Area EOC, and are responsible for leading strategy development to support incident coordination and response. The Primary Department may coordinate with Support Department(s) to determine priorities, deploy and manage resources, and provide situational status updates related to their LAC-ESF. In some circumstances, a Primary Department may temporarily act in the role of a Support Department based upon the specifics of an incident, Unified Coordination Group (UCG) direction, or other related considerations. Primary Departments are required to maintain trained personnel, processes, and procedures.
- **Support Department(s):** Support Department(s) for each LAC-ESF have specific capabilities and/or significant resources that support Primary Departments in executing the mission of a particular LAC-ESF. There can be multiple County departments identified as Support Departments for any LAC-ESF. Support departments may coordinate with the Primary Department to develop strategy, deploy and manage resources, and assess and report situational status. In some circumstances, a Support Department may temporarily act in the role of the Primary Department based upon the specifics of an incident, UCG direction, or other related considerations. Support Departments are required to maintain trained personnel, processes, and procedures.

Departments that are not formally designated as support agencies for a specific ESF may still be summoned to provide assistance and resources as determined necessary by the UCG, EOC Director, EOC Operations Chief, and/or the LAC-ESF Coordinator within the EOC.



- Affiliated Agencies:** Affiliated Agencies are non-County organizations who have responsibilities under a particular LAC-ESF and/or provide significant resources, capabilities, or subject matter expertise but are not under the direct authority of the County of Los Angeles (e.g., ARC support to LAC-ESF#6). Affiliated Agencies may be governmental organizations (i.e., Special Districts), non-profit organizations, or other non-governmental organizations. An Affiliated Agency's support of a particular LAC-ESF may vary based upon statutory requirements, signed agreements (e.g., Memorandums of Understanding), and/or operational need. Affiliated Agencies will always support the LAC-ESFs via coordination with County departments acting as Primary and/or Support Departments and cannot function directly in the Primary or Support roles as defined. Comprehensive lists of all affiliated agencies for each LAC-ESF are identified in each ESF Annex.

Each LAC-ESF member agency, primary or support, is responsible to conduct proper planning, training, and preparedness efforts to support the LAC-ESF model and to assist in coordinating the County's response to emergencies, including provision of mutual aid and the allocation of essential supplies and resources.

LAC-ESFs are the coordination model utilized by Los Angeles County to facilitate support of incidents impacting Unincorporated Los Angeles County and in execution of the County's role as the lead agency for the OA. The utilization and establishment of LAC-ESFs do not change any pre-existing authorities and/or responsibilities of County departments or OA partners. Local governments are not required to implement the ESF concept; however, they may choose to do so if they determine it best suits their jurisdictional needs. Ultimately, local governments should organize consistent with local resources and established NIMS/SEMS regulations and guidelines.

LAC ESF	ESF Description
LAC-ESF #1 - Transportation	Manages items related to transportation systems, coordinates civilian transportation support needs, and liaises with the transportation industry (federal, state, and local, including public and private).
LAC-ESF #2 - Communications	Provides resources, support, and restoration of government emergency telecommunications, including voice and data systems. Coordinates with members of the communications industry (e.g., major private telecom providers).

LAC ESF	ESF Description
LAC-ESF #3 - Infrastructure & Engineering	Facilitates the delivery of services, technical assistance, engineering expertise, construction management, and other related support considerations.
LAC-ESF #4 - Fire & Rescue Services	Coordinates support activities related to the detection and suppression of urban, rural, and wildland fires, emergency rescue activities, and urban search and rescue needs. Provides fire and rescue personnel, equipment, and supplies. Monitors and manages fire mutual aid activities in accordance with fire mutual aid plans.
LAC-ESF #5 - Emergency Management and Coordination	Coordinates and resolves issues among the LAC-ESFs in the four phases of emergency management to provide consistency and efficiency. During emergencies, is responsible for OA/EOC management activities and interfaces with Local, Regional and State emergency management partners following SEMS.
LAC-ESF #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services	Coordinates actions to meet the needs of displaced individuals during an incident including emergency sheltering, food assistance, clothing, non-medical care, and family reunification.
LAC-ESF #7 - Logistical Support	Manages logistical support for emergency operations, including locating, procuring, and pre-positioning or otherwise providing required resources.
LAC-ESF #8 - Public Health and Medical Services	Organizes Public Health, Environmental Health, Mental health, and Emergency Medical Services activities. Responsible for Medical Health Operational Area Coordination (MHOAC).
Search and Rescue function incorporated into LAC-ESF #4: Fire and Rescue Services (Urban Search and Rescue) and LAC-ESF #13: Law Enforcement Services	
LAC-ESF #10 - Hazardous Materials	Coordinates resources to prepare for, prevent, minimize, assess, mitigate, respond to, and recover from a threat to the public or environment by actual or potential hazardous materials releases, including oil spills.

LAC ESF	ESF Description
LAC-ESF #11 - Animal Response and Agriculture	Manages domestic and large animal and livestock considerations during incidents, including during evacuation, sheltering, and similar activities. Coordinates with the agriculture industry to address impacts to agriculture and food industry.
LAC-ESF #12 - Utilities	Liaises with utility agencies, public and private, to coordinate resources and support restoration of gas, electric, water, and wastewater.
LAC-ESF #13 - Law Enforcement Services	Coordinates law enforcement personnel and equipment to provide public safety, conduct traffic control, and manage crowds. Responsible for Wilderness Search and Rescue coordination and monitors/manages mutual aid in line with Law Enforcement Mutual Aid plans.
LAC-ESF #14 - Initial Recovery	Supports and enables actions during the initial stages of the recovery process. This includes establishment of assistance centers, community assessment and engagement activities, etc. <b>Note:</b> LAC-ESF #14 accounts for initial recovery actions requiring consideration during response and early transition to recovery. More comprehensive plans that support the OAEOP provide more detailed recovery considerations.
LAC-ESF #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning	Disseminate accurate, coordinated, timely, and accessible alert and warning messaging and information sharing to the public, media, private sector, and other appropriate audiences.
LAC-ESF #16 - Personnel & Volunteers	Oversees the Disaster Service Worker (DSW) program and supports efficient and effective mobilization and demobilization of affiliated and unaffiliated volunteers.
LAC-ESF #17 - Donations Management	Manages monetary and in-kind donated resources to support incidents.
LAC-ESF #18 - Cybersecurity	Coordinates resources to prepare, mitigate, respond to, and recover from a significant cybersecurity event.

Table 4: Los Angeles County Emergency Support Functions

County of Los Angeles  
Emergency Operations Plan

LA County Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)							P	Primary	S	Support							
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14	#15	#16	#17	#18
Los Angeles County Departments	Transportation	Communications	Infrastructure and Engineering	Fire and Rescue Services	Emergency Management and Coordination	Mass Care/ Human Services	Logistical Support	Public Health and Medical	Hazardous Materials	Animal Response and Agriculture	Utilities	Law Enforcement	Initial Recovery	Public Info, Alert and Warning	Personnel and Volunteers	Donations Management	Cybersecurity
Aging and Disabilities						S		S		S					S		
Ag. Commissioner/ Weights and Measures								S		S			S		S		
Alternate Public Defender												S			S		
Animal Care and Control				S		S				P		S		S	S		
Arts and Culture															S		
Assessor			S										S		S		
Auditor-Controller							S								S	S	S
Beaches and Harbors	S			S										S	S		
Chief Executive Office	P	S	S		P	S	S				P		P	P	S	P	S
Child Support Services						S									S		
Children and Family Services						S									S		
Consumer and Business Affairs													S		S		
County Counsel					S										S		
District Attorney												S			S		
Economic Opportunity													S		S		
Fire		S		P	S		S	S	P	S	S			S	S		
Health Services					S	S	S	P							S		
Human Resources						S									P		
Internal Services	S	P	S		S	S	P			S	S				S	S	P
Justice, Care and Opportunities															S		
Medical Examiner					S			S				S			S		
Mental Health					S	S		S					S		S		
Military and Veterans Affairs															S		
Museum of Art (LACMA)															S		
Natural History Museum															S		
Parks and Recreation				S		S	S			S		S			S		
Probation												S			S		
Public Defender												S			S		
Public Health				S	S	S	S	P	S					S	S		
Public Library						S									S		
Public Social Services					S	P		S					S		S	S	
Public Works	S	S	P	S	S		S		S		S		S		S		
Regional Planning			S		S								S		S		
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk													S	S	S		
Sheriff	S	S		S	S		S		S	S		P		S	S		S
Treasurer Tax Collector													S		S		
Youth Development													S		S		

Figure 7: Primary and Support Departments - Los Angeles County ESFs

# 3 Response Concept of Operations

### 3.1 Priorities, Goals, and Strategies

The OAEOP establishes the overall priorities, goals, and high-level strategies that the OA emergency organization should utilize as guidance when managing any emergency or disaster incident. Incident specific tactical strategies, objectives, and related concepts are developed by the appropriate authorities at the time of the incident to meet these overarching priorities and goals efficiently and successfully.

Priorities
<p><b>1. Save Lives:</b> The preservation and sustainment of life is the top priority of emergency response and takes precedence over all other considerations.</p> <p><b>2. Protect Health and Safety:</b> Measures should be taken to mitigate the emergency’s impact on public health and safety.</p> <p><b>3. Protect Property:</b> All feasible efforts must be made to protect public and private property and resources from damage during and after an emergency.</p> <p><b>4. Preserve the Environment:</b> All possible efforts must be made to preserve the environment and protect it from damage during an emergency.</p>
Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet basic human needs</li> <li>• Address needs of individuals with AFN</li> <li>• Mitigate operational hazards</li> <li>• Stabilize community lifelines and restore essential services</li> <li>• Support community and economic recovery</li> </ul>
Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meet basic human needs:</b> All possible efforts must be made to supply resources to meet basic human needs, including food, water, accessible shelter, medical treatment, and security during an emergency.</li> <li>• <b>Address needs of individuals with access and functional needs:</b> Individuals with AFN needs are disproportionately impacted during and after an emergency. The needs of individuals with AFN must be considered and addressed before, during, and after disasters at all levels of SEMS.</li> <li>• <b>Mitigate hazards:</b> Suppress, reduce, or eliminate hazards and/or risks to persons and property. Lessen the actual or potential impacts caused by hazards.</li> <li>• <b>Stabilize community lifelines and restore essential services:</b> Essential services (e.g., FEMA’s Community Lifelines) must be restored rapidly.</li> <li>• <b>Support Community and Economic Recovery:</b> All members of the community must collaborate to conduct recovery operations efficiently, effectively, and equitably, promoting expeditious recovery of the affected areas.</li> </ul>

Table 5: Priorities, Goals, and Strategies

## 3.2 Notification and Mobilization

A critical component of the early response to any emergency incident or planned event is ensuring that the proper resources are notified and mobilized. As the scale and complexity of any incident grows, it remains essential that the appropriate components of the emergency organization are notified and mobilized as needed to support incident response. Notifications and resource mobilization should account for jurisdictional responsibility and occur in line SEMS guidelines. There are unique considerations to consider depending on whether an incident occurs with no notice (e.g., earthquake) or if the incident occurs with lead time, as would be the case during incidents that can be forecast (e.g., severe weather) or planned events.

### 3.2.1 No Notice Incidents

In a majority of incident scenarios, field response agencies (e.g., fire, EMS, law enforcement, public works, public health, animal care) will be alerted about an incident by the public through the 911 system, non-emergent dispatch centers, or similar means. Immediate response is accomplished within the affected area by the appropriate agency(ies) with jurisdictional authority. Assistance may be provided by special districts, non-governmental organizations, and segments of the private sector, as appropriate. Responding agencies shall manage all incidents in accordance with ICS organizational structures, doctrine, and procedures. When an incident grows in complexity beyond the scope of initial response assets, field response personnel shall follow pre-established automatic and/or mutual aid agreements to acquire more field resource support.

As incidents exceed the capabilities of field resources and/or are determined to be noteworthy beyond a typical field response, notifications should be made to the proper entities and resources requested through the proper channels in accordance with SEMS. Notifications and resource requests should be made through dispatch centers, duty officers, or other identified emergency contacts (e.g., Department Emergency Coordinators) as appropriate. The Los Angeles County OEM maintains an active Watch Center with an onsite Duty Officer who is responsible for monitoring conditions and incidents. The Duty Officer coordinates with the proper partners as appropriate, including but not limited to Department Emergency Coordinators, DMACs, and non-governmental partners.



### 3.2.2 Forecast Incidents and Planned Events

Forecast incidents and planned events provide an opportunity for response agencies to increase readiness and pre-coordinate certain actions. This pre-coordination increases the ability to effectively respond if/once the emergency/event occurs. Preparatory actions can include, but are not limited to:

- Preemptively activating the County/OA EOC and establishing a Unified Coordination Group to provide strategic guidance
- Departments proactively activating/preparing to activate a Department Operations Center
- Briefing elected officials
- Reviewing plans and procedures and updating resource and contact lists
- Preparing and disseminating information to the community
- Increasing staffing levels and/or staffing specialized response units
- Testing systems such as warning and communications systems

## 3.3 Direction, Control, and Coordination

Responsibility for emergency response is based on statutory authority. The emergency response is coordinated under SEMS, which provides a flexible, adaptable, and expandable response organization to address all-hazards of varying magnitude and complexity. The OAEOP provides structures, based upon SEMS and NIMS, for implementing the appropriate level of operational coordination to meet the needs of any incident. The concepts established here can be partially or fully implemented in response to a potential/actual threat, in anticipation of a significant event, or in response to an incident. Selective implementation allows for a scaled response, delivery of the exact resources needed and a level of coordination appropriate to each incident. All incidents will be managed at the lowest possible level. Local jurisdictions will exhaust their resources, including contracted private sector resources, and enact their established mutual aid before requesting support from the OA.

### 3.3.1 Field Incident Command

The field response level is where the emergency response begins and where personnel and resources, under the command of the appropriate authority, carry out tactical operational decisions and activities in direct response to any incident or threat. SEMS regulations require the use of the ICS at this level of an incident. The Incident

Commander, or Unified Commanders in a jointly managed incident, has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations.

During response to minor or moderate events, jurisdictions may manage the emergency with existing resources, including automatic aid and mutual aid resources as applicable. Department Operations Centers and/or the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for that jurisdiction may not need to be activated under this scenario.

### 3.3.2 County Department Operations Centers

A County Department's Department Operations Center (DOC) is an operational and logistical entity that is designed to serve as a departmental coordinating body in support of incident management. The role of the DOC for Los Angeles County departments encompasses two broad functions:

1. To manage and maintain internal departmental operations during an emergency/disaster incident, including ensuring departmental continuity of operations
2. To contribute to County/OA response through communication and coordination with field response assets and the EOC, when necessary.

DOC activation is based on the mission of the department and is generally authorized by the Director of that department, unless otherwise delegated. If the EOC is activated, DOCs can serve as extensions of ESFs to perform missions in support of field incident command in coordination with the County/OA Emergency Operations Center. The DOC shares objectives, strategies, and status updates at regular intervals with the EOC. As such, personnel selected by the department to be part of a DOC receive training and participate in drills and exercises to develop their skills and knowledge of overall EOC operations. The following are primary roles and responsibilities of the DOC:

- Maintains departmental operations, including:
  - Staffing
  - Finance
  - Intra-department planning
  - Intra-department cooperation
  - Inter-departmental coordination (when EOC is not activated)
- Directly supports incident(s) and Incident Commander (IC)
- Receives resource requests from Incident Command
- Prioritizes and manages departmental resources

- Serves as a point of contact for the EOC
  - Receives UCG directed objectives
  - May receive resource allocation priorities
  - Provides situation status reports

### 3.3.3 Coordination with Cities

Incorporated cities are the front line of defense for their residents during large scale emergency incidents or disasters. In general, the emergency response priorities of cities are aligned with the County's priorities of saving lives, protecting health and safety, protecting property, and preserving the environment. Coordination and communications should be established with all cities that are impacted by an incident and involved in emergency response. Cities have access to the County's web-based emergency management information system which should be used to provide situation status information and submit resource requests. Additionally, each of the 88 incorporated cities within the County is assigned to a Disaster Management Area and the DMACs act as liaisons between the County and cities. DMACs have a seat within the County/OA EOC to provide coordination and communication functions with cities.

### 3.3.4 Coordination with Special Districts

Special districts are defined as local governments in SEMS and often have unique resources, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The emergency response role of special districts is generally focused on the return to normal services. During disasters, some types of special districts will be extensively involved in the emergency response by assisting other local governments.

Coordination and communications should be established with special districts that are involved in emergency response. Relationships among special districts, cities, the county, and the OA, as a whole, are complicated by overlapping boundaries and by the multiplicity of special districts. Special districts need to work with the local governments in their service areas to determine how best to establish coordination and communications in emergencies.

Typically, special district boundaries cross municipal boundaries. A special district may serve several cities and/or county unincorporated areas simultaneously. Some special districts serve more than one county. In such a situation, the special district may provide a liaison representative to the County/OA EOC to facilitate coordination and communication with the various entities it serves.

### 3.3.5 Emergency Operations Center

The County EOC serves a dual role as the OA EOC as well. The EOC is the central coordination point that provides for multi-agency emergency coordination and support to agencies/jurisdictions during an emergency or disaster. The CEO, executed through the OEM, is responsible for maintaining, managing, activating, and operating the County/OA EOC at all times, including during an emergency. Members of the County's emergency organization (i.e., County Departments) are required to support the County/OA EOC as determined appropriate by the UCG, if established, and/or the EOC Director. The need for support will be based upon the needs of the incident and level of EOC activation. Agency representatives, liaisons, and the like from OA organizations are also incorporated into to the County/OA EOC organization based on the needs of the incident. Core functions of the County/OA EOC include coordination, communications, resource allocation and tracking, and information collection, analysis, and dissemination. To accomplish this, the County/OA EOC will be activated and staffed to the appropriate level necessary for the response.

#### EOC Levels and Activation Criteria

The EOC will be activated as determined necessary to support incidents that result in significant impacts to unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and require multi-agency coordination, information and resource management, policy guidance, or similar considerations. SEMS also requires the County/OA EOC be activated when one of the following conditions exists:

- A local government within the OA has activated its EOC and requested activation of the County/OA EOC to support their emergency operations
- Two or more cities within the OA have proclaimed a local emergency
- The County and one or more cities have proclaimed a local emergency
- A city or the County has requested a proclamation of a State of Emergency
- The governor proclaims a State of Emergency for the County or two or more cities within the OA
- The OA is requesting resources from outside its boundaries, except those resources used in normal operations which are obtained through existing agreements providing for the exchange or furnishing of certain types of facilities and services on a reimbursable, exchange, or other basis as provided for under the Master Mutual Aid Agreement

- The OA has received resource requests from outside its boundaries, except those resources used in normal operations which are obtained through existing agreements providing for the exchange or furnishing of certain types of facilities and services on a reimbursable, exchange, or other basis as provided for under the Master Mutual Aid Agreement.

The level of activity within an EOC grows as the size, scope, and complexity of the incident(s) grow, and as such, the EOC staffing level will be established commensurate with the incident(s) being supported. In compliance with both NIMS and SEMS, the County/OA EOC utilizes three levels of EOC activation as defined below. Any of these levels can involve both in-person and off-site personnel coordinating virtually.

Activation Level	Definition/Conditions
<b>Steady State/Normal Operations</b>	No formal activation of the County/OA EOC. OEM Watch Center Duty Officer provides 24/7/365 coverage to maintain situational awareness and provide support and coordination for incidents during the period between when an incident occurs and the EOC can be formally activated.
<b>Level 3</b> (Minimal EOC Staffing)	Lowest level of formal EOC activation. Small to moderate emergencies or pre-planned events that require a slightly more enhanced coordination capability than the Watch Center Duty Officer can provide, but do not require a majority of the EOC positions to be staffed.
<b>Level 2</b> (Intermediate EOC Staffing)	Mid-level EOC activation. This activation level is used for emergencies or planned events that would require more than a minimum staff but would not call for a full activation of all organizational elements of the EOC.
<b>Level 1</b> (Full EOC Staffing)	Highest level of EOC Activation with most/all EOC Sections staffed and actively supporting. Level 1 activation is used in support of major emergency/disaster incidents with widespread impacts requiring significant response coordination from the County/OA EOC.

