

Preparedness Phase

The preparedness phase includes activities to develop operational capabilities and effective responses to a disaster, such as:

- Mitigation activities
- Emergency/disaster planning
- Training and exercises
- Public education

The Emergency Management Council (EMC) oversees the preparedness activities of the various County departments, including approval of the emergency operations plans prepared by County departments. By ordinance all County departments are required to have emergency plans which describe how they will carry out their non-deferrable priority missions.

Increased Readiness

Increased readiness actions will be initiated by the receipt of a warning or the observation that an emergency situation is imminent. Actions to be accomplished include, but are not limited to:

- Review and update of emergency plans, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and resource listings
- Testing warning and communications systems
- Dissemination of accurate and timely emergency public information
- Accelerated training of permanent and auxiliary staff
- Inspection of critical facilities
- Recruitment of additional staff and Disaster Services Workers (volunteers)
- Mobilization of resources

Response Phase

Pre-Emergency/Emergency Imminent

When a hazard is imminent, actions are precautionary and emphasize protection of life. Typical responses might be:

- Identifying the need for mutual aid and requesting that aid through appropriate channels
- Advising any threatened population of the emergency and apprising them of safety measures to be implemented
- Evacuation of any threatened area to safe locations

Emergency Response

During this phase, emphasis is placed on saving lives and property, control of the situation and minimizing effects of the disaster. Immediate response is accomplished within the affected area by local government agencies and segments of the private sector. One or more of the following conditions may apply during this phase:

- The situation can be managed without mutual aid assistance
- Evacuation of certain areas may be required due to uncontrollable, immediate and ensuing threats
- Mutual aid from outside the County Operational Area is required

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- The County Operational Area is either minimally impacted, or not impacted at all, and is requested to provide mutual aid to other jurisdictions
- Proclamation of a local emergency by the Board of Supervisors or other authorized County officer

The County Operational Area priorities include:

- Dissemination of accurate and timely emergency public information and warnings to the public
- Law enforcement
- Intelligence gathering/situation analysis
- Resource allocation and coordination
- Fire and rescue
- Evacuation
- Medical care
- Coroner operations
- Care and shelter
- Access and perimeter control
- Public health
- Safety assessment
- Restoration of vital services and utilities

In response to a major event, the Director of the State Office of Emergency Services (OES) may request a gubernatorial proclamation of a State of Emergency. If proclaimed, state agencies will, to the extent possible, respond to requests for assistance, and be coordinated with the State OES Director. State OES may also activate the State Operations Center (SOC) in Sacramento. The State Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) in Los Alamitos, or an alternate location, must be activated in accordance with SEMS regulations to support the Los Angeles County Operational Area.

If the Governor requests, and is granted, a Presidential declaration of an emergency or a major disaster under Public Law 93-288, he will appoint a State Coordinating Officer (SCO). The SCO and an appointed Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) will coordinate and control state and federal recovery efforts in supporting local operations. All State emergency response efforts, and State initial recovery support, will be coordinated by the REOC.

Recovery Phase

As soon as possible, the State OES Director, operating through the SCO, will bring together representatives of federal, state, county, and city agencies, as well as representatives of the American Red Cross (ARC), to coordinate assistance programs and establish support priorities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will establish tele-registration to initiate the process of receiving federal, state and local recovery assistance. OES and FEMA may also open Disaster Application Centers (DACs) staffed by representatives of local, state and federal government agencies, private service organizations and others as appropriate. DACs provide a “one stop” service where disaster victims can obtain information necessary to apply for recovery assistance.

Once the Emergency Response Phase is over and life-safety issues have been stabilized, the County Recovery Coordination Center (RCC) in the CEOC will coordinate initial recovery operations of County departments and provide information, liaison and recovery coordination between State and federal agencies, the impacted cities, and other agencies that are part of Los Angeles County’s Emergency Organization.

Depending on the nature and severity of the emergency, the CAO may activate the County Office of Recovery (COR) to address the mid-and long-term recovery of County government. COR will develop and implement a strategic plan for restoration of County government services to the public by:

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- Coordinating and removing barriers to physical restoration of County facilities and infrastructure.
- Identifying and assisting departments to aggressively seek all funding sources available (legislation, grants, claims reimbursements, etc).
- Making recommendations on restoration priorities.
- Coordinating and assisting to remove barriers to social recovery of the affected population.
- Coordinating and assisting to remove barriers to economic development, redevelopment and new development.

Mitigation Phase

Mitigation efforts occur both before and following disaster events. Eliminating or reducing the impact of hazards which exist and are a threat to life and property are part of the mitigation efforts. Post-disaster mitigation is part of the recovery process.