



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (2/25/22)

Biden Extends National Emergency as States Ease Restrictions

[*TeleSUR reports*](#) more states and major cities across the U.S. are lifting their vaccination and mask mandates as the rate of COVID-19 infections drops, but health experts have warned dropping pandemic protocols too soon may worsen the spread of the virus.

California, the most populous U.S. state, unveiled a milestone plan last week, as Governor Gavin Newsom announced the state would become the first in the nation to treat the coronavirus as a manageable, "endemic" risk.

Now California has already ended its mask mandate for fully vaccinated residents, but state health officials still strongly encourage mask-wearing in public indoor spaces.

The governors of New York and Massachusetts also announced last week they would end certain mask mandates in their states, following similar moves by New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Oregon.

According to a weekly report published by CDC last Friday, the country is now averaging about 120,000 daily new cases, a decrease of 43 percent compared with the previous week. But public health experts noted while about 76 percent of the population has received at least one shot of vaccine, millions of people still have not.

In the meantime, U.S. President Joe Biden announced last week the national emergency declared about two years ago, will be extended as a result of the ongoing risk to public health posed by the coronavirus.

The emergency declaration, which came into effect on March 1, 2020, created access to up to US\$50 billion in federal aid for fighting the pandemic.

California Provides Employees with Another Bucket of COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Leave

[*JD Supra reports*](#) on February 9, 2022, California Governor Gavin Newsom approved Senate Bill 114 ("SB 114"), which entitles most California employees to a new bucket of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave. The law will go into effect on February 19, 2022.

California's prior law entitling workers to COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave expired on September 30, 2021. Calls to provide additional leave were made during the recent surge of the "Omicron" variant during the winter of 2021. While that surge has seemingly receded in the last

few weeks, the California legislature moved forward and passed SB 114 on February 7, 2022, and Governor Newsom signed it on February 9.

SB 114 has many similarities to California's prior law providing employees with COVID-19 specific paid sick leave. Both laws apply only to employers with 25 or more employees. Both laws also entitle most full-time employees to a total of 80 hours of paid leave, which must generally be paid out at the employee's regular rate of pay. One significant difference, however, is that SB 114 provides for two separate 40-hour buckets of paid leave that can be used for different purposes. Specifically, employers must provide a maximum of 40 hours of paid leave to employees who are unable to work or telework for any of the reasons listed in the [full article](#).

California American Water to Provide Over \$6 Million in COVID Relief to COVID Impacted Customers

[Business Wire reports](#) California American Water has received funding from the State of California to provide over \$6 million in COVID relief to customers in need who fell behind on payments during the COVID emergency. The California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act to cover unpaid water service bills between March 2020 and June 15, 2021.

California American Water will automatically apply this assistance to current bills for customers who missed payments, and the amount credited will be shown as a payment. Over 10,000 customers will receive bill relief, providing a total of \$6,358,597 in assistance.

“California American Water is a leader in customer assistance programs to keep life flowing for all customers, and the ongoing impacts related to COVID have demanded additional action,” said Kevin Tilden, president of California American Water. “We are pleased to be able to partner with the SWRCB to offer this assistance to our customers throughout California who missed bill payments in the eligible period.”

Unpaid bills from March 2020 to June 2021, are eligible for assistance from this program. No additional action from customers is necessary in order to receive this assistance. California American Water encourages customers needing assistance paying remaining water debt to contact us since they may be eligible additional assistance.

Customers with questions about the program, wish to decline credit, or need more help with unpaid balances or future bills may contact us at 888-237-1333.

California School Districts Makes Masks Optional for Students, Breaks with Newsom Statewide Mandate

[Fox News reports](#) a California school district voted to make masks optional for students inside the classroom, breaking with Gov. Gavin Newsom's statewide indoor school mask mandate, with a school board official telling Fox News that parents should "have the right to decide what is best for their children."

The school board for the Rancho Santa Fe School District, which enrolls about 500 elementary school students, voted 3-2 during a meeting this week to make mask-wearing optional — giving parents the chance to decide whether their children should wear face coverings when at school.

"It is important that we listen to the parents in our community — that is why we are elected to the board — to be their voice," Board Vice President Annette Ross told Fox News. "They have stood before our board in tears asking us to offer a mask option."

Ross, who voted in favor of making masks optional in schools, told Fox News that the school board is feeling "an outpouring of support."

"Our decision was met with a standing ovation," she said.

Ross, a mother of five and an author, told Fox News that two years into the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, the "conversation is not about the dangers of COVID, but the problems created by masking."

"We know that the need for speech therapy has skyrocketed all over the county," Ross explained. "Children, younger children especially, have suffered from not seeing the faces of their teachers, and often, they are unable to pick up social cues."

Ross added that "test scores are down all over the state," and said children "are stunted emotionally, and many are in fear."

"Parents say they cry before going to school," Ross said. "We have created a population of children with anxiety, and we have missed the smiles of our students for two years."

To read more on the Rancho Santa Fe School District's decision and why they believe parents should make the decision on masks, [visit the full article](#).