Table 6: County/Operational Area EOC Activation Levels

## EOC Organization

When activated, the EOC, in accordance with SEMS, may be organized into five major functional areas based on the principles of the ICS: management, operations, planning/intelligence, logistics, and finance/administration. Each of these five sections are to be activated as necessary based upon the level of EOC activation and the requirements of each particular emergency response. A UCG acts in the policy advisory capacity and provides strategic guidance to the EOC during Level 1 activations, or as otherwise determined necessary. An overview of the UCG and five functional sections is described below:

- **Unified Coordination Group:** A UCG is a variable group of senior County leaders, generally Department Heads or their designee(s), who are assembled to provide strategic level guidance during an incident to the EOC/County's emergency organization. The CEO is responsible for assembling and leading a UCG when the EOC is activated at a Level 1. The CEO also has discretion to activate a UCG outside of a Level 1 EOC activation if determined appropriate. The composition of a UCG will be determined, on a case-by-case basis, by the CEO depending on the particulars of the given emergency.
- **Management Section:** The Management Section is responsible for overall management of the County/OA EOC, including coordinating the overall response/recovery effort (prioritizing, decision-making, coordination, tasking, and conflict resolution). When a UCG is in place, the Management Section is responsible for ensuring implementation of the strategic and policy guidance set forth by the UCG.
- **Operations Section:** The Operations Section is responsible for coordinating all incident related operations as directed by the EOC Action Plan and EOC Management. The Operations Section coordinates priority missions with the ESF Coordinators and deploys resources in a manner that is consistent with the County and OA objectives.
- **Planning and Intelligence:** The Planning and Intelligence Section is responsible for collecting, evaluating, displaying, and disseminating information and maintaining documents. Planning and Intelligence leads the EOC Action Planning cycle and develops written EOC Action Plans. In order to provide a common operational picture, Situation Reports are developed and disseminated to OA partners by the Planning and Intelligence team with the

assistance of other EOC sections, County departments, local jurisdictions/special districts, and other OA partners.

- **Logistics Section:** The Logistics Section coordinates the procurement and provision of emergency resources and support and advises the EOC Director on resource allocations, distribution, priorities, expenditures, and related matters. If the County/OA EOC obtains supplies or services at the request of an agency/jurisdiction, the costs will be billed to the requesting entity unless otherwise coordinated through appropriate mechanisms.
- **Finance/Administration Section:** The Finance/Administration Section is responsible for ensuring all financial records are maintained and tracking all costs associated with the incident. Finance/Administration provides guidance on State and Federal guidelines and requirements for disaster operations to maximize cost recovery when applicable.

### Emergency Support Functions During EOC Activation

Incorporating LAC-ESFs during EOC activations provides the greatest possible access to stakeholder resources and capabilities regardless of which organization has those resources. LAC-ESFs do not need to all be activated simultaneously, but instead each individual LAC-ESF should be activated as needed based upon the specific needs of a given incident. Once activated, the LAC-ESF will be established as a Branch or Unit under one of the five core ICS sections detailed above. A designated representative should be identified to represent each LAC-ESF in the EOC. This representative is not solely responsible for carrying out all activities under the purview of an ESF, but instead they are the coordinating entity among all stakeholders that are members of each LAC-ESF.

- **Designated Representative:** Prior to an emergency, individuals with the appropriate level of training and experience related to each ESF will be identified as Coordinators that can be called upon to support the EOC when activated. LAC-ESF coordinators are identified on the basis of subject matter expertise regarding specific disciplines, authorities, and resources, and will have access to the resources and capabilities of the LAC-ESF.
- **Expertise, Resources, and Capabilities:** The LAC-ESF coordinators can be tapped to provide discipline-specific subject matter expertise as necessary for



all activities within the EOC organization. Some of the typical activities of the LAC-ESF coordinators would provide:

- Recommendations on the appropriate use of discipline-specific resources
  - Expertise regarding the procedures, processes, and methods for obtaining resources
  - Agency-specific aspects relating to resource acquisition
  - Representation to established MAC Groups
  - Acquire, maintain, and process discipline-specific intelligence and information
- **LAC-ESF Notification and Mobilization:** Upon activation of the County/OA EOC, the EOC Director, Operations Section Chief, and other appropriate individuals will assess the need for one or more LAC-ESFs to support the emergency response and recovery activities. Notifications and mobilization will follow EOC management direction and standard practices established in each LAC-ESF annex. The assigned ESF Coordinator will respond to the EOC, whether in person or virtually depending on the circumstances.
  - **LAC-ESF Initial Response Actions:** The items listed below constitute the initial response actions to be taken by each activated LAC-ESF.
    - Establish formal activation time and initial staffing pattern for representation in the EOC
    - Establish and maintain communications pathways with DOCs, Affiliated Agencies, and other partners as required.
    - Based on the governance structure documented in the LAC-ESF Annex, notify and activate support agencies as required for the threat or emergency
    - Begin to immediately acquire intelligence concerning the LAC-ESF activities to support the emergency
  - **LAC-ESF and DOC Coordination:** When activated in support of the County/OA EOC, DOCs serve as extensions of ESFs to perform missions in support of field incident command in coordination with the County/OA Emergency Operations Center. Coordination will take place between the LAC-ESF coordinator and the supporting DOCs when a LAC-ESF is activated within the County/OA EOC.

Primary Department and Supporting Department(s) DOCs should be activated as determined necessary based on the needs of the incident(s).

### EOC Deactivation

Deactivation of the County/OA EOC is determined by the UCG, if established, and/or the EOC Director. The decision to deactivate is to be made in consultation and agreement with Field Incident Commanders. Incident stabilization, recovery needs, demobilization of field resources, public information needs, and status of incident objectives are all factors that should be considered when deactivating the EOC.

### Primary and Alternate Facilities

The primary EOC facility is located in unincorporated Los Angeles County in the area of City Terrace/East Los Angeles. The building, built on a seismic base isolation system, consists of approximately 36,000 square feet of space and includes a Situation Room, multiple planning rooms, conference rooms, office space, and a media area. The OEM maintains the primary EOC facility to ensure the facility remains in a constant state of readiness.

In the event the primary EOC facility is unusable or inaccessible due to emergency or disaster impacts, alternate facilities are designated to assume the impacted facility's roles and responsibilities. Multiple County facilities throughout the County can serve as an alternate EOC location based on the specifics of an incident(s). This includes the County's Hall of Administration building if required. A completely virtual EOC is also an alternate solution if the primary EOC is inaccessible or otherwise unavailable. When there is a temporary transfer of operations to an alternate facility, notifications will be made to County departments, local jurisdictions and OA partners, and Cal OES to ensure continuity in communications and operations.

### 3.3.6 Field-DOC-EOC Communications and Coordination

Department Operations Centers, when activated, are responsible for maintaining direct communication and coordination with departmental resources in the field. DOCs also maintain direct communications and coordination with the County/OA EOC to share situational status information and coordinate resources. DOC-EOC interface will follow general ICS principles for chains of communication. ESF Coordinators in the EOC, when activated, will coordinate with the DOCs of Support Departments, as well as the EOCs of Affiliated Agencies.

In the absence of DOC activation, field incident command and the County/OA EOC will establish communications when the EOC is activated. Agency Representatives from the EOC will be assigned to the field as appropriate to facilitate communication and coordination.

### 3.3.7 Integration of State and Federal Activities in the Operational Area

State and Federal resources operating within the OA through a resource request process will be coordinated through the County/OA EOC, the requesting local EOC, if applicable, and will ultimately operate at the direction of the appropriate field Incident/Unified Commanders.

There are some instances where a State or Federal agency will have a field response within the OA due to statutory authority. State agency field responses may result from a flood fight effort, oil spill, and hazardous materials accident on a highway or other hazard scenarios. Federal field response could result from the same scenarios, a military aircraft accident, and/or terrorism incidents. State or federal agencies operating in the field may be found in any ICS section, branch, or unit, or part of a Unified Command. The agency's responsibilities in responding to the incident will determine their location in the organization. Per NIMS, any multi-agency response will require the formation of a Unified Command structure. When a State or Federal agency is involved in field operations, coordination may be established with County/OA EOC and the appropriate jurisdiction where the incident occurs.

## 3.4 Alert and Warning

The ability to alert and warn the public is an essential capability in the OA emergency organization's mission to protect the public's health and safety and save lives. The words "alert" and "warning" are often used interchangeably, but in the context of the OAEOP, those words are used in specific senses:

- **Alert:** A communication intended to attract public attention to an unusual situation and motivate individual awareness.
- **Warning:** A communication intended to inform members of the public to take one or more protective actions in order to reduce losses or harm.

At the County level, the CEO, the Sheriff, the Fire Chief, and the Director of Public Health are each authorized by County ordinance to issue, or delegate the issuance of, alert and warning notifications to the public. The specific modalities used to

disseminate alert and warning messages will depend on many variables, including the type and severity of the incident and the protective actions (e.g., evacuations, shelter-in-place orders, etc.) being issued by field Incident/Unified Commanders. The County currently has the ability to utilize the following platforms to issue alert and warning messages:

#### Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

- **Emergency Alert System (EAS):** The EAS is a national public warning system that requires radio and television (TV) broadcasters, cable TV, wireless cable systems, satellite, and wireline operators to provide the US President with the capability to address the country during a national emergency. At the local level, the County has the ability to initiate an EAS message through partnerships with Local Primary (LP) stations to broadcast emergency information directly to radio listeners and television viewers during widespread emergency events. EAS messages cannot be targeted and are delivered to all listeners/viewers of stations across Los Angeles County, regardless of the location or area impacted by an incident. The EAS distributes warning messages over large areas very quickly but cannot reach people who are not actively watching or listening, particularly people who are asleep. EAS messages are limited to English.
- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs):** WEAs are short emergency messages (maximum of 90 or 360 characters) sent by authorized government alerting authorities through the major mobile carriers. WEAs have a unique alert tone and vibration accompanied by a brief push notification displayed uniquely on the end user's mobile device. WEA is an opt-out system, meaning users with WEA capable mobile phones will receive a notification automatically, unless they choose to deactivate the service on their mobile device. WEA messages can be sent countywide or targeted to impacted areas and provide the capability to alert and warn both the residents of an impacted area as well as visitors. Due to limitations of the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS), WEAs are limited to English and Spanish. The IPAWS system generally does not allow for any "special characters", therefore messages in Spanish cannot include diacritical marks, including tildes, umlauts, and accents.
- **Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEMS):** In partnership with the Los Angeles-Oxnard Office of the National Weather Service, the County conducted research, planning, testing, and developed procedures to expand emergency

alert and warning capability through the use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radios to disseminate NWEMs. The local NWS Office is responsible for approving and broadcasting NWEMs created by local authorities. Residents with personal weather radios at home can receive alerts about fires and other hazards, including dangerous weather conditions. Weather radios that have a battery back-up are not fully dependent on the same infrastructure (i.e., power, internet, cell tower) as phone, email, and text-based systems. NOAA Weather Radios have broad transmission capabilities and are generally sent countywide. Messages are delivered via a text-to-speech capability and are limited to English.

### Local Alert and Warning Tools

- **Alert LA County:** Alert LA County is the branded mass notification platform utilized by the County of Los Angeles that allows individuals to receive emergency alerts by text, email, phone call, and/or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) message. Considered an opt-in mass notification system, Alert LA County contains all countywide landlines (listed and unlisted) and self-registered individuals within the County. Alert LA County has accessibility features for people with AFN and allows for translation into multiple languages (manually or via an auto translate feature). Residents and visitors are strongly encouraged to register to receive alerts via phone call, text message, email, and TDD, and once registered, add the Alert LA County telephone numbers to their contacts.
- **Websites and Social Media:** Websites and social media are not considered alert and warning systems, but they are used to supplement the information and protective actions being disseminated by alert and warning message campaigns. The County utilizes the Emergency Webpage ([Lacounty.gov/Emergency](http://Lacounty.gov/Emergency)) and social media posts to detail essential emergency public information. These platforms can be utilized by members of the public to attain more information about a hazard and/or protective action after they receive the alert or warning messages highlighted above. The Emergency Webpage and social media posts are not constrained by the same limitations of various alert and warning systems, whether that be character limits, language translation limitations, or other considerations. It is understood, however, that due to the digital divide, not all impacted individuals will have

access to the website and social media and therefore these outlets are used in conjunction with other alert and warning and public information methodologies.

- Field Notifications:** Field notifications consist of various types of alert and warning efforts conducted by field level response personnel. This level of alert and warning messaging can include, but is not limited to, strategies such as door-to-door notifications (“door knocks”) or mobile loudspeaker announcements made from emergency vehicles throughout impacted areas. These notifications are conducted by law enforcement, fire department, or other field personnel to notify impacted households of hazards and/or protective actions required. They are considered a tactical strategy managed at the field Incident/Unified Command level of an incident but are done in coordination with other alert and warning strategies as appropriate.

No one method can adequately cover the various demographic, cultural, environmental, and technological needs of our entire community. The County will always utilize a wide variety of alert and warning tools and employ methodology to issue alert and warning messages that is commensurate with the incident severity and level of risk to the public. All alert and warning notifications will, as much as possible given system limitations, incorporate responsive measures to enhance the ability to reach individuals with AFN and incorporate culturally responsive methodology.

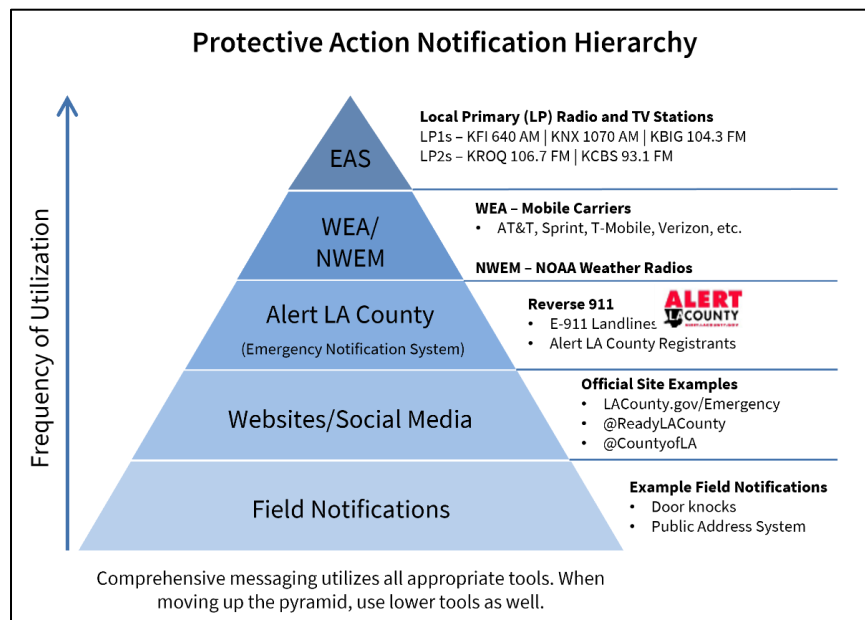


Figure 8: Protective Action Notification Hierarchy

When life safety is at risk, all alert and warning tools available in a given situation will be implemented. Figure 9 provides the general overview of the notification hierarchy for various alert and warning tools utilized by the County.

Many local jurisdictions in Los Angeles County maintain the ability to disseminate alert and warning messages to residents and visitors of their jurisdictions. This includes many jurisdictions who are IPAWS Alerting Authorities that are able to utilize the IPAWS to send WEA messages. In incidents that impact multiple jurisdictions within the OA, it is essential that alert and warning efforts be well coordinated, accurate and efficient. The County OEM is authorized by County ordinance to coordinate the consistency of emergency notifications. If circumstances arise that local OA alerting authorities are unable to send alert and warning messages, the California State Warning Center operated by Cal OES has the capability to issue alert and warning messages within the Los Angeles County OA.

### 3.5 Damage Assessment

Damage Assessment during the response phase refers to the systematic process carried out to evaluate and document the extent of damage caused by a disaster or emergency event within the county. The damage assessment process provides critical information about the impact and scale of the event, including the overall impact on the community and damage to infrastructure, buildings, and other essential facilities. Damage assessment during response can generally be categorized in three ways: Damage Assessment for Situational Awareness, Damage Assessment for Safety and Habitability, and Initial Damage Estimates and Preliminary Damages Assessments.

#### 3.5.1 Damage Assessment for Situational Awareness

Damage assessments conducted for the purpose of obtaining situational awareness are critical to an effective response effort. Information from these assessments, among other things, informs the Rapid Needs Assessment that determines which resources are necessary to conduct lifesaving and life-sustaining operations. Situational awareness assessments begin immediately following the occurrence of an incident and come from various sources, including:

- Field observations - aka "windshield surveys" - and incident size-ups conducted by field response personnel (e.g., Fire, Law Enforcement, and EMS units)
- Damage assessments conducted by non-governmental partners (e.g., Red Cross, Salvation Army, Emergency Network of Los Angeles, etc.)
- Feedback received from elected officials, media reports, social media posts, etc.
- Damage Assessment Reports that detail the impacts to County buildings as submitted by Building Emergency Coordinators



### 3.5.2 Damage Assessment for Safety and Habitability

Damage assessments conducted for the purpose of safety and habitability are required to inspect structural integrity and safety following an emergency or disaster event. Assessments in the early stages of an incident may be conducted by field response agencies as a preliminary step. Further, more definitive assessments occur as incident response continues to expand. Safety and habitability assessments begin as soon as feasible following an incident and include two main assessments: structural and environmental. Structural assessments are conducted by appropriately trained individuals (e.g., Professional Engineers, Architects, Certified Building Inspectors) to determine a building's status (i.e., Red, Yellow, and Green Tag). Environmental assessments are conducted by Environmental Health specialists with a focus on the safety of food, housing, and other environmental hazards.

The State of California maintains the Safety Assessment Program (SAP) which utilizes volunteers and mutual aid resources to provide professional engineers, architects, and certified building inspectors to assist local governments in safety evaluations of their built environment in the aftermath of a disaster.

### 3.5.3 Initial Damage Estimates and Preliminary Damage Assessments

If the local jurisdiction is requesting California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) or Federal assistance, submission of an Initial Damage Estimate (IDE) is required within 72 hours. An IDE is an early estimate and damages/costs that are reported are not expected to be final or exact. Submission of IDE data should follow SEMS. The OA will consolidate all IDE data into one submission to Cal OES Southern Region for further handling and will act as the liaison between Cal OES and local governments.

Cal OES and FEMA utilize IDEs to determine if a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) is warranted. PDAs are used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community as a whole. PDA data are utilized to inform the Governor's decision on a State of Emergency Proclamation and CDAA assistance, as well as inform the recommendation made by FEMA to the President regarding a Presidential Declaration. The PDA may not be required if immediate response assistance is necessary.

### 3.6 Intelligence Gathering and Situation Reporting

Gathering timely, accurate, accessible, and consistent intelligence (i.e., vetted information) is a vital component of efficient and well-coordinated emergency response. The development of Situation Reports (SitReps) contributes to everyone's situational awareness and creates a common operating picture that can be used to adjust operational priorities, strategies, and objectives. To effectively manage intelligence flow, emergency response agencies at all levels must establish communications systems and protocols to organize, integrate, and coordinate intelligence among the affected agencies. Information and communication will have a two-way flow (both bottom up and top-down) through the established structure between the levels of government as detailed in SEMS: Field Response, Local Government, Operational Area, Region, and State. The flow of situation reports among the levels of government should occur as shown below:

- **Field Situation Reports:** Field situation reports should be disseminated through the appropriate channels to the County/OA EOC. When activated, County department DOCs will be responsible for collecting and consolidating situational reports and providing to the County/OA EOC.
- **Local Government Situation Status:** City and Special District EOCs will summarize reports received from field units, City departments, EOC Sections, non-governmental organizations, and other reporting disciplines supporting response at the local level. Local governments will forward consolidated SitReps to the County/OA EOC through the appropriate mechanisms.
- **County/OA EOC:** The EOC will act as a central point for gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information pertinent to a large-scale incident or event. The Los Angeles County/OA EOC utilizes a web-based emergency management information system to facilitate information collection and develops SitReps that share situational awareness and provide a common operational picture for all which are used to adjust operational priorities, objectives, and strategies.
- **State EOC:** The state will receive all SitReps from OAs with activated EOCs and analyze the information. The state then creates a statewide SitReps that are shared with counties, cities, and to the field as applicable.

