



## **News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (8/13/21)**

### **Governor Newsom Proclaims State of Emergency in Trinity, Tehama, and Shasta Counties**

[The Office of Governor Newsom issued a press release](#) following a proclamation of a state of emergency for Trinity County due to the McFarland and Monument fires; Tehama County due to the McFarland and Dixie fires; and Shasta County due to the McFarland Fire. The fires collectively have burned nearly 100,000 acres, destroyed homes and caused the evacuation of thousands of residents.

The Governor on Saturday met with firefighters, local law enforcement and elected officials [in Greenville](#), which was devastated by the Dixie Fire last week. California recently secured Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support the state's response to the [River Fire](#), [Dixie Fire](#) and [Lava Fire](#). Governor Newsom has proclaimed a state of emergency in counties impacted by the [Antelope and River fires](#), the [Dixie, Fly and Tamarack fires](#) and the [Lava Fire and Beckwourth Complex](#).

The text of the proclamation can be found [here](#).

### **California's Dixie Fire has Destroyed Nearly 900 Buildings; Hot Weather Could Hinder Firefighting Efforts**

[USA Today reports](#) a massive wildfire in California continued its destructive trek through the northern reaches of the state Tuesday, fueled by bone-dry conditions and fierce winds that have allowed the blaze to raze almost 900 structures and take out much of a historic Gold Rush town.

Firefighters made progress on the more than 482,000-acre blaze Monday and have it about 25% contained, but high pressure building over the western United States is posing a new risk this week. Forecasters say sweltering temperatures — possibly hitting triple-digit highs — will further dry out the area. Forecasts also show more strong afternoon winds, another key ingredient that could intensify the blaze.

So far, the fire has scorched an area more than twice the size of New York City. Only the million-acre August Complex from a year ago has burned through more land in California. That fire was a compilation of more than 30 fires ignited by lightning strikes.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday declared a state of emergency in the northern counties of Shasta, Tehama and Trinity due to the McFarland, Monument and Dixie fires.

Those fires combined with three others raging in the region, Antelope, Nelson and McCash, have burned through more than a half a million acres and forced thousands from their homes. More than 650,000 acres continues to burn.

The governor's declaration unlocks state funding to provide resources to communities in need. The move came days after Newsom surveyed damage from the Dixie Fire and met with elected officials in Greenville, a Gold Rush-era town that was mostly destroyed by the fire.

On Sunday, the Dixie Fire surpassed the Mendocino Complex, which in 2018 burned 459,123 acres in Colusa, Lake, Mendocino and Glenn counties, to become the state's second largest fire in recorded history.

The blaze has been burning since July 13 and a cause is being investigated. Pacific Gas & Electric has said it may have been sparked when a tree fell on one of its power lines. A federal judge ordered PG&E on Friday to give details by Aug. 16 about the equipment and vegetation where the fire started.

So far, the Dixie Fire has destroyed at least 893 structures and more than 16,000 structures are still in danger of being destroyed, fire officials said.

Four firefighters were taken to the hospital Friday after being struck by a fallen branch. More than 30 people were initially reported missing, but by Monday the Plumas County Sheriff's Office had accounted for all of them.

California's raging wildfires are among some 100 large blazes burning across 15 states, mostly in the West, where historic drought conditions have left lands parched and ripe for ignition.

Heat waves and historic drought tied to climate change have made wildfires harder to fight in the American West. Scientists have said climate change has made the region much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make the weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive. The fires across the West come as parts of Europe are also fighting large blazes spurred by bone-dry conditions.

California's fire season is on track to surpass last year's season, which was the worst fire season in recent recorded state history.

"Compared to this same time last year, we have seen an astounding 151% increase in acres burned across California and it is only August," Cal Fire said last Thursday.

An ashy haze has continued to hang over large stretches of the region as many evacuees wonder where they will go from here.

