

4. MUTUAL AID SYSTEM

4.1 Mutual Aid System

The mutual aid system is designed to facilitate the rendering of aid to agencies/jurisdictions stricken by an emergency whenever its respective resources are overwhelmed or inadequate.

The CEOC/OAEOC coordinates mutual aid requests for agencies/jurisdictions. If the OA is not able to facilitate the requested support, it will request assistance from the State. Requests for Federal assistance during an emergency will be coordinated through the State.

The general flow of mutual aid resource requests and resources within mutual aid systems are depicted in Figure 4-1.

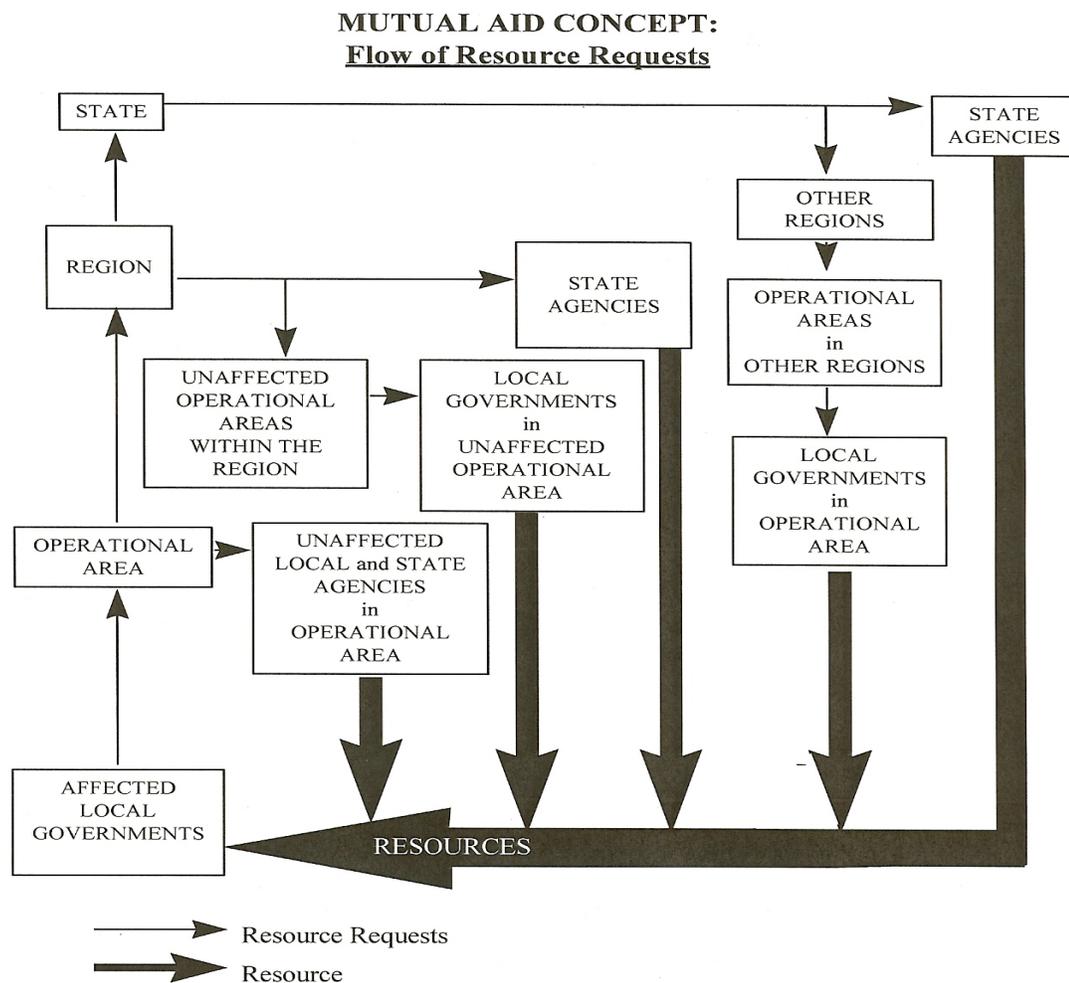


Figure 4-1: Agency/Jurisdiction Assistance Requests

4.2 Master Mutual Aid System

Statewide mutual aid is voluntary aid provided between and among local jurisdictions and the State under the terms of the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMAA), (see Appendix C: Legal and Supporting Documents), as provided for in the California Emergency Services Act. The MMAA creates a formal structure wherein each jurisdiction retains control of its own facilities, personnel and resources, but may also receive or render assistance without the expectation of reimbursement, to other jurisdictions within the State.

A statewide mutual aid system, operating within the framework of the MMAA, allows for the mobilization of resources to and from local governments, operational areas, regions and state to provide requesting agencies with adequate resources. The general flow of mutual aid resource requests and resources within mutual aid systems are depicted in the diagram in Figure 4-1: Agency/Jurisdiction Assistance Requests.

The system includes several discipline-specific mutual aid agreements, such as fire and rescue, law, medical, building and safety, coroners, emergency managers (EMMA) and public works. These systems are consistent with NIMS and SEMS at all levels.

In addition to the mutual aid agreements that are in place within the State of California, the Governor signed the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) which allows California to participate with the other states in a nationwide mutual aid system.

4.2.1 Mutual Aid Regions

Mutual Aid Regions I-VI were established in California under the Emergency Services Act and each contains designated counties. The OA is located in Mutual Aid Region I, which is in the Cal EMA Southern Administrative Region. (See Figure 4-2: California Mutual Aid Region).