### Essential Elements of Information

Information provided to the County/OA EOC should be limited to the key data that contributes to a common operational picture and is essential for operational decision making, policy setting, or other significant activities. Regular over-sharing of non-essential information requires more personnel time to manage and increases the likelihood that essential data points will get lost in the noise and could impact the effectiveness of SitReps. Examples of essential elements of information may include, but certainly are not limited to:

- Status of the incident, including response objectives and operational needs
- Impacts and/or threats to life safety, property, and the environment
- Evacuation information (Evacuation areas, Evacuation Points, shelters, etc.)
- Impacts to continuity of government or departmental continuity of operations
- Damage assessment data
- Road closures, transportation impact, etc.
- Weather conditions and upcoming forecasts

### Information Dissemination

Consolidated and vetted information is shared through a number of channels including, but not limited to, Leadership briefs, SitReps, operational briefings and public information activities. Disseminating clear, accessible, and timely information is critical. The successful coordination of personnel from varying agencies and disciplines during emergency response operations relies heavily on their capacity for clear communication. To contribute to more effective communication, personnel within the OA must utilize plain language during incidents. This use of common terminology will enable emergency responders, EOC personnel, County staff, and personnel from other jurisdictions or the State, to communicate clearly and efficiently, regardless of the size, scope, or complexity of the incident.

### Handling of Sensitive Information

All sensitive or otherwise protected information gathered during any incident will be managed following the proper policies and protocols (e.g., Law Enforcement Sensitive, Personal Identifiable Information) to prevent improper handling or inadvertent release. All information being disseminated, internally or externally, must be properly vetted before being shared.

### 3.7 Emergency Proclamations

The California Emergency Services Act provides for three types of emergency proclamations: Local Emergency, State of Emergency, and State of War Emergency. The California Health and Safety Code also establishes the ability of a local Health Officer to declare a Local Health Emergency. At the Federal level, the Robert T. Stafford Act provides the President of the United States the ability to declare an Emergency or Major Disaster based on impacts of an emergency/disaster incident.

Emergency proclamations expand the emergency powers and authorities of the State and its political subdivisions. They also provide a mechanism for unaffected jurisdictions to provide resources and assistance to the affected jurisdictions. Emergency proclamations are not a prerequisite for rendering mutual aid and assistance under existing agreements or requesting assistance from the American Red Cross (ARC) or state agencies. They also are not a requirement to be eligible for Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG), disaster loan programs designated by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), or disaster programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

A brief overview of each level of emergency proclamation/declaration is provided below:

- **Proclamation of Local Emergency:** The local governing body of a city, county, city and county or an official designated by an adopted local ordinance (e.g., Chair of the Board of Supervisors, County Chief Executive Officer, City Mayor, City Manager, etc.) may proclaim a Local Emergency if there is extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city where the proclaiming entity is overwhelmed and unable to abate an existing or potential emergency. A Local Emergency proclamation provides some of the following provisions or considerations:
  - Activates pre-established local emergency provisions such as special purchasing and contracting
  - Allows the governing body to require the emergency services of any local official or employee and grants the authority to acquire or commandeer supplies and equipment for public use
  - Authorizes designated officials the ability to promulgate or suspend orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and

property, including issuing orders or regulations imposing a curfew within designated boundaries

- Provides the ability to conduct emergency operations with broadened immunities from legal liability for performance or failure of performance
- Prerequisite for requesting Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency and/or a Presidential Declaration of an Emergency or Major Disaster

Local governments can request cost reimbursement from the State for certain disaster-related repair costs under the CDAA following the Proclamation of a Local Emergency. The Cal OES Director's concurrence with the local proclamation is required for this reimbursement. The request for CDAA can be included in a local emergency proclamation; however, it is more appropriate to request CDAA on separate letterhead once the governing body has identified, and can certify, local resources are insufficient, and the situation is beyond its capabilities. This step is not required if a Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency is received for the same event.

- **Declaration of a Local Health Emergency:** In accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 101080, the local Health Officer may declare a Local Health Emergency whenever there is an imminent threat posed by any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent in the jurisdiction. The Local Health Emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors, or city council, whichever is applicable to the jurisdiction. The need to continue the Local Health Emergency must then be reviewed at least every 30 days until terminated. Termination of the Local Health Emergency should occur at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.
- **Proclamation of a State of Emergency:** The Governor of California, or the Cal OES Director if the Governor is inaccessible, can proclaim a State of Emergency based on the formal request from the local governing body and the recommendation of Cal OES. The Governor may also proclaim a State of Emergency without a request from the local governing body if they determine that the circumstances described in Section 8558(c), Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code are met, or that local authority is inadequate to

deal with an emergency. The Governor has expanded emergency powers during a proclaimed State of Emergency. A State of Emergency proclamation provides some of the following provisions or considerations:

- The Governor is vested with the power to use and commandeer public and private property and personnel, to ensure all resources within California are available and dedicated to the emergency when requested.
  - The Governor can direct all state agencies to utilize and employ personnel, equipment, and facilities, for the performance of any and all activities designed to prevent or alleviate actual and threatened damage due to the emergency and can direct them to provide supplemental services and equipment to political subdivisions to restore any services in order to provide for the health and safety of the residents of the affected area.
  - The Governor may make, amend, or rescind orders and regulations during an emergency and temporarily suspend any non-safety-related statutes, ordinances, regulations, or rules that impose restrictions on the emergency response activities.
  - Authorizes Cal OES Director to provide financial relief for emergency actions and restoration of public facilities and infrastructure
  - Prerequisite when requesting Presidential declaration of Emergency or Major Disaster
- **Proclamation of a State of War Emergency:** In addition to a State of Emergency, the Governor can proclaim a State of War Emergency whenever California or the nation is attacked by an enemy of the United States, or upon receipt by California of a warning from the federal government indicating such an enemy attack is probable or imminent. The powers of the Governor granted under a State of War Emergency are commensurate with those under a State of Emergency.
  - **Presidential Declaration of an Emergency:** The President of the United States can declare an Emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act thereby providing federal government resources to support the states' response, recovery, and mitigation activities. The President can declare an emergency for any occasion or instance when they determine federal assistance is needed. Emergency declarations supplement State and

local or tribal government efforts in providing emergency services, such as the protection of lives, property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States. The total amount of assistance provided for in a single emergency may not exceed \$5 million. The President shall report to Congress if this amount is exceeded.

While Presidential Declarations under the Stafford Act release federal resources and funding to support response and recovery, federal agencies may also provide assistance under other authorities or agreements that do not require a Presidential Declaration.

- **Presidential Declaration of a Major Disaster:** The President of the United States can also declare a Major Disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The President can declare a major disaster for any natural event, including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, fire, flood, or explosion, that the President determines has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of state and local governments to respond. A major disaster declaration provides a wide range of federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including funds for both emergency and permanent work. When certain eligibility criteria are met, a Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster can make certain FEMA disaster assistance programs available, including Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA), and Hazard Mitigation Assistance.

### 3.7.1 Process of Proclaiming a Local Emergency

The process for proclaiming a Local Emergency is guided by the requirements of the California Emergency Services Act, a jurisdiction's municipal code, and is subject to general SEMS considerations.

County Local Emergency proclamations are subject to compliance with the County's Emergency Ordinance (Chapter 2.68 of the County Code of Ordinances). The Emergency Ordinance grants the Board of Supervisors the authority to proclaim a Local Emergency. If the Board is not in session, the following, in priority order, are authorized by ordinance to proclaim: the Chair of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer, and the Sheriff.

City Local Emergency proclamations are subject to compliance with the City's version of an emergency ordinance within the City's municipal code. This code will dictate who has the authority to proclaim and any unique requirements or considerations. All proclamations must be consistent with the requirements of the Emergency Services Act at a minimum, but local ordinances can set more strict regulations. Circumstances do exist where a County Local Emergency proclamation will cover both unincorporated and incorporated areas within the County; however, this possibility should not prevent a city or cities from proclaiming a Local Emergency of their own if determined necessary. Additionally, cities within the county are bound by county rules and regulations adopted by the county pursuant to Section 8634 of the Government Code during a county proclaimed Local Emergency when the local emergency includes both incorporated and unincorporated territory of the county even if the cities do not independently proclaim the existence of a local emergency.

Special districts will be included under a local emergency proclamation from the county. Under Public Contract Code §20567, §22002, and §22050, a Special District may proclaim a "District Emergency" that will allow for suspension of competitive bidding processes and spending thresholds when authorized by a four-fifths vote by the District's governing body in emergency situations. Individual district policies and procedures should direct the appropriate course of action.

Once a Local Emergency has been proclaimed, submission and notification of the proclamation will follow SEMS:

- Local governments must notify the OA through the DMAC and provide a copy of the signed Local Emergency proclamation as soon as possible
  - If the proclamation was made by an individual designated by ordinance, the signed governing body ratification must also be submitted as soon as it is available
- The OA will notify the Cal OES region and forward a copy of the proclamation and, if applicable, the governing body resolution
- Cal OES Region will notify the Cal OES Director and Deputy Directors and act as the primary point of contact between the Cal OES Director, OA, and the local jurisdiction for updates and requests for assistance
- Cal OES Director will respond in writing to the local government concerning the status of any requests for assistance included within the local proclamation or accompanying letter



The following timelines apply to Local Emergency proclamations unless a local ordinance establishes more strict timelines:

- A local Emergency proclamation issued by an official designated by ordinance must be ratified within seven days by the governing body, or the proclamation will no longer be in effect
- If assistance is being requested through the CDAA, the proclamation must be in effect within 10 days of the occurrence of a disaster
- The governing body shall review at least every 60 days the need to continue the local emergency until the local emergency is terminated.
- The governing body shall proclaim the termination of the local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant

### 3.7.3 After Action Reporting

The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) protocols require any city, city and county, or county declaring a local emergency for which the Governor proclaims a State of Emergency, to complete and transmit an After-Action Report (AAR) to Cal OES within 90 days of the close of the incident period. The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management is responsible for the completion of the AAR and will provide a copy to Cal OES within the required timeframe. The AAR will provide, at a minimum, the following:

- Review of response actions taken
- Application of SEMS
- Suggested changes to SEMS
- Updates to plans and procedures
- Identified training needs
- Recovery activities to date

## 3.8 Mutual Aid

The California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMAA), which was originally developed in 1950, serves as the foundation for the state's emergency planning and response. This agreement ensures that sufficient resources and support are available to local jurisdictions when their own resources are depleted or insufficient. Through this agreement, the State of California, all 58 counties within the state, and a majority of incorporated cities have united to ensure that comprehensive emergency planning and response is available in times of need.

The MMAA agreement creates a formal structure wherein each jurisdiction retains control of its own facilities, personnel and resources, but may also receive or render

assistance to other jurisdictions within the state. State government is obligated to provide available resources to assist local jurisdictions in emergencies. It is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction to negotiate, coordinate, and prepare mutual-aid agreements. Unless otherwise expressly provided by the parties, the official in whose jurisdiction an incident requiring mutual aid has occurred shall remain in charge.

In general, Mutual Aid is voluntary when an agreement is initiated either verbally or in writing. When in writing, which is preferable, the conditions may be enumerated as to what and how much of a department's resources may be committed. Based on the Emergency Services Act, Mutual Aid under a "State of War Emergency" shall be deemed obligatory and Mutual Aid under a "State of Emergency" may be obligatory. Each signatory to the MMAA is expected to provide aid to each other during an emergency without expectation of reimbursement. Under specific conditions, federal and state monies may be appropriated to reimburse public agencies that aid other jurisdictions. If other agreements, memoranda, or contracts are agreed to when aid is provided, the terms of those agreements may affect disaster assistance eligibility. This plan promotes the establishment of emergency assistance agreements between public and private sector agencies at all levels.

There are four formal Mutual Aid Systems in California: Fire and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Coroner, Emergency Management (resources not covered by the other three systems). Additionally, the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) coordinate inter-regional and State agency activity relating to mutual aid as described in the California Public Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual. This medical and health coordination system includes the Regional Disaster Medical and Health Coordination (RDMHC) Program across California's six mutual aid regions and the Medical Health Operational Area Coordination (MHOAC) program at the OA level. Other mutual aid coordination involves but is not limited to the interchange of resources related to the Safety Assessment Program (SAP), public information, communications, transportation services (TransMAC), water (CalWARN), hazardous materials response resources, volunteer, and private agencies.

### Mutual Aid Regions

To facilitate the coordination of mutual aid and other emergency operations, California is sub-divided into three Administrative Regions (Inland, Coastal, and Southern) and six mutual aid regions (Region I-VI). Los Angeles County is located within the Southern

Administrative Region and falls within Mutual Aid Region I along with the Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Orange. Law Enforcement Mutual Aid within Mutual Aid Region I is further subdivided into Region I and I-A. Region I consists of Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

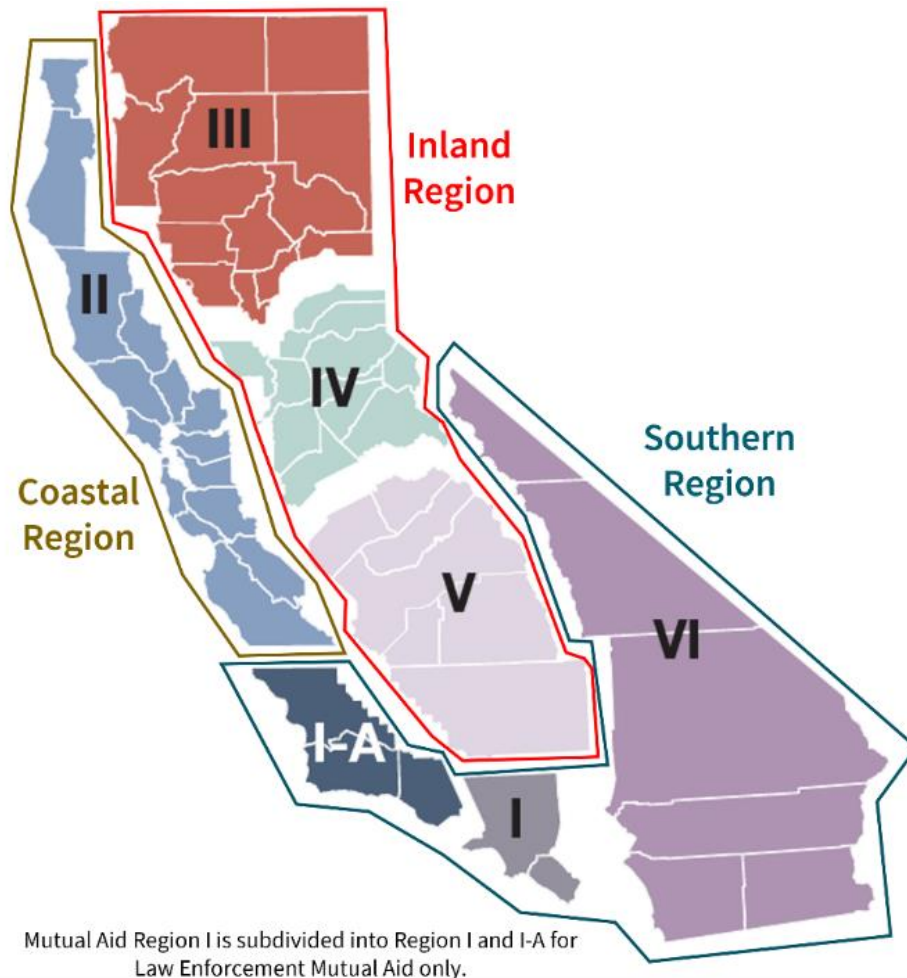


Figure 9: CalOES Administrative and Mutual Aid Regions

### Mutual Aid Coordination

Formal mutual aid requests will follow specified procedures and are processed through preidentified mutual aid coordinators. Mutual aid requests will follow discipline-specific chains (i.e., Fire and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Coroner, Emergency Management) from one level of government to the next. The mutual aid coordinator receives the mutual aid request and coordinates the provision of resources from within the coordinator's geographic area of responsibility. In the event resources are unavailable at one level of SEMS, the request is forwarded to the next higher level of the SEMS hierarchy to be filled.

- **Field Level Requests:** Requests for mutual aid resources originate from the Field Level and are managed by the Incident Commander (IC). If the IC is unable to obtain the resource through existing local channels, the request is elevated to the next successive government level until obtained or cancelled.
- **Local Government Request:** Local jurisdictions are responsible for the protection of life and property within the municipal geographic boundaries. The local jurisdiction where the incident occurred should assess its resource inventory and existing local agreements to determine if the requested resource is available. When locally committed resources are exhausted and mutual aid is needed, the local official will request assistance from the OA Mutual Aid Coordinator.
- **Operational Area Requests:** The OA Mutual Aid Coordinator assesses the availability of resources within the OA and fulfills the resource request based upon that assessment. In the event resources are unavailable at the OA level, the request is forwarded to the responsible Region Mutual Aid Coordinator to be filled.

To better coordinate function-specific mutual aid needs, Los Angeles County utilizes the ESF model to process and coordinate mutual aid needs. The primary responsibility of the ESF agency(ies) is to review mutual aid requests and arrange for resources from inside the operational area (OA), if available. If unavailable within the OA, the ESF agency(ies) will funnel the mutual aid request to the proper discipline specific Mutual Aid Coordinator who will then forward unfilled requests to the State for further assistance.

At the Los Angeles County OA level, the mutual aid coordinators for the discipline specific mutual aid are assigned as follows:

- **Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid:** Los Angeles County Fire Department
- **Law Enforcement Mutual Aid:** Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- **Coroner Mutual Aid:** Los Angeles County Medical Examiner
- **Emergency Management Mutual Aid:** Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management
- **Medical Health Operational Area Coordination:** Los Angeles County Department of Health Services - Emergency Medical Services Agency

Coordination of specific mutual aid resources that would fall within Emergency Management Mutual Aid may ultimately be managed based upon more

detailed agreements/plans (e.g., Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement, Medical Health Operational Area Coordination program).

- **Region Level Requests:** The state is geographically divided into six Mutual Aid Regions. For Law Enforcement Mutual Aid, Region I is further divided into two sub-regions. Each Mutual Aid Region is comprised of multiple Operational Areas and has a Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator. The Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator is granted the authority to coordinate the mutual aid response of discipline-specific resources within the Region to support a mutual aid request by a jurisdiction also within the Region. In the event resources are unavailable at the Region Level, the request is forwarded to the State Mutual Aid Coordinator to be filled.

At the Regional level, the mutual aid coordinators for the discipline specific mutual aid are assigned as follows:

- **Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid:** Los Angeles County Fire Department
  - **Law Enforcement Mutual Aid (Region 1):** Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
  - **Coroner Mutual Aid:** Los Angeles County Medical Examiner
  - **Emergency Management Mutual Aid:** Cal OES Southern Region
- **State Level Requests:** On behalf of the Governor, the Director of Cal OES has the responsibility for coordination of state mutual aid resources in support of local jurisdictions during times of emergency. The Director will analyze and coordinate the request by forwarding the request to an unaffected REOC or tasking an appropriate state agency to fill the need.
  - **Emergency Management Assistance Compact:** In the event that resource requests are unfilled using local, regional, or state resources, Mutual Aid may be obtained from other states. California is a member of the interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a congressionally ratified organization that provides form, structure, and procedures for rendering emergency assistance between states. After a state of emergency declaration, California can request and receive reimbursable assistance through EMAC from other member states quickly and efficiently without issues of liability. The Secretary of Cal OES and the states' EMAC Coordinator are responsible for facilitating requests for assistance pursuant to EMAC.



and systems that enable effective communications with various target audiences. All public information efforts must aim to provide accurate, coordinated, accessible, culturally sensitive, and timely information with the public.