The fire and groups of evacuees have transformed the center of Susanville, another sleepy Sierra Nevada town of about 15,000 people. Fire engines from cities as far away as Huntington Beach and Los Angeles crowd the highway. RV's camped at Walmart, Subway and any parking lot with an open space. As of Sunday night, 275 people were sheltered at Susanville's two emergency shelters, according to Lassen County Administrator Richard Egan.

### **FEMA to Conduct Emergency Alert Systems Testing on Wednesday**

[California News Times reports](#) televisions, radios, and some mobile phones will receive text messages on Wednesday, August 11, as part of a national emergency alert system test. As with

previous emergency alert system tests, mobile phone users, those who display alerts on TV or listen to tones on the radio don't have to worry, they don't have to do anything.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which works with the Federal Communications Commission, will test the emergency alert system on television and radio channels from 11:20 am to 11:50 am.

Some consumer mobile phones for which subscribers have selected the wireless emergency alert test will also receive special tones and test messages.

In real-life situations, use an emergency alert system to warn the general public about dangerous weather, missing children, or other serious situations that may require evacuation or stay in place.

Wireless emergency alerts can be sent via the National Weather Service, local first responder agencies, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and a system devised by the President by FEMA and the Federal Communications Commission.

For more information on the Federal Wireless Emergency Alert System, please visit: [ReadySanDiego.org](http://ReadySanDiego.org).

### **Oakland's Chinatown Leaders Call for Emergency Declaration Due to Violence**

[KRON 4 reports](#) a continued effort to combat crime in Oakland — The president of the city's Chinese Chamber of Commerce says he's fed up with nothing being done to stop violent crime.

Now, he's calling on Governor Gavin Newsom to declare a state of emergency.

Newsom was seen walking the fire line observing the destruction from wildfires. Now, the governor is being summoned to Oakland to help stop another situation that is being described as out of control: crime.

“Governor Newsom, we want you to do this. Declare a State of Emergency for the city of Oakland. We want you to bring in the California Highway Patrol. I am not only asking for patrolling Chinatown. I am asking to send the police, the CHP to the city of Oakland. All areas. We need your help,” Carl Chan said.

This call for a state of emergency from the president of the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce Carl Chan comes in the wake of two good samaritans being pistol-whipped and wounded after being shot while trying to prevent two women from being robbed in Chinatown.

“These robberies, getting more brazen. Vicious, during broad daylight,” Chan said.

This is just the latest incident. Last week, an Oakland Asian American restaurant was robbed at gunpoint.

That is preceded by an almost endless stream, one after another of violent attacks against the city's AAPI community caught on video.

To this point, nothing seems to be a deterrent and Carl Chan has had enough.

He says it is time for a different strategy.

“So, I am writing this letter urging the request on behalf of the people of Oakland, California. Because the rash of shootings, homicides, car-jackings, assaults, and robberies holds the city of Oakland hostage. Citizens live in a state of continuous fear for our safety, well-being, livelihoods, and future,” Chan said.

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce is holding Oakland city leaders partly to blame for these conditions.

“The recent actions to defund the police by a majority of the Oakland City Council members further exacerbate the dire situation. I’m calling on the silent majority. It’s time for us to speak out. It is time for us to make changes because enough is enough,” Chan said.

### **COVID Patients Have Doubled in California Hospitals**

[CalMatters reports](#) COVID-19 patients are flooding California hospitals at a rate not seen since last winter’s surge.

Hospitalizations statewide have almost doubled in the past two weeks: 5,358 people [were hospitalized](#) with the disease on Sunday, compared to 2,781 on July 24.

Tuolumne, Lake, Butte, Tulare, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo counties saw a 200% or more increase in the 7-day average number of hospitalizations between July 24 and Aug. 7, according to a CalMatters analysis. But hospitals in all California counties are experiencing worrisome surges.