4.2.2 Mutual Aid Coordinators

To facilitate mutual aid, discipline-specific mutual aid systems work through designated mutual aid coordinators at the operational area, regional and state levels. The basic role of a mutual aid coordinator is to receive mutual aid requests, coordinate the provision of resources from within the coordinator's geographic area of responsibility and pass on unfilled requests to the next level.

Mutual aid requests that do not fall into one of the discipline-specific mutual aid systems are handled through the emergency services mutual aid system by emergency management staff at the local government, operational area, regional and state levels. In the OA, this would be coordinated through the OEM.

Mutual aid system coordinators at an EOC may be located in various functional elements (sections, branches, groups or units) or serve as an agency representative, depending on how the EOC is organized and the extent to which it is activated.

4.2.3 Participation of Volunteer, Non-Governmental and Private Agencies

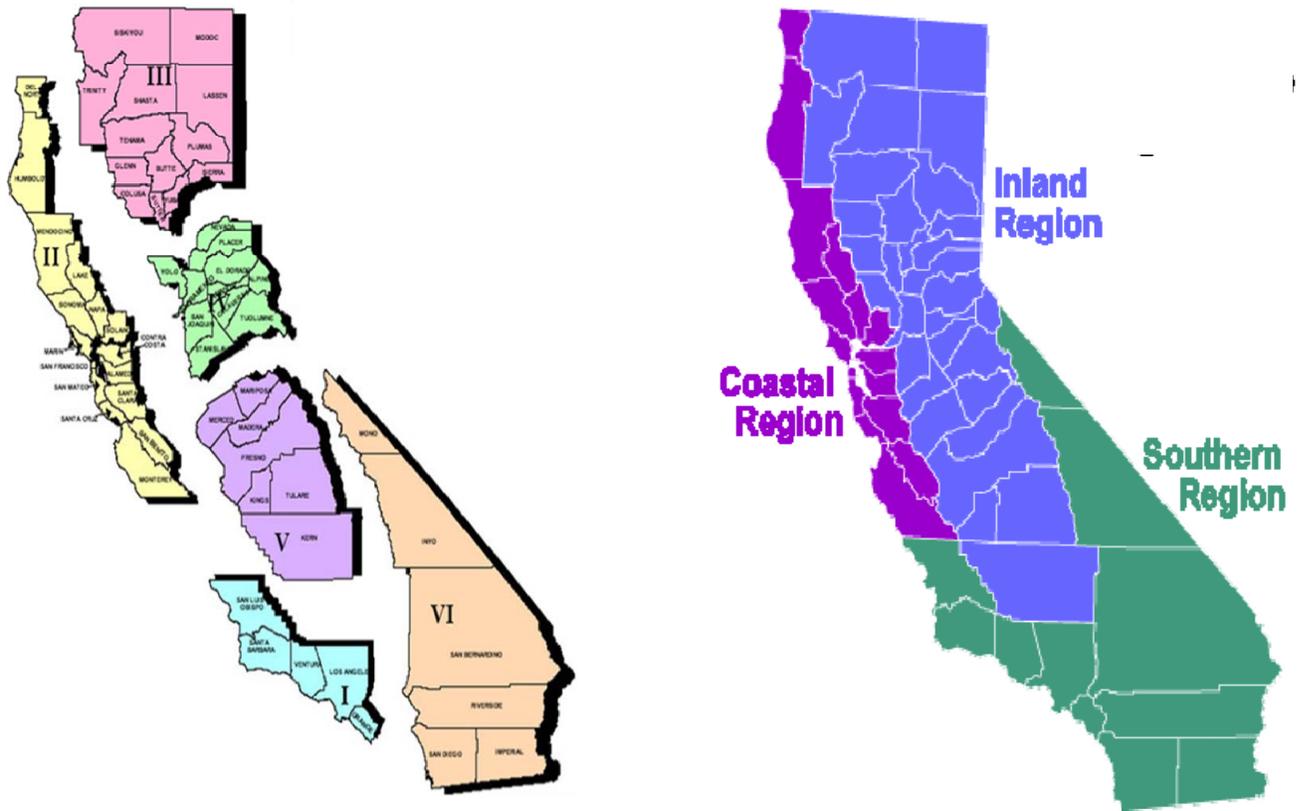
Volunteer, non-governmental and private agencies may participate in the mutual aid system along with governmental agencies. For example, the disaster medical mutual aid system relies heavily on private sector involvement for medical/health resources. Agencies/jurisdictions emergency preparedness partnerships including volunteer agencies such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Disaster Communications Services, community and faith-based organizations and others are an essential element of local, state and national emergency response to meet the needs of disaster victims. Volunteer agencies and non-governmental organizations mobilize volunteers and other resources through its own systems. They also may identify resource needs that are not met within its own systems that would be requested through the mutual aid system.

4.3 Mutual Aid Systems and Authorities

Agencies/jurisdictions may have pre-existing mutual aid agreements with other entities or levels of government.

These agreements are in addition to existing mutual aid systems. Examples of mutual aid assistance may be provided under one or more of the following authorities:

- California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMAA)
- California Fire and Rescue Master Mutual Aid Plan
- California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan
- California Coroner's Mutual Aid Plan
- California Emergency Managers Mutual Aid Plan
- California Medical and Health Mutual Aid Plan
- National Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
- County Emergency Ordinance 2.68
California Emergency Services Act



Figures 4-2, 4-3: California Mutual Aid Regions (left) and Cal EMA Administrative Regions (Right)