### 3.9.1 Pre-Incident Public Information and Preparedness

Public awareness campaigns and other public education materials are developed and disseminated to support community and individual emergency preparedness efforts before an incident occurs. Some pre-incident awareness and education programs, communication plans and protocols conducted within the OA include, but are not limited to:

- **Preparedness Expos:** Emergency preparedness expos are part of an ongoing community outreach program and provide a forum to provide important emergency preparedness information to the public.
- **Public Service Announcements on Preparedness/Alerts/Warnings:** Public service announcements (PSAs) allow for information sharing to the public through the media.
- **Community meetings:** Community meetings bring together government and the community by providing all-hazards emergency preparedness and awareness programs and addresses community concerns and questions.
- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):** CERT training equips communities to better prepare and respond to emergency situations. CERT helps create neighborhood preparedness networks in communities, and when emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.
- **Emergency Preparedness Books and Resources:** Emergency preparedness book and resources are available to assist individuals, families, and communities to prepare for emergencies or disasters. The following are resources that are available to the public:
  - **Emergency Survival Guide:** The County of Los Angeles' Emergency Survival Guide (ESG) helps individuals and households better prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The ESG is available in 15

languages and can be accessed online or is offered in hard copy book form.

- **Stay Safe! Stay in Control!:** The County of Los Angeles' Stay Safe! Stay in Control! is an emergency planning guidebook for older adults and people with AFN. The Stay Safe! Stay in Control! book is available in multiple languages and can be accessed online or is offered in hard copy book form.
- **5 Step Neighborhood Action Kit:** The County of Los Angeles' 5-Step Neighborhood Action Kit is a free resource that can help neighbors get organized and ready to act after a disaster when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

### 3.9.2 Public Information During an Emergency

Public Information is a critical aspect of the response to large-scale emergency or disaster incidents. Under SEMS, public information is directly managed and controlled by the jurisdictions with responsibility for emergency response. Jurisdictions have a primary responsibility to provide accurate and timely information to the public regarding conditions, threats, and protective measures. To avoid conflicts and confusion, the public information function during an emergency operates best when centralized and coordinated among all involved jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations.

#### Joint Information System

The Joint Information System (JIS) integrates incident information and public affairs into a unified and organized structure that provides accurate, coordinated, culturally sensitive, multi-lingual, and timely information to media and public about emergency events that occur within and/or impact the OA. It includes the plans, protocols, procedures, and structures used to provide public information. Objectives of an effective JIS Include:

- Ensuring that Public Information Officer (PIO) functions are coordinated and integrated
- Developing and delivering coordinated interagency messages
- Developing, recommending, and executing public information plans and strategies



- Ensuring public information efforts are conducted in a manner that is accessible to the whole community, including for individuals with AFN
- Identifying communication methods that account for cultural considerations of impacted populations and allow for better access to the information
- Advising on public affairs issues that could affect the incident management effort
- Addressing and managing rumors and inaccurate information that could undermine public confidence

### Joint Information Center

A Joint Information Center (JIC) is the central location that facilitates the operation of a JIS during an emergency. This central location houses personnel with public information responsibilities from multiple agencies, departments, and other local government or non-governmental organizations who perform critical emergency information functions.

For incidents requiring the activation of the EOC, a JIC may be established based on the expanding needs created by the incident. The JIC coordinates the handling of public information coordination and dissemination for the County of Los Angeles and the OA. The JIC is often housed within the EOC to provide for effective management of public information functions.

When activated, the JIC will be staffed by personnel trained to conduct public information activities, including coordinating inter-jurisdictional information dissemination, reputation management, and community relations functions.

### Accessibility of Public Information during Emergencies

Public information during emergency events must, as much as possible, be accessible to the whole community. All efforts will be taken during emergencies to execute all verbal, written, web-based and other forms of communication with the public in a manner that is accessible to people with AFN, meets the cultural and linguistic needs of the impacted communities, and are compliant with all applicable laws governing accessible public information. These considerations include, but are not limited to:

- Providing American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and other language translation services specific to impacted communities during press conference type events

- Ensuring press releases, website content and other written materials utilize plain, simplified language and are translated into all applicable languages
- Engaging with ethnic media outlets to increase information access for hard to reach communities and impacted populations

Because time is of the essence in emergencies, public information must be provided in a timely manner and should never be delayed to meet the requirements above but should be made accessible as soon as possible.

### Referral Services and Information

Public information efforts and programs are supplemented by call center capabilities. Call centers provide an information and referral service that are intended to increase the public's access to vital emergency-related information, including shelter locations, road closures, referrals to essential health and social services, etc. Call center services provide members of the public improved access to government and non-profit community services. This is especially true for people who are most at risk, including older adults, people with AFN, non-English speakers, those incapacitated by the disaster and people new to their communities.

## 3.10 Continuity of Government

Governments at all levels are responsible for providing continuity of effective leadership, authority and adequate direction of emergency response and recovery operations. Continuity of Government plans are to be developed and maintained by the appropriate local government entities as determined necessary. Plans should account for, among other things, appropriate lines of succession for key officials, including elected members of the governing body, and alternate seats of County government in compliance with the California Government Code Sections that establish legal authorities related to Continuity of Government.

Per the County's Emergency Ordinance, the Board specifically reserves the power to initiate, coordinate and direct, except as otherwise provided, all activities made necessary by war or as the result of an emergency that directly affects the County government and requires organized community action within the County. Such power may be exercised by the Chair. The Board also specifically reserves the power to delegate any of its powers, functions, or duties to the Chief Executive Officer or to any

other officer created by authority Emergency Ordinance, or to any other County officer, and to revise and change powers, functions and duties so delegated.

### 3.10.1 Continuity of Operations (COOP)

A critical component of the County's emergency management strategy involves ensuring that essential government operations and services will continue during and after a major emergency or disaster. The ability to maintain essential functions, including the continuity of lawfully constituted authority, is a responsibility that must be provided for to the greatest extent possible. Los Angeles County has a comprehensive COOP program, and each County department is responsible for developing and maintaining a department specific COOP plan.

# 4 Recovery Concept of Operations

## 4.1 Recovery Overview

The recovery phase of an emergency or disaster is often defined as restoring a community to its pre-disaster condition. More realistically, recovery is the process of re-establishing a state of normalcy in the affected communities. A successful recovery effort is inclusive of the whole community. Understanding legal obligations and sharing best practices when planning and implementing recovery strategies to avoid excluding groups is critical. Actions, both intentional and unintentional, that exclude groups of people based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin (including limited English proficiency), religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability can have long-term negative consequences on entire communities and may violate law.

While seemingly counter-intuitive, recovery actually begins at the onset of the event and all response personnel should, as much as possible, consider recovery implications in all actions taken. With that said, the formal “recovery phase” generally occurs in three stages: short-term, intermediate, and long-term. Once critical activities that address the established response priorities have been completed, the emergency organization should gradually begin the formal transition to the recovery phase. Recovery actions and coordination may initially be managed within the structure and processes of the County/Operational Area EOC under LAC-ESF #14 - Initial Recovery before transitioning to a more formalized Recovery Coordination Center, or similar, model. The specific approach to recovery operations following a disaster will be determined by the location, type, magnitude, and effects of the incident.

The OAEOP is not a detailed recovery document and is only intended to provide a brief overview of recovery in the OA. More comprehensive recovery frameworks and plans that support the OAEOP provide more detailed recovery considerations.

### 4.1.1 Short Term Recovery

Short-term recovery operations begin concurrently with or shortly after the commencement of response operations. Although referred to as “short term” recovery, these activities may last for weeks. Short-term recovery operations will include all the agencies participating in the OA’s disaster response. Goals of short-term recovery operations include, but are not limited to:

- Restoration of local government services to at least minimal capacity
- Addressing debris that poses a threat to public health and safety

- Orderly and coordinated restoration of essential services and infrastructure to at least a minimal capacity (e.g., electricity, water, sanitary systems, etc.)
- Initial planning for the restoration of the community, including economic functions
- Initial establishment of assistance centers as a resource to the community (e.g., Local Assistance Centers, Disaster Recovery Centers, etc.)

The establishment of LAC-ESF #14 - Initial Recovery allows for the appropriate actions to be taken during the initial stages of response and recovery to all incidents. Recovery considerations and procedures beyond the initial phase are detailed in more comprehensive recovery frameworks and plans outside of the LAC-ESF structure.

#### 4.1.2 Intermediate Recovery

The intermediate phase of recovery involves returning individuals, families, critical infrastructure and essential government or commercial services to a functional, if not pre-disaster, state. Such activities are often characterized by temporary actions that provide a bridge to permanent measures.

#### 4.1.3 Long Term Recovery

Long-term recovery continues short-term and intermediate recovery actions and begins to focus more on community restoration. This stage may last for a number of months or years depending on the severity and extent of the damage sustained. Long term recovery activities include those necessary to restore a community to a state of normalcy, given the inevitable changes that result following a major disaster. Long-term recovery typically involves a variety of public, non-governmental, and private sector partners and requires significant planning to maximize opportunities and mitigate risks after a major incident. Long-term goals may include, but are not limited to:

- Establishment of long-term assistance centers as a resource to the community (e.g., Community Resilience Centers where federal, state, and local resources are consolidated to help community members, responders, visitors, and businesses impacted by an incident of mass violence or terrorism)
- Reconstruction of facilities and infrastructure including the technology systems and services necessary for restoration of all operations functions
- Community planning including the development of long-term housing plans
- Implementation of waivers, zoning changes, and other land-use legislation to promote recovery

- Assistance to displaced families, which may include financial support as well as social and health services
- Restoration of the local economic system
- Integration of mitigation strategies into recovery efforts
- Documentation of eligible disaster-related costs for reimbursement through state and federal grant programs

#### 4.1.4 Recovery Coordination

Effective recovery efforts require a well-coordinated approach. Depending on the size and scope of an incident, partners involved in recovery could include local, state, and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities.

The County Chief Executive Officer, or designee, is responsible for coordinating the County's activities and operations relating to recovery. This includes the establishment and maintenance of a Recovery Coordination Center, as warranted, to coordinate the recovery operations of County departments and coordinate with State and federal agencies, impacted cities, and other agencies that are part of the County emergency organization.

The below provides a very high-level overview of the role of various recovery partners:

##### Local Government

The local government is the primary authority responsible for recovery of their community. Depending on the scale and impacts of an emergency or disaster, OA wide recovery coordination may be warranted if multiple jurisdictions are affected. In such cases, the standards and principles of the SEMS are to be followed.

After a disaster, local governments should seek to rebuild and revitalize all sectors of the community, including local critical infrastructure and essential services. Business retention and the redevelopment of housing units that are damaged or destroyed are also generally high priorities of local governments in recovery. Local government organizations may undertake the following actions to stimulate recovery within their respective communities:

- Conduct damage and safety assessments
- Restore essential services such as power, water, sewer, and accessible transportation

- Assess impacts to housing and safe shelter, identify potential solutions, and request support as needed
- Evaluate damage to public facilities and initiate repairs
- Assess damage to private property and issue permits for repairs and demolition
- Remove debris in accordance with applicable laws, federal and state reimbursement policies, and local plans
- Open and maintain accessible transportation routes
- Activate accessible Local Assistance Centers (LAC) to assist individuals, households, and businesses
- Coordinate program assistance to individuals and businesses

### State Government

When a State of Emergency is proclaimed in the impacted counties, Cal OES will lead California's recovery operations and coordinate assistance provided by other State agencies and the federal government. When federal assistance is required, Cal OES will work together with the FEMA and other federal agencies to ensure effective delivery of services. The Governor appoints a State Coordinating Officer (SCO) to coordinate the State's requests for federal assistance.

### Federal Government

The Federal Government provides coordination and support to state, territorial, tribal, and local recovery efforts when necessary. Federal agencies participate in and support recovery planning, capacity building, and mitigation efforts through technical assistance, expertise, or other assistance as requested and needed. The duration and extent of Federal support is determined in part by the scale and enduring impacts of the incident and on the ability of the community to sustain recovery efforts on its own. Incidents and localities vary so widely that most recovery planning must be done at and focus on the local level.

In accordance with the Stafford Act, a Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) is appointed to manage federal operations and coordinate recovery programs for Presidential emergency and major disaster declarations.

### Non-Governmental Organizations

Non-Governmental Organizations and Community-Based Organizations (CBO), such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and member organizations of ENLA, may provide support to individuals and households who are displaced by a disaster.



They work with governmental organizations to support the transition from care and shelter operations to interim housing arrangements. Community organizations active before a disaster may expand their services to meet increased needs. Such groups include faith-based organizations, neighborhood health clinics, and food distribution agencies. NGO and CBOs may provide a range of services such as donations management, emergency food, clothing and shelter, mental and spiritual counseling, assist with non-hazardous debris removal from private property, as well as support of housing reconstruction. They provide these services independently or in coordination with federal, state, and local efforts.

### Private Sector Entities

The private sector engages in activities necessary to resume business operations, including assessing damage, implementing continuity of business plans, caring for employees, shifting operations to temporary facilities or other locations, applying for federal assistance, and obtaining insurance proceeds. Private sector entities play a vital role in economic recovery given their roles in employment and business transactions. Businesses can also play a key role in donating goods and services for community recovery.

### Individuals, Families, and Households

Individuals and households will try to stabilize their circumstances by seeking adequate shelter, assessing and repairing damage to their property, resuming work and other regular activities, applying for federal assistance, and obtaining insurance proceeds.

## 4.2 Cost Recovery

When the County and OA partners respond to large scale emergency or disaster incidents, significant resources are deployed, including personnel, equipment, supplies, and services. Deployment of these resources come at a cost. When possible, all efforts should be made to access available disaster assistance programs, grant opportunities, or other funding mechanisms to recover eligible costs. To increase the effectiveness of any cost recovery efforts, departments and jurisdictions must ensure that all response costs are expended in line with appropriate procurement/spending policies and include proper documentation.

Individuals, families, and households can also be financially impacted by large scale emergency and disaster incidents. Individuals should always work with their insurance

provider as the first step in their cost recovery process. Additional resources may be available from non-profit organizations active in disaster recovery and/or various governmental programs, but these options are never guaranteed and should never be relied upon as a front-line option.

## 4.3 Disaster Assistance Programs

Federal disaster assistance programs are categorized into Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs. Depending on the location, type, magnitude, and impacts of an emergency or disaster incident, various programs can be made available for governmental entities, businesses and/or individuals, families, and households.

### 4.3.1 Public Assistance Programs

In general, PA refers to programs that are made available to local governments following an emergency or disaster incident. PA programs are made available to local governments by the state and/or federal government depending on the specifics of an incident. An overview of the state and federal PA programs is provided below:

- **State Assistance:** The CDAA authorizes the state to provide financial assistance for costs incurred by local governments as a result of a disaster. CDAA may be implemented in circumstances when local resources are exceeded. In general, the state's share eligible under CDAA is no more than 75 percent of total state eligible costs; however, funding may vary with the type of disaster at the discretion of the Legislature. There are two levels of CDAA assistance:
  - **Director's Concurrence:** Under CDAA, the Cal OES Director may concur with a local government request for state assistance independently of a Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. A Director's Concurrence is limited to eligible permanent repair work. There is generally a 75%-25% cost share between state and local governments.
  - **During a State of Emergency:** When the Governor proclaims a State of Emergency and authorizes CDAA, both emergency and permanent work are eligible for assistance. There is generally a 75%-25% cost share between state and local governments under a Governor's proclamation as well. In addition, the State of Emergency allows certain eligible private nonprofit organizations to receive state assistance for providing essential community services during a state declared disaster.

- **Federal Assistance:** Under a declaration of emergency or major disaster, the President may designate certain counties in the affected areas as eligible for the Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program. Federal disaster assistance programs available under the Stafford Act are managed by FEMA.
  - **FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program:** FEMA provides State agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and certain private nonprofit entities with federal grants to cover eligible disaster recovery work on a cost-share basis. In accordance with the Stafford Act, the federal cost share is a minimum of 75 percent. The State of California shares the remaining cost with the applicant. Eligible types of work are broken into two categories - Emergency Work or Permanent Work. Emergency Work must be completed within 6 months and is limited to debris removal (Category A) and emergency protective measures (Category B). Permanent Work must be completed within 18 months and covers work related to roads and bridges (Category C), water control facilities (Category D), public buildings and equipment (Category E), public utilities (Category F), or parks, recreational, and other facilities (Category G). Eligible costs must be associated with:
    - Debris removal.
    - Emergency work necessary to save lives, protect public health and safety, and protect property.
    - Restoration of damaged facilities, including buildings, equipment, and infrastructure to pre-disaster design, function, and capacity.
    - Implementation of cost-effective hazard mitigation measures during repairs to damaged facilities to reduce the risk of future damage to those facilities.
  - **Non-Stafford Act Programs:** The federal government may provide recovery assistance through authorities and programs outside of the Stafford Act. These programs may be implemented in conjunction with Stafford Act programs under a disaster declaration or separately. Depending on the program, the agencies may provide assistance directly to recipients or through another State agency besides Cal OES. Examples include the following agency assistance programs:

- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** Under the Emergency Relief Program, the FHWA provides assistance to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and local governments for damage to roads, bridges, and other facilities on the federal-aid system. In California, Caltrans implements this program on behalf of FHWA. A State of Emergency is required.
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):** Under the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program, the USACE provides assistance for flood fighting, emergency repair, and repairs to damaged facilities. USACE provides this assistance for levees and other flood control works that meet pre-disaster criteria for participation in the program. A Presidential declaration is required. Under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act (PL 84-99), the USACE has authority to supplement state and local entities in flood fighting urban and other non-agricultural areas under certain conditions. PL 84- 99 also authorizes USACE to provide emergency water support and drought assistance in certain situations and allows for “advance measures” assistance to prevent or reduce flood damage or the imminent threat of unusual flooding.
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** The HUD Community Development Block Grants may be requested by state, local, and tribal governments for a wide range of recovery purposes. A Presidential declaration is required.

#### 4.3.2 Individual Assistance Programs

In general, IA refers to programs that are made available to individuals, households, or the private sector following an emergency or disaster incident. IA is not a replacement for individuals maintaining adequate insurance coverage, nor is it intended to make individuals and households “whole”, but instead is meant to provide critical assistance to get people on a path to recovery. Depending on the specifics of an incident, IA programs may be provided through non-governmental organizations and/or, if required thresholds are met, federal IA programs. An overview of the common IA programs is provided below:

- **Non-Governmental Organizations Assistance:** Many NGOs (e.g., American Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.) provide recovery assistance to individuals, families,

and community organizations following an emergency/disaster incident. This assistance may be financial and/or non-financial and may include assistance for essential need items like shelter, food, clothing, or housing reconstruction. In Los Angeles County, ENLA member organizations working as the County's VOAD provide valuable IA resources during the recovery phase of any incident. There are no minimum thresholds nor requirements for an emergency to be proclaimed/declared before NGOs can provide IA support; however, each agency maintains minimum thresholds for individuals to receive assistance in alignment with each agency's scope of service.

- **FEMA Assistance Programs:** Under the Stafford Act, FEMA provides a wide range of programs for individuals and households including the following assistance:
  - **Individuals and Households Program (IHP):** The IHP provides financial assistance and direct services for eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs.
  - **Other Needs Assistance (ONA):** ONA provides financial assistance for eligible needs that are not housing related, including personal property, transportation, moving/storage, medical/dental, childcare, funeral/burial, and other miscellaneous assistance.
  - **Additional Programs:** Other Stafford Act programs that may be made available as a result of a major disaster declaration include:
    - **Crisis Counseling:** Supplemental funding to assist disaster impacted individuals and communities in recovering from major disasters through the provision of community based outreach and psycho-educational services.
    - **Disaster Unemployment Assistance:** Unemployment benefits and reemployment assistance services for eligible survivors. Services are the responsibility of the U.S. Department of Labor and administered by state, territorial, tribal, and local government officials in the affected area(s). DUA is only available to eligible survivors who are not eligible for regular state unemployment insurance.