In Santa Cruz County, COVID-19 hospitalizations rose from 3 to 14 patients in the past two weeks. The county on Monday reported its first two deaths attributed to the virus since May, both patients in their 70s. The vast majority of hospitalized patients are unvaccinated, said Dr. Gail Newel, the county’s health officer.

To look further into hospitalizations on the rise across the state, [please visit CalMatter’s full article](#).

### **‘We Thought We Were Done’: COVID Visits Flood Sacramento Emergency Rooms. Many Aren’t Sick**

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) doctors and nurses at Mercy San Juan Medical Center had hoped, maybe even believed, that the days of being crowded with coronavirus patients were over.

The Dignity Health hospital even closed its designated COVID-19 unit, preparing to convert that part of the observation floor back to its original purpose. There were no virus patients left to occupy it.

That was hardly three weeks ago, said Dr. Nicole Braxley, medical director of Mercy San Juan’s emergency room.

Despite a glimmer of optimism — more than half the local population becoming at least partially vaccinated by early June, case rates dwindling by the first day of summer — the Carmichael hospital, like others in the Sacramento region, is once again facing a deluge of patients seeking COVID-19 care as the delta variant maintains its foothold.

The number of patients hospitalized across Sacramento County with confirmed virus cases jumped from 175 to 326 in the past two weeks, according to state data updated Tuesday. In early July, the tally was below 60.

Some of the plans to return operations at Mercy San Juan to a pre-pandemic normal are back on hold.

“We were done,” Braxley said in a Monday interview. “We were done. I don’t know what to say. We’re tired.”

Despite that fatigue, Braxley said COVID-19 cases at this point aren’t currently threatening to overwhelm Mercy San Juan’s capacity.

The situation “is teetering, though, on, ‘Ooh, this doesn’t feel comfortable.’”

The latest coronavirus spike brings familiar struggles to an already-exhausted health care workforce. But it’s also bringing some challenges that hadn’t been seen in previous surges.

To learn more about these new challenges that hospitals are facing, [visit \*The Bee’s\* full article.](#)

### **California Doing Much Better with Delta Variant than Florida, Texas. Here’s Why**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) despite a significant surge in both coronavirus cases and hospitalizations this summer, California so far has managed to avoid the sky-high infection rates and increasingly overcrowded hospitals some other states are now experiencing.

California’s coronavirus case rate remains below the national average and significantly less than that of Florida and Texas: two common points of comparison given their population size and distinctly different pandemic responses.

Experts say California’s better-than-average vaccination rates and newly implemented mandatory mask policies in parts of the state have helped prevent a grimmer situation.

While governors in Florida, Texas and other states have opposed allowing local governments to mandate the wearing of masks, California has allowed counties to enact such orders in indoor public spaces for everyone age 2 and older, regardless of vaccination status.

California is reporting 141.1 new coronavirus cases for every 100,000 residents over the last seven days — a rate half that of Texas, 297.8; and less than one-fourth that of Florida’s rate of 653.8, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. California’s rate is also less than the national average of 232.1.

The flood of COVID-19 patients newly admitted to Florida hospitals is now far worse than at any point during its winter surge. In early January, Florida was reporting more than 1,150 new COVID-19 patients admitted a day. But over the last week, the state saw an average of 2,071 new COVID-19 hospital admissions daily.

By contrast, California is reporting 772 new COVID-19 hospital admissions daily, just 32% of its winter peak of 2,380. On a per capita basis, Florida’s rate of new daily hospitalizations is five times worse than California’s.

Texas is now reporting 1,403 new COVID-19 hospitalizations daily, 75% of its winter peak of 1,873.

There are also some signs that California's Delta surge is slowing after public officials in many counties instituted universal masking in indoor public settings. Some businesses have also started demanding proof of vaccination as a condition of employment or entry.

During the week that ended Sunday, L.A. County reported a total of 20,979 new coronavirus cases — a modest 6.5% increase from the previous week, Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Tuesday. By comparison, the county saw a 22% increase the week before.