- **Disaster Legal Services:** Legal aid through an agreement with the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association for survivors affected by a Presidentially declared major disaster who qualify as low income.
- **Disaster Case Management:** A time limited process that promotes partnership between a case manager and a disaster survivor to assess and address a survivor's verified disaster caused unmet needs through a disaster recovery plan.
- **US Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans:** The SBA provides low interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses, and certain private nonprofit organizations in declared disaster areas. Loans may be made for uninsured physical damage to homes, businesses, and other properties, or for economic losses. As a result of a Presidential disaster declaration, SBA may implement its disaster loan programs.

SBA Disaster Loans are available without a Presidential disaster declaration with an SBA Administrative (Agency) declaration. A request for an SBA Administrative disaster declaration may be made by the governor to activate SBA's disaster loan program available for businesses of all sizes (including private non-profit organizations), homeowners and renters for physical damages. Economic injury loans are made available for small businesses and most private non-profit organizations of all sizes in the declared disaster area. Contiguous counties have the same eligibility under an Agency declaration. An SBA Agency declaration does not include FEMA (IA) programs.

Requests for an SBA Declaration will follow the SEMS hierarchy and Cal OES will coordinate a request for SBA assistance if appropriate. In such circumstances, the damage incurred by the community must meet certain minimum thresholds confirmed through the PDA process.

- **US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Assistance:** The USDA provides low interest loans to farmers, ranchers, and aqua culturists for physical and/or crop production losses in areas designated a disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture. As a result, the SBA may also provide economic injury disaster loans to small non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and most private nonprofit organizations of any size.

### 4.3.3 Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs

Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation is taking action now - before the next disaster - to reduce human and financial consequences later. Effective mitigation requires the comprehension of local risks, undertaking of the hard choices, and investment in long-term community well-being and resilience. To meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) prepared and maintains a Local All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The LHMP assess risks posed by natural hazards and to develops a mitigation action plan for reducing the risks in Unincorporated Los Angeles County. Many local jurisdictions within Los Angeles County maintain their own version of an LHMP as well.

Following a disaster incident that receives a Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds plans and projects that reduce the effects of future natural disasters. Eligible applicants include State agencies, local governments, special districts, and some private nonprofits. All state, local, tribal and territorial governments must develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans to receive funding for their hazard mitigation projects.

# 5 Roles and Responsibilities



## 5.1 The Role of Government

It is the responsibility of the government and the emergency management community to plan and prepare for emergency response with the whole community in mind. As established in various federal and state legislation, including the Stafford Act and the California Emergency Services Act, local ordinances, including Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances, and overall best practice guidance, various levels of government and various governmental bodies have certain authorities and responsibilities related to significant emergency and disaster incidents.

### 5.1.1 County Board of Supervisors

During an emergency or disaster, the County Board of Supervisors (Board), executed through the Chair of the Board, reserves the power to initiate, coordinate and direct activities made necessary as a result of an emergency that directly affects the County government and requires organized community action within the County. This includes mobilizing the County emergency organization. The Board can delegate any of its powers, functions, or duties to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or to any other officer as defined in Chapter 2.68.090 of the County's Code of Ordinances.

The Board has the authority to proclaim, extend, and terminate a local emergency and request the Governor proclaim a state of emergency. If the Board is not in session, the Chair of the Board, the CEO, and the Sheriff, in that priority order, have the authority to proclaim a local emergency. In accordance with the California Emergency Services Act, the Board must then ratify that proclamation within seven days for it to remain in effect.

### 5.1.2 Emergency Management Council

The County Emergency Management Council (EMC), chaired by the CEO with the Sheriff as the vice-chair, is responsible for overseeing the emergency preparedness activities of the various County departments and coordinating such activities for the operational area to enhance unity of purpose. This includes approving specified emergency management plans, facilitating training of County employees for emergency and disaster-related functions, and organizing related emergency preparedness activities. The EMC meets upon call of the chair of the EMC, or in their absence or inability to call such meeting, upon call of the vice-chair.

### 5.1.3 Unified Coordination Group

A Unified Coordination Group (UCG) is a variable group of senior County leaders who are assembled and led by the CEO to serve in a policy advisory capacity during emergency operations. A UCG must be established when the County/Operational Area EOC is activated at a level 1 (highest level), but one can be established outside of a level 1 EOC activation as determined necessary. The composition of the UCG will be determined, on a case-by-case basis, by the CEO depending on the particulars of the given emergency.

### 5.1.4 County Agencies

County agencies play a critical role during all phases of the emergency management cycle. Responsibilities include mitigation, planning, training, and exercise activities before incidents occur, deploying field-level emergency response personnel, activating department operations centers, or issuing orders to protect the public during emergency incidents, and coordinating recovery resources and tracking documentation after an incident, among others. County agencies are required to carry out activities in accordance with appropriate authorities and follow SEMS and NIMS, including ensuring utilization of the ICS and multi-agency coordination. County departments, commissions, agencies, boards, districts, officers, and employees shall have emergency duties, responsibilities, and assignments for emergencies as prescribed in this plan as established in chapter 2.68.280 of the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances.

All County agencies are to formulate and maintain Department Emergency Plans (DEP) for departmental operations during emergency conditions. DEPs must include a written plan for activation of the department and also need to be consistent with this OAEOP. Department Heads are to ensure that their department personnel are trained in emergency management/operations and that their designated department personnel participate in regular refresher training and emergency exercises as appropriate.

Additionally, under California Government Code Sections 3100-3109, all public employees are obligated to serve as Disaster Service Workers (DSW's). Public employees are all persons employed by the state or any county, city, city and county, state agency, or public district, excluding a person who is legally employed but who is

not a citizen or national of the United States. DSWs provide services and support during declared emergencies or disasters.

In the event of a major emergency or disaster, County employees may be called upon to perform certain duties in support of emergency management operations with the following considerations:

- County employees may be required to work at any time during a proclaimed emergency and may be assigned to disaster service work
- Assignments may require service at locations, times and under conditions other than normal work assignments
- Assignments may include duties within the EOC, in the field or at another designated location

Under no circumstances will County employees that do not usually have a response role in their day to day responsibilities be asked to perform duties or functions that are hazardous, that they have not been trained to perform, or that are beyond their recognized capabilities.

The following provides a brief description of the general roles and responsibilities of each County department during an emergency or major disaster. It is important to note that these descriptions provide a high level overview and are not to be considered a final comprehensive list. Departments are likely to have additional responsibilities during a large scale emergency or disaster based on pre-established authorities or through Board or UCG direction, among other possible considerations. Each department will continue to provide mission critical services during an emergency or major disaster. Some departmental staff may assist other departments as Disaster Service Workers if required/requested.

### Aging and Disabilities

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #8 - Public Health and Medical, #11 - Animal Response and Agriculture, #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Department of Aging and Disabilities supports the safety and well-being of older adults and individuals with disabilities. The department works collaboratively to address the unique needs and challenges faced by vulnerable populations during

emergencies, including providing support or subject matter expertise to response partners during emergency sheltering and other service programs.

The department's Adult Protective Services (APS) division investigates cases of abuse, neglect or exploitation, working closely with a wide variety of allied professionals such as physicians, nurses, paramedics, firefighters and law enforcement officers. APS social workers conduct health and safety checks on individuals, working in coordination with DPSS In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) social workers immediately following a disaster to assess their status and determine their need for assistance.

### Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #8 - Public Health and Medical, #11 - Animal Response and Agriculture, #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures (ACWM) has oversight of the integrity and safety of agricultural products and commodities. The department takes on several essential responsibilities to support public health and safety. They provide resources and assistance to the Department of Public Health, collaborating to maintain and enforce standards for marketable foods, plants, weighing and measuring devices, and other commodities. They play a role in controlling and eradicating plant and animal pests and safeguarding the county's agricultural resources. During and after a disaster, the ACWM works diligently to administer and enforce laws and policies that regulate the quality and accuracy of agricultural products, protecting both consumers and the agricultural industry. ACWM coordinates USDA Assistance programs when they are made available in Los Angeles County.

### Alternate Public Defender

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #13 - Law Enforcement Services; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Alternate Public Defender provides an attorney to represent persons charged with a crime who cannot afford to hire a private attorney and where the Public Defender has a conflict of interest. During periods of emergency or disaster, the primary responsibilities and considerations of the Alternate Public Defender's office are the safety of employees and the public at work sites, preservation of vital departmental records and property, and continuation of legal services to clients. In addition to these

responsibilities, the department shall provide supportive assistance to the Sheriff's Department as needed.

### Animal Care and Control

**LAC-ESF Primary Department:** #11 - Animal Response and Agriculture

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #4- Fire and Rescue Services; #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #8 - Public Health and Medical, #13 - Law Enforcement Services; #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) plays a critical role in ensuring the welfare and safety of animals. DACC takes lead in supporting animal evacuations with law enforcement, coordinating emergency sheltering sites for large animals and livestock, shelter-in-place resource assistance, small animal emergency sheltering at department animal care facilities and reunification. The department collaborates with fire, law enforcement, various county agencies and non-governmental organizations during response efforts, including evacuations. Their efforts contribute to the overall response and recovery by addressing the unique needs of animals and providing essential care and support in times of crisis.

### Arts and Culture

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

In addition to their mission of advancing arts, culture, and creativity, the Department of Arts and Culture collaborates with other departments by providing personnel through the County's disaster service workers (DSW) program. Department personnel can be called upon to assist other departments during emergencies and contribute their expertise and skills to support the county's overall disaster response.

### Assessor

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #3 - Infrastructure and Engineering; #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Department of Assessor conducts the equitable assessment of taxable property within the county. Despite the challenges posed by any disaster, the department remains committed to providing accurate and timely assessments. They work diligently to make appropriate adjustments to the tax roll, taking into account any changes or damages caused by the disaster. The department coordinates disaster relief programs,

including Misfortune and Calamity Tax Relief and Proposition 19 Disaster Relief Transfer of Base Value programs. The Assessor works to confirm property owners are taxed fairly based on the current condition and value of their properties. This allows for the continuity of tax collection and revenue generation, which is vital for supporting essential public services and recovery efforts in the aftermath of a disaster.

### Auditor-Controller

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #7 - Logistical Support; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers; #17 - Donations Management; #18 - Cybersecurity

The Auditor-Controller is responsible for the accounting and auditing of all County receipts and disbursements, provides professional financial control and fiscal leadership for the County, processes payroll for County Disaster Service Workers, and operates critical enterprise systems. The Department ensures that critical receipts and disbursements continue to be made in the aftermath of a disaster and monitors the financial condition and performance of the County, providing recommendations and reporting key financial metrics and results to inform decisions by County leadership. The Auditor-Controller assists in responding to cybersecurity incidents involving enterprise financial systems and ensures those critical systems are secure, operational, and available to meet disaster response needs. The Auditor-Controller also provides timely assurance and investigative support during a crisis to reduce the risk that disaster response resources and funds are lost to fraud, waste, and abuse - the risk of which increases significantly during a disaster. Maintaining continuity of Auditor-Controller operations is crucial for the uninterrupted conduct of County business during and after any event.

### Beaches and Harbors

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #1 - Transportation; #4 - Fire and Rescue Services; #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Department of Beaches and Harbors coordinates and provides essential services in relation to beaches, harbors, and waterfront areas. Following an emergency or disaster incident, the department will provide continuous essential services such as employee safety and the mobilization of off-highway and heavy equipment and personnel to mitigate damage to public and private property. The department works closely with the Lifeguard Division of the Fire Department to facilitate rescues and emergency operations in their areas of responsibility. Beaches and Harbors manages

the Beach Emergency Evacuation Lights System (BEELS) that is used as an evacuation alert system to notify all beachgoers, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing. The waterways and marinas under the authority of beaches are harbors also factor into transportation coordination considerations following an incident.

### Chief Executive Office

**LAC-ESF Primary Department:** #1 - Transportation; # 5 - Emergency Coordination; # 12 - Utilities; #14 - Initial Recovery; #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning; #17 - Donations Management

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #2 - Communications; #3 - Infrastructure and Engineering; #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #7 - Logistical Support; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers; #18 - Cybersecurity

The Chief Executive Office has a wide variety of emergency management related roles and responsibilities, including many significant policy or strategic level considerations. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has the responsibility to maintain, manage, activate, and operate the County/OA EOC. The OEM also manages the overall development, review, revision, and similar coordination related to the OAEOP. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) acts as the Chair of the County's EMC that oversees the emergency preparedness activities of the various County departments and coordinates activities within the OA to enhance unity of purpose. Additionally, the CEO is authorized by ordinance to issue alert and warning notifications to the public.

Following an incident, the CEO oversees the activation of the County/OA EOC and coordinates a unity of effort within the OA. The CEO has the authority to proclaim a local emergency in the event that the Board is not in session and the Chair of the Board is unable. The CEO is also responsible for assembling and managing a UCG during any Level 1 activation of County/OA EOC, or as otherwise determined necessary.

As a result of the various authorities and capabilities, the Chief Executive Office serves in the Primary role for multiple LAC-ESFs, including multiple ESFs where a significant amount of responsibility for coordination, response, and restoration is handled by an entity outside of the County (e.g., LAC-ESF # 12 - Utilities involves significant involvement from private entities).

### Child Support Services

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Child Support Services is responsible for the administration, collection, enforcement, and distribution of child support payments. Following an emergency or disaster, the department continues to provide essential services to custodial and non-custodial parents, assisting them with child support processes and procedures even in challenging times. The department works to ensure that child support obligations are upheld, enabling financial stability for families during and after the disaster. The department collaborates with other agencies and organizations involved in mass care and sheltering efforts, ensuring that child support services and assistance are available to families who may be displaced or affected by the disaster.

### Children and Family Services

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Children and Family Services (DCFS) plays a role in the safety and well-being of children and families affected by the emergency. DCFS will maintain their commitment to providing services to children under their care, including finding suitable placements for children affected by the disaster. DCFS may deploy staff to designated emergency shelters to process the initial intake and registration of unaccompanied minors, taking follow-up actions to reunite them with their parents or guardians or provide appropriate placement. DCFS staff assist in the provision of emergency welfare services by interviewing victims, processing requests for disaster assistance, and carrying out related tasks.

### Consumer and Business Affairs

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) focuses on ensuring consumer protection and promoting fair business practices during the aftermath of a disaster. DCBA also actively protects and informs residents of rights and responsibilities, particularly in relation to disaster-related issues such as price gouging, fraud, and deceptive business practices. DCBA collaborates with other county agencies and organizations to provide guidance and support for businesses affected



by the disaster to allow for a proper transition to recovery, including coordinating information and resources related to SBA loans.

### County Counsel

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #5 - Emergency Coordination; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Office of County Counsel provides legal representation, advice and counsel to the Board of Supervisors, the County and other public officers, and agencies. In times of emergency, County Counsel serves as an advisor to the UCG and County/OA EOC on the legal aspects of emergency management. County Counsel provides advice on the formulation of emergency orders and reviews all emergency proclamations and orders prior to being signed by the authorized executive. County Counsel also works with Departments during disasters to determine if there are any legal ramifications with response/recovery actions and considerations.

### District Attorney

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #13 - Law Enforcement Services; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The District Attorney's Office maintains its core responsibilities of representing the people in felony prosecutions, juvenile hearings, and misdemeanor prosecutions where there is no city attorney. This ensures that public safety and the administration of justice continues even in challenging circumstances. The District Attorney's Office provides support to Law Enforcement Services by providing assistance as needed, including providing legal guidance, coordinating investigations, or offering resources to support law enforcement efforts during the disaster to uphold the rule of law and protect public safety.

### Economic Opportunity

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) helps mitigate the economic impact of a disaster and provides resources to support affected individuals and communities. This includes, but is not limited to, job placement services and counseling to individuals and businesses who have lost their livelihood. The department works closely with businesses, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders to identify and address the economic needs of the community. The department also collaborates

with local and regional partners to facilitate the recovery and rebuilding process, offering programs and initiatives to support businesses, create employment opportunities, and promote economic revitalization in the affected areas. In partnership with DCBA and OEM, DEO assists with SBA loans and recovery efforts for private sector entities.

#### Executive Office, Board of Supervisors

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #5 - Emergency Coordination; #14 - Initial Recovery; #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors contributes to the functionality and continuity of government operations following an emergency or disaster incident. The office coordinates the convening of the Board of Supervisors conducts official business, even in challenging circumstances. They work closely with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to provide support during emergencies, collaborating to make informed decisions and take necessary actions to address the impact of the disaster. By maintaining the continuity of government operations and working in tandem with the CEO, the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors allows for effective governance and leadership to continue during and after a disaster, helping to navigate the challenges and facilitate the recovery and resilience of the entirety of Los Angeles County.

#### Fire Department

**LAC-ESF Primary Department:** #4 - Fire and Rescue Services; #10 - Hazardous Materials

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #2 - Communications; #5 - Emergency Coordination; #7 - Logistical Support; #8 - Public Health and Medical; #11 - Animal Response and Agriculture; #12 - Utilities; #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The mission of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) is to protect lives, property, and the environment by providing prompt, skillful, and cost-effective protection, and life safety services. This mission is executed in response to emergencies of all types, including but not limited to, fires, floods, earthquakes, wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, emergency medical situations, traffic collision rescues, urban search and rescue incidents, and ocean lifeguard rescues. LACoFD is designated as the Region I Fire Mutual Aid Coordinator and assumes the

responsibility of coordinating fire and rescue mutual aid resources during major emergencies. The department may also contribute to critical emergency alert and warning and public information efforts following an incident.

### Health Services

**LAC-ESF Primary Department: #8 - Public Health and Medical Services \***

**LAC-ESF Support Department: #5 - Emergency Coordination; #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #7 - Logistical Support; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers**

DHS' role is to organize, mobilize, coordinate, and direct both public and private medical and health resources to meet the needs of response. The Director of Health Services, as the countywide coordinator, is responsible for managing and allocating these resources. DHS works closely with private sector health facilities, such as hospitals, clinics, and skilled nursing facilities, which can be designated as Field Treatment Sites (FTS) to handle mass casualties. The Emergency Medical Services Agency within DHS acts as the MHOAC lead for the Los Angeles County OA. DHS also provides support for mass care and sheltering efforts by ensuring that displaced individuals have access to essential healthcare services, including medical support and access to medication.

\* To align with the State of California's updated ESF model in the 2023 version of the State Emergency Plan, LAC-ESF #8 has the Departments of Health Services and Public Health listed as co-Primary departments. DHS is the lead agency for the MHOAC, including medical and health related mutual aid. Public health is listed a co-Primary due to authorities, roles, and responsibilities on Public Health related matters. Primary agency determination for specific incidents will be based on the nature of the incident, UCG direction, etc.

### Human Resources

**LAC-ESF Primary Department: #16 - Personnel and Volunteers**

**LAC-ESF Support Department: #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services**

The role of Department of Human Resources (DHR) during and after a disaster is to effectively manage the County's workforce and coordinate the availability of personnel for emergency response and recovery efforts. DHR responsibilities include recruiting, training, and coordinating county employees as part of the Disaster Service Worker (DSW) program. Under ESF #16, the department will also support efficient and

effective use of affiliated and unaffiliated volunteers. DHR may also implement the Employee Disaster Assistance Program (EDAP) to help employee disaster victims.

### Internal Services

**LAC-ESF Primary Department:** #2 - Communication; #7 - Logistical Support; #18 - Cybersecurity

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #1 - Transportation; #3 - Infrastructure and Engineering; #5 - Emergency Coordination; #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #11 - Animal Response and Agriculture; #12 - Utilities; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers; #17 - Donations Management

The Internal Services Department (ISD) support to emergency response include providing and repairing communication infrastructure and capabilities, maintaining vehicles and off-highway equipment, providing fuel and temporary power, procuring essential emergency supplies, and maintaining and/or restoring computer operations to support critical applications required for the operation of the County. ISD also has the responsibility to gather safety assessment information relative to County facilities and report status to the County/OA EOC.