Over the same timeframe, the rest of California reported 55,422 total cases, a 20% increase from the week before. The week before that, the increase was 57%.

To view further statistics showing varying progress in fighting against the Delta variant by state, [please visit \*The Time's\* full article.](#)

### **‘Our Body, Our Choice’: Health Care Workers Rally Against California’s Vaccine Mandate**

[KTLA 5 reports](#) protests are being held outside some California hospitals Monday against the state's coronavirus vaccination mandates.

The [California Department of Public Health](#) has stated that all health care workers, including those in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, clinics, doctor's offices and more, need to prove they are vaccinated against COVID-19 by Sept. 30.

The new mandate allows only limited religious and medical exemptions. Those who are exempt would still have to undergo regular testing, as often as twice a week, and wear a mask in all workplace settings.

“It's our body, our choice,” said a demonstrator at a rally outside Children's Hospital Orange County and Providence St. Joseph's Hospital Monday. Video showed dozens of protesters gathering outside the facility for a two-hour rally, which began at 8 a.m.

“I've risked my life for people that have had COVID over the last 18 months,” said a man who described himself as a 12-year employee working in an Orange County emergency room. “I've put up a fight for them and I don't have any desire to force anything on anybody else,” he said.

A simultaneous rally was being held at Riverside Community Hospital from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Another rally is scheduled for this afternoon, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego.

The protests are being organized by a group called America's Healthcare Workers for Medical Freedom, which is primarily using social media to spread the word about its events.

Some attending the protests dispute findings about the safety of the available COVID-19 vaccines, saying they are experimental.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved emergency use of the vaccines and is currently considering formal approval.

### **Some California Cities Can't Keep Up with Demand for Rental Assistance, Putting Tenants at Risk of Losing Their Homes**



[Buzzfeed News reports](#) tenants who are behind on their rental payments in at least four California cities have been unable to apply for emergency rental assistance as local program administrators closed the application process in order to work through a backlog. The move has left thousands of tenants with growing debts to their landlords and no clear legal recourse to remain in their homes when the state and local eviction moratoria expire.

[Los Angeles](#) stopped taking applications at the end of April. [Long Beach](#) suspended its program on July 11, but reopened it on Aug. 11, a day after being contacted by BuzzFeed News about this story. “The reopening is because the City has recently received and secured additional state and federal funding,” a Long Beach spokesperson said. [Irvine](#), which closed applications for the local program months ago, is now in the process of joining the [state’s program](#), a time-consuming process that involves transferring data from its local system. In Anaheim, applications for tenants closed in March and are now only open to landlords, who have not always been willing to participate in rental assistance programs. A spokesperson for Anaheim said that the city is still reviewing applications submitted in the winter but would reopen the process to tenants possibly by the end of this month.

Not being able to apply for emergency rental assistance (ERA) harms renters in two ways: Not only are they unable to access relief funds to pay down their housing debt, but these tenants also miss out on extended legal protection. California courts are prohibited from taking up eviction cases against people who have filed for emergency assistance until a determination has been made about their aid application through March 2022; in contrast, people who have not filed for emergency rental assistance are only protected by the state’s eviction ban through Sept. 30 or until the local ban expires, said Russ Heimerich, a spokesperson for California’s Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. The federal ban on evictions ends on Oct. 3.

As cities and states across the country scrambled to distribute the millions of dollars in federal funds aimed at helping tenants who fell behind on rent during the pandemic, many local jurisdictions quickly found that they lacked the staffing and technical infrastructure to immediately process the deluge of requests — at least one city, Los Angeles, saw requests exceed its allocation of money while more applications poured in.

To meet the ongoing demand, some jurisdictions, such as [Santa Clarita](#), [Oakland](#), [Santa Barbara County](#), [Solano County](#), and [Placer County](#), are referring [applicants](#) to the emergency rental assistance program run by the state. Aside from the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the rest of LA County can apply to the state program.