### Justice Care and Opportunities

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) is the central agency unifying Los Angeles County's non-clinical efforts to serve vulnerable justice-impacted people and communities and drive forward the Board of Supervisors' vision of Care First, Jails Last. JCOD's aim is to support the County's adults and transition-age youth in breaking the cycle of overreliance on incarceration, and ensuring thriving communities, through innovative program planning and delivery. Following an emergency or disaster incident, JCOD will work continue the provision of services and support to populations served, especially as impacts of an emergency or disaster can present unique challenges to vulnerable justice-impacted people and communities.

### Medical Examiner

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #8 - Public Health and Medical; #13 - Law Enforcement Services; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Department of Medical Examiner (DME) is responsible for management of fatalities, including those occurring before, during, and after a disaster. During a large-scale emergency or disaster, the DME collaborates with key agencies to properly manage and investigate fatalities and establish appropriate facilities as necessary (e.g., Mass Fatality Collection Points). The DME works to determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of deaths. The department also maintains accurate records and provides information according to established protocols. After a disaster, the DME continues to perform their duties, including post-mortem examinations, forensic investigations, and identification of remains. They work closely with other agencies to support the recovery process and provide closure to families affected by the tragedy. The DME acts as the Region 1 Mutual Aid Coordinator for the Coroner mutual aid system.

### Mental Health

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #5 - Emergency Coordination; #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #8 - Public Health and Medical; #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) plays a crucial role in addressing mental health needs before, during, and after any disaster. Following a large-scale emergency or disaster, DMH's mission is to coordinate and provide mental health services to the community and emergency responders. They prioritize the well-being and psychological support of individuals affected by the disaster, ensuring access to crisis counseling, psychological first aid, and other necessary interventions. DMH maintains continuity of care for existing consumers, ensuring they receive ongoing mental health support and treatment. After a disaster, the DMH continues to provide mental health services to address the emotional and psychological needs of the community during the recovery phase. They assist in recovery efforts by offering trauma-informed care, counseling, and support programs, helping individuals and communities of Los Angeles County heal and rebuild. DMH personnel support Local Assistance Centers and/or Disaster Resource Centers when established.

The Director of Mental Health is also the County's Public Guardian. The Public Guardian is responsible for managing court appointed conservatorships for Los Angeles County residents determined unable to provide for their basic needs of food, clothing, shelter or unable to manage their finances due to their mental and physical impairments. The Public Guardian has a fiduciary responsibility and acts as the legal decision maker for

conserved clients. During an emergency and after a disaster, the Public Guardian will be responsible for ensuring conservatees are located and placed in a setting that can meet their basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and mental and physical health needs.

### Military and Veterans Affairs

#### **LAC-ESF Support Department: #16 - Personnel and Volunteers**

The Office of Military & Veterans Affairs provides support and resources to military personnel, veterans, and their families. The department's objectives include coordinating with various military and veteran organizations to account for the well-being and welfare of those affected by the disaster. When needed, the MVA will disseminate information and resources, and offer assistance in connecting individuals to vital services such as housing, healthcare, and financial aid.

### Museum of Art

#### **LAC-ESF Support Department: #16 - Personnel and Volunteers**

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) provides support in the way of arts and cultural heritage expertise and resources during disaster response and recovery. LACMA's staff members, as part of the DSW program, collaborate with and support other emergency response agencies to contribute to the well-being of individuals and the community. After a disaster, LACMA contributes to the recovery process by offering resources, expertise, and programs that help rebuild and restore the community.

### Natural History Museum

#### **LAC-ESF Support Department: #16 - Personnel and Volunteers**

The Los Angeles County Natural History Museum may extend beyond its usual functions as a center for scientific research and education to serve as a valuable resource for the community in the aftermath of a disaster. The museum's scientific expertise can be utilized to assess and mitigate the impact of the disaster on the region's natural environment and biodiversity. Staff members, as part of the DSW program, collaborate with and support other emergency response agencies to contribute to the well-being of individuals and the community. Additionally, in the aftermath of a disaster, the museum plays a role in educating the public about the causes and effects of such disasters, promoting awareness, and providing educational materials and resources to aid in disaster preparedness.

## Parks and Recreation

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #4 - Fire and Rescue Services; #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #7 - Logistical Support; #11 - Animal Response and Agriculture; #13 - Law Enforcement Services; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

During a disaster, the role of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is to support emergency response efforts while focusing on the safety and well-being of the community. DPR facilities that meet accessibility criteria can function as emergency shelter locations. Park sites also offer open spaces and facilities for staging of supplies and equipment. DPR may also assist in setting up temporary recreational programs for affected individuals, providing a sense of normalcy and community engagement during challenging times.

## Probation

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #13 - Law Enforcement Services; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Probation Department works to enhance public safety by providing effective rehabilitation and supervision for individuals under its authority. The department's primary focus is to maintain order, safeguard the community, and support the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals involved in the criminal justice system. In the aftermath of a disaster, the department also provides support to Law Enforcement services.

## Public Defender

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #13 - Law Enforcement Services; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The role of the Public Defender's Office during a disaster is to continue legal representation and protection of the constitutional rights of individuals involved in criminal cases or facing potential criminal charges. The office remains focused on safeguarding due process, fairness, and access to justice for everyone impacted. The Public Defender responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, providing legal counsel to individuals arrested or detained during the crisis, advocating for an individual's rights in court proceedings, and conducting thorough investigations. The Public Defender's Office may also collaborate to address any legal challenges arising

from the emergency situation, such as addressing the unique legal needs of vulnerable populations affected by the disaster.

### Public Health

**LAC-ESF Primary Department: #8 - Public Health and Medical Services \***

**LAC-ESF Support Department: #4 - Fire and Rescue Services; #5 - Emergency Coordination; #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #7 - Logistical Support; #8 - Public Health and Medical; #10 - Hazardous Materials; #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers**

The Department of Public Health's (DPH) role in disaster response is to protect and promote the health and well-being of the county's residents. DPH's objectives are centered around coordinating and implementing public health emergency response efforts to mitigate the impact of the disaster on the population. This includes rapidly assessing health risks, providing timely and accurate information to the public, issuing Health Officer orders, coordinating medical and public health services, supporting healthcare facilities and providers, ensuring the availability of essential resources and supplies, conducting disease surveillance and control measures, and collaborating with various local, state, and federal agencies to enhance the overall response and recovery efforts.

\* To align with the State of California's updated ESF model in the 2023 version of the State Emergency Plan, LAC-ESF #8 has the Departments of Health Services and Public Health listed as co-Primary departments. DHS is the lead agency for the MHOAC, including medical and health related mutual aid. Public health is listed a co-Primary due to authorities, roles, and responsibilities on Public Health related matters. Primary agency determination for specific incidents will be based on the nature of the incident, UCG direction, etc.

### Public Library

**LAC-ESF Support Department: #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers**

The Public Library extends beyond its traditional functions as a hub for knowledge and community engagement during disasters. Public libraries may serve as safe spaces and temporary safe havens for those displaced by the disaster, offering refuge, access to information, and basic amenities. They may also play a role in disseminating critical information to the public. Libraries may also provide access to computers, internet



connectivity, and charging stations, enabling residents to communicate with loved ones, emergency services, and gather essential information.

### Public Social Services

**LAC-ESF Primary Department:** #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #5 - Emergency Coordination; #8 - Public Health and Medical; #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers; #17 - Donations Management

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) coordinates and delivers essential social services, including emergency food assistance, temporary shelter, and financial aid to those in need. DPSS, as the lead agency for emergency sheltering, works very closely with the ARC. DPSS also works closely with other disaster response agencies to identify and prioritize the most vulnerable populations, ensuring that their immediate needs are met. DPSS offers services to help individuals navigate available resources and access necessary support services for long-term recovery.

### Public Works

**LAC-ESF Primary Department:** #3 - Infrastructure and Engineering

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #1 - Transportation; #2 - Communications; #4 - Fire and Rescue Services; #5 - Emergency Coordination; #7 - Logistical Support; #10 - Hazardous Materials; #12 - Utilities; #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

By authority, the Department of Public Works (PW) is the Road Commissioner, Flood Control Engineer and County Engineer. PW maintains an extensive highway system of roads, bridges traffic signals, and streetlights. In addition, PW has a lead role in conducting damage assessment for private sector buildings and property in the unincorporated areas, contract cities and county buildings. PW provides for the safety, functionality, and restoration of vital public infrastructure. The department provides engineering expertise and support. PW is responsible for Countywide water resource management, including flood risk management and water supply and also maintains manages, operates, and maintains sewer infrastructure within the Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District (CSMD) and the Marina Sewer Maintenance District. PW coordinates with emergency management, first responders, and other stakeholders to

assess and address damage to infrastructure, initiate emergency repairs, provide engineering expertise, and restore services as quickly as possible. They play a significant role in debris management, road clearance, and implementing necessary measures to prevent further hazards. Additionally, the department may collaborate with other agencies to provide essential resources, such as temporary shelters, emergency power supplies, and provide support for transportation assets and functions. PW also has responsibility for the five County owned and operated airports.

### Regional Planning

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #3 - Infrastructure and Engineering; #5 - Emergency Coordination; #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) coordinates land use and development activities. The department's responsibilities include long-term planning, zoning regulations, and environmental assessments. In a disaster scenario, Regional Planning plays a role in assessing the impact of the event on the region's infrastructure, communities, and natural resources. After a disaster the department may assist in assessing damages to infrastructure and structures and provide valuable information for recovery planning. Furthermore, they contribute to land-use decisions and redevelopment strategies, ensuring that reconstruction efforts align with safety standards and community needs.

### Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #14 - Initial Recovery; #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RRCC) is essential in ensuring the continuity of administrative and democratic processes. The department is responsible for managing and conducting elections, maintaining vital records, and overseeing various official functions. In a disaster situation, they may assist in establishing emergency voting centers and implementing contingency plans to allow for elections to proceed smoothly, even under challenging circumstances.

Additionally, they maintain vital records, such as birth/death certificates and marriage licenses, which are essential for individuals to access to necessary services and benefits during and after a disaster. RRCC is a support agency to LAC-ESF #8 - Public Health and Medical.

## Sheriff

**LAC-ESF Primary Department:** #13 - Law Enforcement Services

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #1 - Transportation; #2 - Communications; #4 - Fire and Rescue Services; #5 - Emergency Coordination; #7 - Logistical Support; #10 - Hazardous Materials; #11 - Animal Response and Agriculture; #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers; #18 - Cybersecurity

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) plays a fundamental role in ensuring public safety and coordinating emergency response efforts. As the largest sheriff's department in the United States, it works closely with various agencies and organizations to effectively respond to emergencies, maintain law and order, and protect the community's well-being. The department's responsibilities encompass a broad range of tasks, including search and rescue operations, evacuation coordination, traffic control, and ensuring order in affected areas. Deputies are deployed to disaster sites to provide immediate assistance, assess the situation, and support relief efforts. Additionally, they establish a law enforcement command and collaborate with emergency management to establish vital communication channels for disseminating critical information to the public. LASD serves as the primary agency for LAC-ESF #13 - Law Enforcement Services and the Region 1 Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Coordinator. LASD is a supporting agency to LAC-ESF #1 - Transportation, LAC-ESF #2 - Communications, LAC-ESF #5 - Emergency Coordination, LAC-ESF #10 - Hazardous Materials, LAC-ESF #15 - Public Information, Alert and Warning, and LAC-ESF #18 - Cybersecurity.

## Treasurer & Tax Collector

**LAC-ESF Support Department:** #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers

During time of disaster and crisis, the Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) plays a role in maintaining financial stability, supporting taxpayers, and contributing to the recovery efforts during a major disaster. The department's primary responsibilities include collecting property taxes, distributing tax revenue to various agencies, and ensuring the continuity of financial operations. Additionally, the TTC collaborates with other government agencies and relief organizations to implement tax relief programs or deferred payment options for affected property owners. They may also provide valuable financial resources and information to help individuals and businesses navigate the recovery process.

## Youth Development

**LAC-ESF Support Department: #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; #14 - Initial Recovery; #16 - Personnel and Volunteers**

In the aftermath of a major disaster, the Department of Youth Development plays a vital role in supporting and protecting the well-being of young people in the community. The department focuses on addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by youth during crisis situations. Their primary responsibilities include ensuring the safety and welfare of children and adolescents and facilitating youth development services. They also work to maintain communication channels with schools, youth organizations, and community centers to disseminate critical information and continue services for young individuals.

### 5.1.5 County Related Agencies

County related agencies are entities that are not under the direct governance of the County, but functionally serve a significant population within the County and generally operate in a manner similar to how County departments operate. Like County departments, County related agencies play a critical role during all phases of the emergency management cycle. While there are many entities that could fit the description of a County related agency, the entities with a significant role in emergency management are briefly summarized below.

#### Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is the primary source of mass transportation equipment within the OA.. Both busses and mass transit trains may be available for use in evacuations, transportation of equipment and supplies, transportation of emergency response workers and establishment of temporary bus/train lines for the transportation of victims to Local/Disaster Assistance Centers (LACs/DACs) and other relief locations such as mass shelters. Requests for Metro resources are coordinated through the appropriate channels within the County/OA EOC, including LAC-ESF #1.

#### Office of Education

The County of Los Angeles Office of Education (LACOE) is designated as the OA Coordinator for matters relating to public schools. As such, LACOE shall monitor and report the overall condition of public education in the OA. Reports will include the

status of reunification of student populations with families, school closings and condition of facilities. As a direct operator of a number of educational and administrative programs, LACOE is responsible for coordinating response and recovery activities for its own programs. As a support department to other County of Los Angeles departments, LACOE may be called upon to assist in matters related to care and sheltering in public schools, coordinating assignment of school resources to the disaster effort and providing information to the public on the status of schools. Representation from LACOE on Unified Coordination Groups and/or representation within the County/OA EOC may be requested for a variety of hazards or incidents that could occur within the OA.

### Sanitation Districts

The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts are a public agency focused on converting waste into resources like recycled water, energy and recycled materials. The agency consists of 24 independent special districts serving about 5.5 million people in Los Angeles County. To maximize efficiency and reduce costs, the 24 Sanitation Districts work cooperatively with one administrative staff. The service area of the Sanitation Districts cover approximately 850 square miles and encompass 78 cities and unincorporated areas in the county. Districts' facilities include wastewater reclamation plants, pumping plants, main trunk sewers, municipal sanitary landfills, energy facilities, recycling and transfer stations, and composting facilities.

### Superior Court

The Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, (the Court) is one of 58 superior courts created by Article VI of the California Constitution. It is the only court for the County of Los Angeles and serves a population of over 10 million people. The Court includes 36 courthouses located in 12 judicial districts throughout the County. During periods of emergency or disaster, the primary responsibility and considerations of the Superior Court include the safety of employees and the public at work sites, preservation of vital departmental records and property, and maintaining the jurisdiction in felony cases, as well as certain civil cases, small claims cases, and juvenile matters.

#### 5.1.6 Operational Area

The Los Angeles County OA is an intermediate level of the state emergency services organization, consisting of the county and all political subdivisions within the county as

defined by SEMS. The operational area serves as a coordinating link between the local government level and the region level of SEMS. OA responsibilities involve coordinating with the jurisdictions and organizations to deploy field-level emergency response personnel, activate emergency operations centers, and issue orders to protect the public.

The Chair of the Board is designated as the OA Coordinator, with responsibility for activating the operational area to coordinate interjurisdictional emergency operations during a state-of-war emergency, state of emergency, and local emergency, in accordance with SEMS. In the absence of the Chair, the CEO or the Sheriff, in that priority order, may activate the operational area.

#### 5.1.7 Disaster Management Area Coordinators

Each DMA has an assigned Disaster Management Area Coordinator (DMAC). The DMAC works with each of the cities within their area across all phases of the emergency management cycle and serves as the coordinating link between cities and the OA. Day-to-day, DMACs work with their cities on local level planning, preparedness, and mitigation activities. They also coordinate training opportunities, manage grants, and participate in OA wide planning efforts, including the OAEOP update. During large scale emergency or disaster incidents, DMACs responsibilities include, but are not limited to, sharing situational awareness information between the cities and the County/OA EOC, assisting with the resource requests elevated to the OA, and advocating for their cities while serving as liaisons to the OA. DMACs maintain a seat within the County/OA EOC.

#### 5.1.8 Local Government

Cities and special districts are responsible for development of an emergency plan establishing responsibilities for emergency management operations and specifying the officials authorized to proclaim a local emergency. All local governments with a certified disaster council are required to develop Emergency Operation Plans (EOP) for their jurisdiction that meet state and federal requirements and are in accordance with Cal OES Local Planning Guidance. When there is an immediate threat or actual emergency, local governments implement emergency plans and take actions to mitigate or reduce the emergency threat. Actions may include deploying field-level emergency response personnel, activating emergency operations centers, and issuing orders to protect the public. All incidents will be managed at the lowest possible level.

Local governments manage and coordinate the overall emergency response and recovery activities within their jurisdiction.

## 5.2 The Role of Nonprofit Organizations, Private Sector, and the Public

Public sector government resources alone cannot provide all the solutions when preparing for, responding to, or recovering from incidents. The whole community plays a part in every aspect of the emergency management cycle. All elements of the community will need to be activated, engaged, and integrated to respond to and recover from a major or catastrophic incident. It is imperative that the proper planning and preparedness actions occur before an incident occurs to ensure the proper capabilities exist and are well understood.

### 5.2.1 Nonprofit Organizations

Nonprofit organizations involved in emergency management are representative of and provide vital resources for the whole community. These organizations, which include faith-based and community organizations, are able to provide a number of support services and solutions before, during and after disasters. Many of services are not able to be handled by governmental entities and contribute to the ability of the entire emergency management organization to effectively meet the needs of the public. In Los Angeles County, two of the nonprofit organizations that provide significant services and support are the American Red Cross and the Emergency Network Los Angeles (ENLA).

#### American Red Cross

The American Red Cross (ARC) provides basic human needs and services to the community after a disaster occurs. The ARC assesses humanitarian needs at the field level and coordinates with the community impacted to determine overall service needs. The ARC may provide the following support when disasters thresholds specified by the ARC are met:

- Emergency Sheltering
- Disaster Assessment
- Emergency Feeding
- Distribution of Emergency Supplies
- Reunification

- Health/Mental/Spiritual Care
- Recovery Casework
- Liaisons/PIOs

The ARC maintains a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of Los Angeles to support LAC-ESF #6 (Mass Care and Shelter) activities. The Department of Public Social Services, as the LAC-ESF #6 lead agency, is the primary coordination point with the ARC during large scale emergency or disaster events. The ARC may provide a representative to the County/OA EOC as requested based on the needs of an incident.

Initial communications and aid requests between the ARC and the County function via the duty officer system. The ARC Duty Officer has the authority to assess whether the request meets ARC criteria to facilitate aid and whether additional organizational response is necessary. Levels of aid, response, and provision of resources are scalable based upon the severity of the incident and the determination of the amount and type of aid the ARC can provide. The ARC utilizes its own mutual aid processes when the local region can no longer provide resources to expand or continue services.

At the State level, ARC also has a MOU with Cal OES which designates ARC as the state co-lead for mass care and shelter (ESF 6) with California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and an MOU with CDSS to plan, prepare, and train for and respond to emergencies that require mass care and shelter.

### [Emergency Network Los Angeles](#)

ENLA is a nonprofit, charitable corporation under IRS section 501(c)(3) and serves as the Los Angeles County unit of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and the Southern California VOAD. Governed by a board of directors that represent various community-based organizations, ENLA is a collaboration of nonprofit and faith-based entities, government agencies, and private sector partners that share information, coordinate community response efforts, and build resource networks throughout the disaster cycle. ENLA currently has over 70 participating member organizations that include volunteer charities, legal services, mental health services, and environmental safety groups.

ENLA and its member organizations play a vital role in all phases of the emergency management cycle with a primary objective of strengthening the Los Angeles County emergency management infrastructure. Each ENLA member organization operates with autonomy during emergencies and disasters, but as members of ENLA, member



organizations coordinate with the VOAD in order to enhance and streamline their operations while also mitigating against the duplication of efforts. As a result of this cooperation, communities in need can be served quickly and more effectively.

### 5.2.2 Private Sector

The private sector contributes significantly to emergency and disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts. The resilience of private sector organizations directly affects community recovery by providing products and services, employment opportunities, other resources and re-establishing a functioning economy. Private sector entities also maintain critical infrastructure, provide for the successful operations of critical supply chains, and can offer crucial support capabilities to assist in incident stabilization, economic stabilization and overall recovery. Businesses and infrastructure owners and operators have primary responsibility for preparing for emergencies and operating and repairing their systems during and after an impact occurs. Similar to public sector mutual aid and support agreements, it is essential that government and private sector organizations engage in collaboration before an incident to effectively partner during incident response. Acting within regulatory and authoritative guidelines, government entities and the private sector can provide mutually beneficial incident-specific response support. When government, private sector, and non-governmental organization resources are mutually supportive and aligned, there is a much better chance of meeting communities' incident and economic recovery needs. This all-inclusive approach helps expand and expedite the availability of resources, capabilities, and solution sets for incident response.

### 5.2.3 Individuals, Families, and Households

Individuals, families, and households play a vital role in all aspects of emergencies and disasters, from preparedness to recovery. Individuals can significantly increase their ability to be resilient by preparing emergency supply kits and developing individualized emergency plans before an incident occurs. It is critical that each individual, family, and/or household account for unique considerations specific to them and cater supply kits and emergency plans to address these needs. This includes individuals who have AFN or medical needs taking steps to ensure supplies and plans account for any medications, service animals, device power requirements, personal assistance service providers, or any other specific considerations. Individual emergency plans should account for circumstances that may delay critical tasks during

an emergency (e.g., receiving emergency alerts, safe evacuation, etc.) and identify solutions that will enhance personal safety and resiliency.

Residents can get involved before an emergency through volunteer organizations, local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and similar emergency preparedness and response training opportunities so they can better serve their families, neighbors, and communities when an incident does occur and reduce the demands on first responders. There are also many mitigation actions that can be taken at the household level (e.g., seismically retrofitting buildings, clearing brush away from structures in fire hazard areas, securing large items and furniture, etc.) to limit the impact that any incident can have. Mitigation actions often decrease the likelihood of needing emergency assistance and/or decrease the time it takes to recover.

During an actual disaster, emergency, or threat, individuals, families, and households should monitor emergency communications and follow guidance and instructions provided by local authorities. Residents should implement their individualized emergency plans and assist their loved ones and family members as they determine safe to do so, especially those who may require additional assistance.

More detailed information on personal and family emergency preparedness can be obtained through various emergency management sources. These include various local, state, and federal emergency management sources and numerous voluntary organizations like the American Red Cross or ENLA.

## 6 Plan Administration

## 6.1 Plan Development and Maintenance

The 2023 County of Los Angeles OAEOP is an update to the 2012 OAEOP that, among other updates, incorporates considerations related to the County's revised Emergency Ordinance (Chapter 2.68 of the County Code of Ordinances), legislation passed in the State of California related to emergency planning, and accounts for updated population and demographic considerations. This updated plan aligns with best practices identified at the local, state, and federal levels and incorporates lessons learned from previous incidents and exercises. The planning process followed the guidance established in CPG 101 and included six general planning steps:

1. Forming a Collaborative Planning Team
2. Understanding the Situation
3. Determining Goals and Objectives
4. Developing the Plan
5. Plan Preparation, Review, and Approval
6. Implementing, Reviewing, Revising, and Maintaining the Plan

This plan is a living document and provides the overall procedural guidance concerning the County's emergency management organization and OA coordination. The County's Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management is responsible for overall coordination of the OAEOP base plan with regard to maintenance, review, and revision. Designated components of County government have responsibility for supporting the development, maintenance, and review/revision of portions of this plan, as well as the overall implementation. OEM will also provide overall coordination related to the plan's supporting annexes with appropriate levels of involvement from lead, support, and affiliated departments/agencies. ESF agencies will be responsible for participating in any updates to their respective ESF Annexes, facilitated by OEM.

Review of the OAEOP will be conducted after the occurrence of major emergency/disaster incidents or every two years. OEM will oversee and coordinate the revision of the OAEOP every five years. To ensure accuracy and validity, it is essential that all updates and revisions are conducted in collaboration with County departments, DMACs/local jurisdictions, and other planning partners identified in the OAEOP. If the OAEOP requires an immediate change due to updated legal requirements or lessons learned from trainings, exercises, or real-world incidents, OEM will identify a course of action for the review, update, and implementation of the necessary changes. Reviews and updates will consider the following elements, among others:

1. Formal updates of planning guidance or standards
2. Changes in elected/appointed officials
3. Changes in response resources (e.g., policies, personnel, organizational structures, leadership/management processes, facilities, or equipment)
4. After-Action Reports and Improvement Plans from exercises, incidents, or events
5. Enactment of new or amended laws or ordinances
6. Changes in demographics or hazard profiles.

## 6.2 Annexes to the OAEOP

This base plan of the OAEOP establishes the fundamental systems, strategies, policies, assumptions, responsibilities, and operational priorities that the County will utilize to guide and support emergency management efforts. Annexes to the OAEOP provide more detailed considerations on specific functions or hazards. A Functional Annex will be developed for each LAC-ESF. Planning efforts to develop the ESF Annexes will be conducted by ad-hoc working groups made up of affiliated representatives for each of the ESFs. Each LAC-ESF Annex will be subject to the final approval and signature of the Department Head for Primary Agency for the ESF.

The EMC has the authority to dictate any additional function or hazard specific annexes that should be developed in support of this OAEOP.

## 6.3 Standard Operating Procedures

The OAEOP is intended to be used in conjunction with County department, local government, and state plans and associated standard operating procedures (SOPs). SOPs provide the purpose, authorities, duration, and details for the preferred method of performing a single function or a number of interrelated functions in a uniform manner. SOPs must comply with the principles established in this OAEOP, including considerations to the overall priorities, goals, and strategies and must be inclusive of the whole community. SOPs must also facilitate the need to carry out actions under conditions that may not have been anticipated when the SOP was drafted. For example, it may be necessary to consider alternative procedures that solve a problem in order to perform in a more time-efficient or cost-efficient way. It is clear; therefore, some procedures may need to be suspended, relaxed, or made operational under threat of disaster. However, such action should be carefully considered, and the consequences should be projected realistically.

SOPs are to be developed and maintained by appropriate agencies assigned to each LAC-ESF and/or the appropriate local government entities. These SOPs will be regularly updated by the responsible departments, agencies, and/or jurisdictions.

## 6.4 Vital Record Retention

Local Government has the responsibility to protect its essential records. The responsibility for developing and implementing procedures for protecting vital records, materials, and facilities falls to each individual County Department and local government entities. These procedures must also identify the systems, archiving schedules, and the roles and responsibilities for the maintenance of records. CBOs are responsible for their own records/data. Departments and local government agencies should work with CBOs to share vital records, data, and information with the understanding that CBOs will retain ownership of their records/data.

It is imperative that Departments and local government agencies maintain essential agency records that are needed to:

- Meet their operational responsibilities under national security emergencies or other emergency or disaster conditions (emergency operating records)
- Protect and preserve the rights and interests of individuals, governments, corporations, and other entities. Examples include vital statistics, land and tax records, license registers and articles of incorporation.
- Conduct emergency response and recovery operations. Records of this type include utility system map, locations of emergency supplies and equipment, emergency operations plans and procedures, personnel rosters; etc.
- Reestablish governmental functions and protect the rights and interests of government. Constitutions, charters, statutes and ordinances, court records, official proceedings and financial records would be included.

Record depositories maintaining physical records should be located well away from potential danger zones and housed in facilities designed to withstand blast, fire, water, and other destructive forces. Documents stored in electronic form must be archived in compliance with applicable County and/or local document retention policies and effort should be taken to provide redundant access to data (e.g., secure off-site cloud-based storage systems).

## 6.5 Training and Exercises

Training and exercise activities are a necessary part of developing the capabilities of the County and OA emergency organization. Integrated Preparedness Plans will be developed and executed to address training gaps and strategically inform future exercise opportunities in order to strengthen the capabilities of the emergency organization's systems and personnel. Training and exercise execution will be consistent with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and follow SEMS training guidance, whenever possible.

County departments must ensure proper training and exercise opportunities are provided at the department level for all personnel who may be assigned to support emergency operations, whether at the field, DOC, EOC, or UCG level. Additionally, all County employees can be tasked to serve as Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) and should receive the proper awareness or higher-level training at the department level.

Local governments, special districts, and nongovernmental organizations are encouraged to not only participate in OA level training and exercise opportunities, but to also develop individualized Training and Exercise Plans (TEPs) to enhance the capabilities of all personnel, especially for incidents that remain localized and do not rise to the severity level of requiring OA coordination.

## 6.6 Authorities and References

The following is a list of several basic Federal, State, and local statutes, codes, ordinances, regulations, and other guidance relating to emergency operations. The list also identifies authorities that might come into play in the course of emergency operations. The cited authorities are not intended to be a comprehensive listing of every legal authority that might relate to emergency operations. Therefore, it is important that planners consult with their local legal counsel to identify and address legal issues that might arise in the course of emergency operations. Additional authorities and references are documented in the EOP Annexes and Appendices.

### Federal Authorities

- **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988** - 42 U.S.C. 5121, et seq., as amended
- **Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, Management of Domestic Incidents** - February 28, 2003

- **Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8, National Preparedness** - December 17, 2003
- **American with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended**

#### State of California Authorities

- **California Emergency Services Act** - Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the California Government Code
- **Standardized Emergency Management System** - Chapter 1 of Division 2 of Title 19 of the California Government Code
- **California Disaster Assistance Act** - Chapter 7.5 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the California Government Code
- **California State Emergency Plan** - Article 3 of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the California Government Code
- **California Health and Safety Code** - Section 101080 of Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 101
- **Disaster Service Workers and Public Employees** - Chapter 8 of Division 4 of Title 1 of the California Government Code
- **Accessibility to Emergency Information and Services** - Article 6.5 of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the California Government Code
- **Local Disaster Councils** - Article 10 of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the California Government Code
- **California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement**
- **California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan**
- **California Coroners' Mutual Aid Plan**
- **California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan**

#### Los Angeles County Authorities

- **Los Angeles County Emergency Ordinance** - Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances



## References

The following sources were referenced during the development of this plan:

- [Cal OES Yellow Book](#)
- [Comprehensive Preparedness Guide \(CPG\) 101 Version 3.0](#)
- [California State Emergency Plan](#)
- [FEMA Disaster Declaration Search](#)
- [FEMA National Risk Index Map](#)
- [LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#)
- [LACOE Public Schools Directory](#)
- [LAEDC Hospitality & Tourism in Los Angeles](#)
- [LAUSD Fingertip Facts 21-22](#)
- [LAX Improved to Fifth-Busiest Airport in the World in 2021](#)
- [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#)
- [National Preparedness Goal](#)
- [National Response Framework](#)
- [Los Angeles County Auditor - Special Districts Fiscal Year 2022](#)
- [The Port of Los Angeles Facts and Figures](#)
- [United States Census and American Community Survey](#)
- [United States Geological Survey Earthquake Catalog](#)

# 7 Attachments

## Attachment A: Acronyms

**AAR** - After-Action Report  
**ACWM** - Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures  
**AFN** - Access and Functional Needs  
**ARC** - American Red Cross  
**BEELS** - Beach Emergency Evacuation Lights System  
**CA-ESF** - State of California - Emergency Support Function(s)  
**Cal OES** - California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
**CalWARN** - California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network  
**CBO(s)** - Community-based organizations  
**CDA** - California Disaster Assistance Act  
**CDPH** - California Department of Public Health  
**CEO** - Chief Executive Office  
**CERT** - Community Emergency Response Teams  
**CPG** - FEMA's Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG101)  
**CSMD** - Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District  
**DACC** - Department of Animal Care and Control  
**DCBA** - Department of Consumer and Business Affairs  
**DCFS** - Department of Children and Family Services  
**DEC** - Department Emergency Coordinators  
**DEO** - Department of Economic Opportunity  
**DEP** - Department Emergency Plan(s)  
**DHR** - Department of Human Resources  
**DHS** - Department of Health Services  
**DMA** - Disaster Management Areas  
**DMAC** - Disaster Management Area Coordinators  
**DMEC** - Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner  
**DMH** - Department of Mental Health  
**DOC** - Department Operations Center  
**DPH** - Department of Public Health  
**DPR** - Department of Parks and Recreation  
**DPSS** - Department of Public Social Services  
**DPW** - Department of Public Works  
**DRP** - Department of Regional Planning  
**DSOD** - California Division of Safety of Dams

**DSW** - Disaster Service Worker  
**DUA** - Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
**EAP** - Emergency Action Plan  
**EAS** - Emergency Alert System  
**EDAP** - Employee Disaster Assistance Program  
**EMAC** - Emergency Management Assistance Compact  
**EMC** - Emergency Management Council (County of Los Angeles)  
**EMS** - Emergency Medical Service(s)  
**EMSA** - Emergency Medical Services Authority  
**ENLA** - Emergency Network Los Angeles  
**EOC** - Emergency Operations Center  
**ESF** - Emergency Support Function(s)  
**FEMA** - Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**FHSZ** - Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (high or very high)  
**FMAG** - Fire Management Assistance Grants  
**HAZMAT** - Hazardous Materials (HazMat)  
**HMPG** - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program  
**HSEEP** - Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program  
**HSPD** - Homeland Security Presidential Directive  
**IA** - Individual Assistance  
**IC** - Incident Commander  
**ICS** - Incident Command System  
**IDE** - Initial Damage Estimate  
**IPAWS** - Integrated Public Alert and Warning System  
**ISD** - Internal Services Department  
**JCOD** - Justice, Care and Opportunities Department  
**JIC** - Joint Information Center  
**JIS** - Joint Information System  
**JPA** - Joint Powers Agreement  
**LA** - Refers to the County of Los Angeles  
**LAC-ESF** - Los Angeles County, Emergency Support Function(s)  
**LACMA** - Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
**LACoFD** - Los Angeles County Fire Department  
**LASD** - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
**LAUSD** - Los Angeles Unified School District

**LAX** - Los Angeles International Airport  
**LHMP** - Local All-Hazards Mitigation Plan  
**LP** - Local Primary  
**MAC** - Multiagency Coordination Groups  
**MHOAC** - Medical Health Operational Area Coordination  
**MMAA** - Master Mutual Aid Agreement  
**MOU** - Memorandum of Understanding  
**MVA** - Office of Military & Veterans Affairs  
**NFIP** - FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program  
**NIMS** - National Incident Management System  
**NOAA** - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
**NRF** - National Response Framework  
**NWEM** - Non-Weather Emergency Message  
**NWS** - National Weather Service  
**OA** - Operational Area  
**OAEOEP** - Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan  
**OAERP** - Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (Old EOP)  
**OAFN** - Office of Access and Functional Needs  
**OEM** - Los Angeles Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management  
**ONA** - Other Needs Assistance  
**PA** - Public Assistance  
**PDA** - Preliminary Damage Assessment  
**PIO** - Public Information Officer  
**RDMHC** - Regional Disaster Medical and Health Coordination  
**REOC** - Regional Emergency Operations Center (Cal OES)  
**RRCC** - Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk  
**SAP** - Safety Assessment Program  
**SBA** - U.S. Small Business Administration  
**SEMS** - Standardized Emergency Management System  
**SOP** - Standard Operating Procedures  
**TDD** - Telecommunication Device for the Deaf  
**TEP(s)** - Training and Exercise Plan(s)  
**TransMAC** - Transit Mutual Assistance Compact  
**TTC** - Treasurer and Tax Collector  
**U.S.** - United States of America

**UCG** - Unified Coordination Group

**USAR** - Urban Search and Rescue

**USDA** - U.S. Department of Agriculture

**USGS** - United States Geological Survey

**VOAD** - National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

**VRA** - Voting Rights Act of 1965

**WEA(s)** - Wireless Emergency Alert(s)

**WUI** - Wildland-urban interface

## Attachment B: Glossary of Key Terms

### A

#### **Access and Functional Needs (AFN)**

Individuals with AFN include, but are not limited to, those who have/are: Physical, intellectual, developmental, and mental health-related disabilities, visual impairments/blind, hearing impairments/deaf, mobility impaired, injured, chronic conditions, older adults, infants and children, living in institutionalized settings, living below the poverty line or experiencing homelessness, limited English proficiency or are non-English speakers, or are transportation disadvantaged. Those with AFN may suffer severe and less forgiving consequences without the appropriate support. Considerations are made to ensure that all communication, transportation, sheltering, and support services provide equitable access and inclusion for all community members, regardless of their abilities or circumstances, in emergency situations.

#### **Activate/Activation**

1. The process of officially assembling an element of the County/OA emergency response organization in response to an actual or threatened crisis or disaster.
2. In the context of the County/OA EOC, activation includes determining the appropriate level of activation and assembling key personnel to coordinate and manage the response efforts. EOC activation typically occurs when the scale or complexity of an incident exceeds the capacity of routine emergency response operations. The activation enables effective communication, coordination, resource allocation, decision-making, and overall management of the incident response.

#### **Affiliated Agency**

Non-County organizations who have responsibilities under a particular LAC-ESF and/or provide significant resources, capabilities, or subject matter expertise but are not under the direct authority of the County of Los Angeles (e.g., ARC support to LAC-ESF#6). Affiliated Agencies may be governmental organizations (i.e., Special Districts), non-profit organizations, or other non-governmental organizations.

#### **After-Action Report (AAR)**

A comprehensive document that evaluates and analyzes the response to an incident or disaster. AARs highlight the successes and lessons learned from the event, providing valuable feedback to improve future emergency response and preparedness efforts.

## **Agency**

An entity that participates in emergency response and recovery activities in support of the County/OA emergency organization. An agency can be a department from any level of government, a quasi-governmental organization, or an affiliated non-governmental organization. Agencies are responsible for providing specific services, implementing policies, and carrying out administrative functions within Los Angeles County.

## **Agency Representative**

An individual who represents a specific agency or organization in an official capacity during response or recovery operations. Agency Representatives may be assigned at field Incident Command Posts, within Department Operations Centers, or within Emergency Operations Centers at the city or County/OA level. An Agency Representative act as a liaison or spokesperson on behalf of their agency, conveying information, expressing viewpoints, and facilitate communication and coordination. Individuals assigned as Agency Representatives should have the proper level of authority and autonomy to speak on behalf of their agency in an official capacity.

## **Alert**

A communication intended to attract public attention to an unusual situation and motivate individual awareness.

## **All-Hazards**

An integrated approach to emergency management that aims to address the needs of an incident through capacities and capabilities regardless of incident type or cause. An all-hazards approach allows best practices to be applied to safeguard life, property, the environment, public health, safety, and minimize disruptions to government, social, or economic activities.

# **B**

## **Branch**

The organizational level having functional and/or geographical responsibility for major aspects of incident operations. A "Branch" may be utilized on organizational charts at any level of the SEMS hierarchy. In the County/OA EOC, LAC-ESFs may be established as a Branch under one of the five core ICS sections.



# C

## **Cal OES**

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, commonly referred to as Cal OES, is the lead state agency responsible for coordinating and managing emergency management efforts in California. Cal OES works in collaboration with local, state, federal, tribal, and private sector partners to ensure effective emergency response and management.

## **California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement**

An agreement made and entered into by and between the State of California, its various departments and agencies, the various political subdivisions of the state, and federally recognized California Indian tribes, to ensure that sufficient resources and support are available to local jurisdictions when their own resources are depleted or insufficient. The agreement serves as the foundation for the state's emergency planning and response.

## **CERT**

Community Emergency Response Team is a program that trains and mobilizes community members to assist in emergency and disaster situations. CERT volunteers receive training in basic disaster response skills, such as first aid, fire safety, light search and rescue, and team organization. These trained volunteers are then able to support emergency responders and provide immediate assistance to their families, neighbors, and communities following a disaster.

## **City**

A city refers to a specific incorporated municipality within the boundary of Los Angeles County. Each of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County has its own government structure and is responsible for providing essential services to its residents. The local city agencies and government play a role in implementing emergency plans, alerting residents, organizing evacuations, and providing immediate assistance to their respective communities in times of crisis. All disasters begin and end at the local level.