Officials expect more local jurisdictions that were overwhelmed by the number of applicants to move into the state’s program, said Heimerich. Yet even those turning to the state program face a backlog, with the state having only paid out [about 20%](#) of the \$1.4 billion it is administering from the first round of emergency rental assistance funding.

Tenants whose cities or counties are not part of the state program and are no longer accepting applications, however, find themselves helpless.

A representative from the city of Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department, which is managing the city’s ERA program, told BuzzFeed News the application period for the first round of funding was open for seven weeks and closed on April 30. More than 110,000

tenants and landlords in the city applied by that deadline, and the \$530 million in back rent requested exceeded the \$236 million available, reported [LAist](#).

For now, the only advice from the city was to “subscribe to [its] newsletter for announcements of programs” and to reach out to [Stay Housed LA](#), a program that teaches renters about their rights and connects them to tenant advocates and attorneys.

### ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Tire-Derived Aggregate (TDA) Grant Program;** *environment & water; science, technology, and research & development; transportation*
  - Funded by: Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
  - Deadline: **Wednesday, August 18, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$650k
  - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
    - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **2021-22 Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Specialized Units (ST) Program RFP;** *consumer protection; disaster prevention & relief; education; health & human services; law, justice, and legal services*
  - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
  - Deadline: **Wednesday, August 25, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$759,580
  - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
    - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **2021 Permanent Local Housing Allocation Program Entitlement and Non-Entitlement Local Government Formula Component Notice of Funding Availability – Competitive;** *housing, community and economic development*
  - Funded by: Department of Housing and Community Development
  - Deadline: **Tuesday, August 31, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$22 million
  - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)

### Funding Opportunities

#### VICTIM IMPACT GRANT

[The CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#) has created victim impact programs, which are victim-focused restorative justice programs provided by volunteers/community-based organizations. These programs must employ restorative justice principles, have an emphasis on offender accountability, and provide opportunities for offenders to understand the impact of the harm caused by crime.

This Request for Applications (RFA) provides the information necessary to prepare a proposal to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for grant funds available in the Fiscal Years 2022/2023 through 2023/2024 for Victim Impact Grant Programs.

The purpose of the Victim Impact Grants is to provide grant funds to eligible nonprofit organizations for delivery of victim impact programs at one or more California State Institutions.



This project will provide \$1 million in grants per year for two terms (\$2 million total) to eligible nonprofit organizations to fund victim impact programs in one or more California State Institutions. The grant period begins on July 1, 2022 and ends on June 30, 2024.

Eligible nonprofit organizations are those offering victim impact programs in a correctional setting whose victim impact programs have demonstrated success and focus on offender responsibility and restorative justice principles. Organizations that do not have a nonprofit status may operate under the sponsorship of a fiscal agent with nonprofit status for purposes of grant eligibility.

If the applicant is a multistate organization with headquarters in another state, the applicant must have physical offices in California and currently provide services to California residents.

The deadline to apply is **Monday, September 20, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$2 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

### **CalHome Program Disaster Assistance**

[The Department of Housing and Community Development](#) has created the CalHome program to support existing Homeownership programs for Low and Very Low-Income Households, and thereby increase Homeownership, encourage neighborhood revitalization and sustainable development, and maximize use of existing homes. CalHome funds may assist in the repair and replacement of housing impacted by a disaster for Households at or below moderate income.

Eligible Applicants include Local Jurisdictions and Nonprofit Corporations limited to the following Counties: Butte, Fresno, Glenn, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Trinity, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. HCD is making CalHome funds available as Grants to eligible local jurisdictions and Nonprofit Corporations for the following activities: 1. First-Time Homebuyer Mortgage Assistance 2. Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Assistance 3. Technical Assistance for Self-Help Housing Projects 4. Technical Assistance for Shared Housing Programs 5. ADU/JADU Programs 6. Homeownership Development Project Loans

The deadline to apply is **Thursday, October 28, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$41 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).