## **Community Based Organizations**

Nonprofit or grassroots organizations that support and serve local communities before, during and after emergencies and disasters. These organizations are often

deeply connected to the communities they serve and have a strong understanding of their unique needs and vulnerabilities.

### **Continuity of Government (COG)**

A set of plans, procedures, and measures put in place to ensure the continued functioning of essential government operations and services during and after a significant disruption.

### **Continuity of Operations (COOP)**

Processes and plans put in place to ensure County departments are able to execute essential functions and services following an emergency or disaster. The goal of COOP is to minimize the disruption of essential services and maintain organizational resilience in order to support emergency response, recovery, and the overall well-being of the community.

### **Coordination**

The process of aligning and integrating the efforts of multiple agencies, organizations, and stakeholders involved in emergency response and management. It involves establishing effective communication channels, sharing information, and collaborating to ensure a cohesive and unified response.

### **Coordinator (ESF)**

The Coordinator assigned to each LAC-ESF coordinates with the identified primary and support departments and affiliated agencies during the preparedness phase. Activities include planning, training, and exercising among Primary and Support Departments and affiliated agencies, enhancing coordination and communication. While the Coordinator is responsible for coordination, actual work under each LAC-ESF to address incident needs is carried out by the respective departments and agencies.

### **Critical Infrastructure**

Systems, facilities, and structures that are vital for the provision of essential services, support of the community, and functioning of the economy. Sectors that maintain critical infrastructure include, but are not limited to, transportation, energy, communications, water and wastewater, healthcare, and emergency services.

### **Cybersecurity**

The protection of digital systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, disruption, or damage. Cybersecurity involves implementing measures to safeguard

critical infrastructure, communication systems, and sensitive information against all cyber threats.

## D

### **Damage Assessment**

The systematic process carried out to evaluate and document the extent and severity of physical and economic damage caused by a crisis or disaster. Damage assessment involves systematically assessing the impact on infrastructure, buildings, public facilities, utilities, and other essential systems.

### **Declaration**

A formal action taken by the President of the United States to provide Federal resources and support to impacted jurisdictions after a significant emergency or disaster event through the Declaration of an Emergency or Major Disaster. A Presidential Declaration may enable access to additional funding, resources and personnel, and other support from state and federal agencies, as well as mobilize community resources for an effective and coordinated response.

### **Delegation of Authority**

The process of granting specific powers, responsibilities, and decision-making authority to individuals or entities within an organization to effectively manage and respond to emergencies.

### **Demobilization**

The structured and planned process of scaling down and returning resources, personnel, and operations to their regular state after an emergency, ensuring a smooth transition from response mode to normal operations.

### **Department Operations Center (DOC)**

A designated facility where personnel from a specific department or agency gather to coordinate and manage operations during an emergency or major incident. The DOC serves as a central hub for communication and coordination of resources and activities related to the department's specific responsibilities. DOCs are responsible for ensuring effective response, information sharing, and collaboration within the department and with other agencies involved in the incident response.

## **Disaster**

A sudden and widespread event that causes significant damage, destruction, loss of life, and disruption to communities and their infrastructure.

## **Disaster Service Worker**

The term "Disaster Service Worker" (DSW) includes all public employees and all volunteers in any disaster council or emergency organization accredited by the California Emergency Council. "Public employees" includes all persons employed by the state or any county, city, city and county, state agency or public district, excluding a person who is legally employed but not a citizen or national of the United States. DSWs provide services and support during proclaimed emergencies and may be required to work at any time and/or location in an assignment that may differ from their typical job classification. Under no circumstances will DSWs be asked to perform duties or functions that are hazardous, that they have not been trained to perform, or that are beyond their recognized capabilities. DSW service as a public employee is not optional and is a condition of employment.

## **DOC-EOC Coordination**

The collaborative relationship between the Department Operations Center (DOC) and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The DOC is responsible for coordinating and managing resources, operations, and logistics at the department level, while the EOC serves as the central coordination center during emergencies.

# E

## **Emergency**

A sudden and unexpected event that poses a significant threat to public safety, property, or the environment.

## **Emergency Management**

Emergency management is the comprehensive and coordinated efforts undertaken by various agencies, organizations, and stakeholders to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from emergencies and disasters. The primary goal of emergency management is to protect lives, property, and the environment, while minimizing the impact of disasters on the community as a whole.

## **Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)**

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a mutual aid agreement between states and jurisdictions across the United States. EMAC facilitates the sharing of resources, personnel, and support during emergencies and disasters. Through EMAC, Los Angeles County can provide and receive assistance to and from other states.

### **Emergency Management Council**

The County's Emergency Management Council (EMC) is responsible for overseeing the emergency preparedness activities of the various County departments and coordinating such activities for the operational area to enhance unity of purpose. This includes approving specified emergency management plans, facilitating training of County employees for emergency and disaster-related functions, and organizing related emergency preparedness activities.

### **Emergency Operations Center**

An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a dedicated facility or physical location where key officials, agencies, and organizations gather to coordinate and manage response efforts during emergencies and disasters. The EOC serves as a central coordination center, facilitating information sharing, decision-making, resource allocation, and situational awareness. It provides a collaborative environment for representatives from various sectors, such as public safety, health and medical, transportation, utilities, and other relevant agencies, to work together and ensure a coordinated response to protect lives and property in Los Angeles County.

### **Emergency Operations Center Action Plan (EAP)**

A plan prepared in the County/OA EOC that details overall management priorities, emergency response objectives, and supporting activities for a designated operational period. The plan is shared with all supporting agencies and ensures unity of effort.

### **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**

The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is the comprehensive document that outlines the policies, procedures, roles, and responsibilities for responding to emergencies and disasters. The EOP establishes the framework for coordination, communication, resource management, and decision-making during various emergency scenarios. The EOP serves as a guide for emergency managers and personnel to effectively respond to and manage emergencies in Los Angeles County, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response effort.

## **Emergency Ordinance - County Code Chapter 2.68**

Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances is the County's Emergency Ordinance. The ordinance establishes the overall legal authority for emergency operations, including delegating certain critical responsibilities to key individuals (e.g., Chair of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, etc.). The ordinance outlines the procedures for proclaiming emergencies, authorizes certain emergency actions, and provides the legal framework for resource allocation, emergency procurement, and other measures needed to address any emergency or disaster. The ordinance establishes the County's Office of Emergency Management.

## **Emergency Support Function (ESF)**

An Emergency Support Functions (ESF) groups function-specific stakeholders to coordinate throughout all phases of the emergency management cycle. Each ESF has designated lead and supporting departments, as well as affiliated agencies, responsible for coordinating and providing resources, expertise, and support in their respective areas. Every ESF works collaboratively with other response groups to ensure a coordinated and effective response to emergencies and disasters.

## **Evacuation**

The organized and systematic process of relocating people from an area or location that is at risk or threatened by an imminent hazard or disaster. The relocation of individuals to designated evacuation centers or safer areas, away from harm's way.

Los Angeles County utilizes two levels of evacuation terminology:

1. Evacuation Warning: Potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.
2. Evacuation Order: Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.

## **Exercise**

An event or activity delivered through discussion or action to develop, assess, or validate capabilities to achieve planned objectives. Exercises help validate plans, policies, procedures, and training curriculum, while building preparedness for threats. They provide a low-risk, cost-effective environment to test capabilities, identify resource requirements, gaps, strengths, areas for improvement, and potential best practices. Exercises validate existing emergency plans, programs, policies, roles, and

responsibilities, while also assessing and improving overall readiness for various threats and hazards.

## F

### **FEMA**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, commonly referred to as FEMA, is an agency of the United States Federal Government that operates under the Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's primary role is to coordinate and provide assistance in response to natural and man-made disasters that overwhelm the capabilities of State and local governments. FEMA maintains three general categories of disaster assistance: Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs.

### **Field**

The Field Level is the lowest organizational level of the Standardized Emergency Management System. The field is where emergency response personnel and resources, under the command of responsible officials, carry out tactical decisions and activities in direct response to an incident or threat.

### **Field Incident Command**

The utilization of the Incident Command System (ICS) at the field response level under the command of the appropriate authority(ies) to carry out tactical decisions and activities in direct response to any incident or threat. A benefit of the utilization of ICS being utilized is the scalability to meet the needs of any size incident.

## G

# H

## **Hazard**

Any potential source of harm, threat, or adverse impacts, whether natural or human-caused, to the health, safety, or well-being of people, property, or the environment.

# I

## **Incident**

An incident refers to any event or occurrence, planned or unplanned, that requires a response from emergency services or personnel.

## **Incident Command System**

The Incident Command System (ICS) provides a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response which allows responders from multiple agencies to interact and respond in an effective manner. ICS establishes a clear chain of command and defines specific roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationships, allowing various agencies, organizations, and jurisdictions to work together seamlessly. ICS can be utilized for both emergencies and planned events and is applicable to small incidents as well as large complex ones.

## **Incident Commander**

The Incident Commander (IC) is the individual responsible for overall command and control of emergency response efforts on-scene at the field level. As a key role in the Incident Command System (ICS), the IC is responsible for making strategic decisions, allocating resources, and coordinating all on-site activities to effectively manage and mitigate the incident's impact.

## **Incident Objectives**

The overall goals set during an incident response that responders utilize to develop strategies and tactics and enhance coordination. Objectives outline what responders aim to achieve in terms of mitigating the impact of the incident, protecting lives and property, and restoring essential community services and lifelines. Objectives are developed to be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound (SMART).



## **Intelligence**

Intelligence refers to processed, evaluated, and perspective-driven data that is gathered from trusted and verified sources during an incident or disaster. This information undergoes careful analysis to provide valuable insights, assess the situation, and identify potential threats. Intelligence plays a crucial role in enhancing situational awareness, aiding decision-making, and formulating effective response strategies, ultimately helping responders and decision-makers to address the emergency more efficiently and effectively.

## J

### **Joint information center (JIC)**

The central location established to facilitate coordinated and consistent communication with the public, media, and stakeholders. This central location houses personnel with public information responsibilities from multiple agencies, departments, and other local government or non-governmental organizations who perform critical emergency information functions.

### **Joint information System (JIS)**

A communication system and structure used in emergency management to ensure accurate, coordinated, culturally sensitive, multi-lingual, and timely information to media and public about emergency events. The JIS integrates incident information and public affairs into a unified and organized structure.

### **Jurisdiction**

The geographic or administrative boundaries within which a particular government agency, organization, or authority has legal and operational responsibility for managing and responding to emergencies or disasters.

## K

# L

## **Liaison**

The designated individual or team that serves as a point of contact and facilitates communication between different agencies, organizations, or jurisdictions involved in the response to an incident or disaster. A liaison's primary responsibility is to ensure effective coordination, exchange of information, and collaboration to enhance the overall response effort.

## **Local Emergency**

A situation that results in extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city where the proclaiming entity is overwhelmed and unable to abate an existing or potential emergency. A Local Emergency is a formal proclamation made by the governing body of a city, county, city and county, or an official designated by an adopted local ordinance.

## **Local Government**

An intermediate level of the Standardized Emergency Management System that includes cities, counties, and special districts. Local governments manage and coordinate the overall emergency response and recovery activities within their jurisdiction. During emergencies or disasters, local government plays a critical role as the primary authority in coordinating and executing response efforts, ensuring public safety, and providing essential services to the affected community.

## **Local Health Emergency**

A declaration made by the local Health Officer as a result of an imminent threat posed by any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent in the jurisdiction that is expected to pose a risk to the public's health. The declaration must be ratified by the governing body within seven days and renewed every 30 days until terminated.

## **Logistics**

Detailed planning, coordination, and management of resources, personnel, and supplies to support the response and recovery efforts during an incident or disaster.

# M

## **Major Disaster**

Any natural event that the President of the United States determines has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of state and local governments to respond. A major disaster declaration provides a wide range of federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure.

## **Mitigation**

Proactive measures and actions taken to reduce or eliminate the impact of potential hazards or risks. These actions implemented before an incident occurs involve implementing strategies, policies, and projects aimed at enhancing community resilience, protecting infrastructure, and minimizing the long-term consequences of emergencies, thus lessening the need for costly response and recovery efforts.

## **Mobilization**

The process of assembling and deploying resources, personnel, and equipment.

## **Multi-Agency Coordination**

The collaborative efforts of different agencies, organizations, and jurisdictions to share information, resources, and expertise during a complex incident or disaster. It aims to establish a unified and coordinated approach to decision-making, planning, and resource allocation, fostering effective communication and enhancing the overall response capabilities to better manage and mitigate the disaster.

## **Mutual Aid**

A formal agreement and cooperation between different jurisdictions, agencies, or organizations to provide assistance, resources, and personnel to one another during times of emergencies or disasters. In California, Mutual Aid is generally coordinated at the regional level by designated Mutual Aid Coordinators.

# N

## **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**

The standardized framework that is designed to facilitate effective incident management and coordination among various agencies and organizations during

emergencies or disasters throughout the United States. NIMS provides a comprehensive, whole community, whole government approach to incident management for all hazards.

### **National Response Framework**

The comprehensive framework that outlines how the nation responds to all types of incidents and disasters. It establishes the strategy, principles, and key roles and responsibilities for coordinating and organizing federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector response efforts, aiming to foster a unified and collaborative approach to effectively manage and mitigate incidents.

### **National Response Plan (NRP)**

The National Response Plan (NRP) is an all-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of domestic incidents.

### **Non-governmental Organization**

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) are independent, private, and non-profit organizations that play a crucial role in emergency management by providing humanitarian aid, resources, and services during disasters or crises. NGOs are not managed under the authority of any level of government but work in close coordination during emergency and disaster events.

### **No-Notice Incident**

An unexpected and rapidly unfolding emergency or disaster that occurs without prior warning or advanced notice, requiring immediate response.



### **Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan**

The Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP) is a comprehensive and coordinated plan that outlines the roles, responsibilities, and strategies for responding to and recovering from various hazards and emergencies. The plan focuses on the operational concepts related to all-hazards emergency response and recovery and addresses both the County's planned response to extraordinary emergency situations impacting unincorporated areas of the County as well as Operational Area (OA) coordination.

### **Operational Area (OA)**

As defined in the defined by the California Emergency Services Act, an Operational Area (OA) is an intermediate level of the state's emergency services organization consisting of a county and all political subdivisions within the county area. Political subdivisions include cities, a city and county, counties, districts, or other local governmental agency, or public agency authorized by law.

### **Operations**

The incident management process where response actions are implemented to address the specific needs and challenges posed by an incident or disaster. Tactical Operations are carried out at the field level, while strategic operations are coordinated within the Emergency Operations Center.

## **P**

### **Phase (Emergency Management)**

The distinct stage or period of an incident's lifecycle, such as preparedness, mitigation, response, or recovery, each requiring specific actions and strategies to effectively manage and address the incident's different aspects.

### **Planned Event**

A prearranged, organized, and controlled gathering or activity that involves a large number of people and requires specific emergency preparedness and response measures to ensure the safety and security of participants and attendees (e.g., festivals, concerts, sporting events, political gatherings, etc.).

### **Primary Department**

A County Department that serves as the lead agency for a specific Emergency Support Function (LAC-ESF) in Los Angeles County. Primary Departments are responsible for coordinating and providing the necessary resources, capabilities, and expertise related to that support function during incidents or disasters. This includes leading strategy development, coordinating with Support Departments, and maintaining trained personnel and procedures to ensure effective incident coordination and response within the county's emergency organizational structure.

### **Proclamation**

A formal action taken by local and state government after a significant emergency or disaster event. At the State level, Proclamations are made by the Governor and at the local level Proclamations are made by the governing body or official(s) designated by ordinance. A Proclamation may trigger the activation of emergency plans, response actions, and resource mobilization to address the situation and protect public safety and welfare.

### **Public Information**

The dissemination of accurate and timely information to the public, media, and stakeholders during incidents or disasters. Public information entails the processes and systems that enable effective communications with various target audiences. It aims to provide essential updates, safety instructions, and situational awareness while addressing rumors and misinformation to maintain public confidence and safety.

### **Public Information Officer (PIO)**

The designated spokesperson, or team, that are responsible for managing and disseminating accurate and timely information to the media, public, and stakeholders during incidents or disasters.

## Q

## R

### **Recovery**

The phase of Emergency Management focused on restoring and rebuilding communities, infrastructure, and economies to pre-disaster conditions or to a new, more resilient state. It involves long-term efforts to address the physical, emotional, and economic impacts of the disaster and to promote the overall well-being and sustainability of affected areas.

### **Region**

An intermediate level of the Standardized Emergency Management Systems that coordinates information and resources between multiple OAs and the State. Each region comprises multiple counties and jurisdictions and collaborates with state agencies to enhance resource sharing, communication, and coordinated response to emergencies and disasters within its boundaries.

### **Response**

An emergency management phase where actions are taken to address the immediate impacts of an incident or disaster. It involves deploying resources, implementing planned strategies, and coordinating activities to save lives, protect property, and stabilize the situation, aiming to reduce the impact and ensure public safety during the emergency.

## S

### **Special District**

A government entity that provides specific services within a designated geographical area (e.g., Water Districts, Sanitation Districts, etc.). Special Districts often serve several cities and/or county unincorporated areas simultaneously, are defined as local governments in SEMS, and have unique resources, capabilities, and vulnerabilities,

### **Standard Operating Procedures**

Detailed and specific guidelines that provide the purpose, authorities, duration, and details for the preferred method of performing a single function or a number of interrelated functions in a uniform manner. SOPs ensure consistency, efficiency, and adherence to best practices, providing a framework for decision-making and resource allocation to enhance overall efforts.

### **State**

Refers to the overall administrative level responsible for managing and coordinating disaster response and recovery efforts within California's boundaries. The State level of SEMS prioritizes tasks and coordinates state resources in response to the requests from the Regional level. The State also coordinates mutual aid among the mutual aid regions and between the Regional level and State level and serves as the coordination and communication link between the state and the federal emergency response system, including coordinating with the FEMA when federal assistance is requested.

### **Support Department(s)**

County department(s) that possess specific capabilities and significant resources related to a particular Emergency Support Function (LAC-ESF). They collaborate with Primary Departments to assist in completing the mission of the LAC-ESF by providing expertise, resources, and personnel. Additionally, Support Department(s) may temporarily act as the Primary Department, depending on incident specifics, guidance from the Unified Coordination Group (UCG), or similar consideration.

## T

### **Training**

A method of providing education, instruction, and practical exercises to individuals, organizations, and responders involved in emergency response and preparedness. It aims to build knowledge, skills, and capabilities, ensuring that personnel are proficient in their roles, able to follow established protocols, and effectively contribute to a coordinated and efficient response during incidents or disasters.

## U

### **Unified Command (UC)**

A cooperative approach to incident management where multiple agencies, jurisdictions, or organizations work together under a single command structure. When in Unified Command, representatives work collaboratively to manage the incident and instead of a single "Incident Commander", there are multiple "Unified Commanders".

### **Unified Coordination Group (UCG)**

A variable group of senior County leaders who are assembled and led by the CEO to serve in a policy advisory capacity during emergency operations. A UCG must be established when the County/Operational Area EOC is activated at a level 1 (highest level), but one can be established outside of a level 1 EOC activation as determined necessary. The composition of the UCG will be determined, on a case-by-case basis, by the CEO depending on the particulars of the given emergency.



## V

### **Volunteer(s)**

Individuals or groups freely giving time and labor for community service. Volunteers play a vital role during incident response and recovery. Affiliated volunteers work in close collaboration with governmental agencies and are registered as Disaster Service Workers, as appropriate.

## W

### **Whole Community Approach**

The active involvement and collaboration of all segments of society, including individuals, community organizations, government agencies, private sector, and non-profit entities, in preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. The Whole Community Approach seeks to foster inclusion and integration so that all groups, especially persons experiencing conditions that put them at disproportional risk during a disaster, have enhanced opportunities to be supported by the County's emergency services. Consideration of both the needs of the whole community, but also the capabilities, allows for a more comprehensive approach to emergency management.

## X

## Y

## Z