3 Arrested After 'Full-Scale Ghost Gun Factory' Found Inside San Jose Home

[ABC 7 News reports](#) in the South Bay, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office said, "assault weapons, machine guns, and ghost guns" (all illegal weapons), were seized from what they're calling a "sophisticated ghost gun factory."

Three people are now in custody, accused of running the operation out of a home in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood.

Along Roy Avenue and inside what's being described as an "unassuming \$1.6-million home," a small arsenal was recently uncovered.

Weapons seized included eight assault weapons, like AK and AR-style rifles, as well as two handguns.

"I'm shocked! I'm shocked," resident Gary Sassmann added. "Usually Willow Glen is so safe, you don't hear of anything like that around here."

Authorities said the suspects, two men and a woman, are all convicted felons. All are currently in custody.

Joseph Cahoon, 31, of Morgan Hill, Jack Mahon, 38, and Amanda Bazzani, 32, both of San Jose, are charged with multiple felony counts of illegal gun possession and were scheduled to be arraigned on Tuesday. Instead, their court appearances were postponed to Wednesday.

The DA's office said a search of the brick bungalow also uncovered 3D printers and other tools and machinery used to manufacture ghost guns.

These are firearms, popular for the criminal element. They can't be traced and are often bought and sold on the black market, ordered online, and assembled at home.

"That is why ghost guns are so popular with people who are not supposed to possess firearms," Deputy District Attorney Michael Vidmar told reporters. "They are able to get them through means that bypass background checks, safe handling mechanisms."

California Unveils New Wildfire Standards – Here's What Homes Need

[Insurance News Net reports](#) California has existing wildfire building standards for homes built after 2008. But as catastrophic megafires drive up the cost of insuring homes and thousands of homeowners in rural areas are dropped by insurers, the new standards would prompt insurance companies to offer discounts, providing incentives for retrofitting older homes, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara said.

Shasta County homeowners could receive up to \$40,000 in fire prevention retrofits

"Reducing the wildfire risk is critical to making insurance available, reliable and affordable for all Californians," Lara said.

There are 12 insurance companies representing 40% of the insurance market already offering discounts to homeowners taking hardening measures. Three years ago, only 7% of the market was offered such discounts, Lara said.

California coastal blaze a grim omen for 2022 wildfire season

But he said he wants to see broader discount programs and thinks a uniform set of standards, based on scientific research, will give homeowners, communities and insurance companies a shared strategy for reducing wildfire risks.

To view the new standards at a glance, [visit the full article](#).

Firefighters Knockdown Major Emergency Fire at Vacant Home in Westlake; One Other Structure Sustains Minor Damage

[CBS Los Angeles reports](#) 140 firefighters were engaged in defensive operations as the structure of the majority of the structured had already appeared to collapse, as the house was almost entirely engulfed in flames.

The Major Emergency fire, being referred to as the Park View Fire, was first reported just after 10 p.m. at a two-story home on South Park View Street.

Sky9 Chopper overhead showed that parts of the buildings neighboring the impacted structure, of which included a two-story apartment building, had also started to smoke as the fire continued to rage.

It took just over 45 minutes for crews at the scene to knockdown the fire, limiting the damage to the exterior of the apartment building and preventing any damage to the business reported to be a daycare to the north of the impacted structure.

There were no injuries reported, and the cause of the fire was under investigation.

170 Firefighters Battle Major Emergency Fire in Downtown LA

[CBS Los Angeles reports](#) a commercial building fire escalated to Major Emergency status Tuesday evening, as over 100 Los Angeles Fire Department units were on the scene working to battle the blaze.

The fire was first reported at around 8:20 p.m., with reports of heavy smoke billowing from a combination one-and-two story building on South Main Street.

As of 9:05 p.m., the firefighters were engaged in an aggressive offensive attack.

When Sky9 Chopper flew overhead, large plumes of smoke accompanied by massive flames could be seen escaping through the roof of the building.

An update from LAFD at 9:30 detailed that over 170 firefighters were engaged with the fire that was primarily burning in the rear of the one-story building.

At 10:35 p.m., it was announced [via Twitter](#) that the fire had been extinguished, taking 172 units just about 70 minutes to contain the flames.

No injuries were reported, and the flames were confined to the structure, affected none of the surrounding buildings in the area.

The Invasion of Ukraine: How Russia Attacked and What Happens Next

[The New York Times reports](#) after months of troop and tank buildups, of grim warnings of violence and vague assurances of peace, and of efforts at diplomacy in Washington, the halls of the United Nations and the capitals of Europe, Russia's invasion of Ukraine began early Thursday morning, with shelling and rocket attacks on several major cities including the capital, Kyiv, and dozens of deaths.

Explosions thundered in the dim light before dawn, minutes after President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia cynically declared the start of a "special military operation" to "demilitarize" Ukraine but not occupy the country. His announcement came as the United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting, stunning ambassadors who had to deliver impromptu reactions to the rapidly changing events.

Hours before the attacks began, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine made a dramatic televised plea to the people of Russia, saying he wanted to speak to them directly after Mr. Putin had rejected his phone call.

"Listen to the voice of reason," Mr. Zelensky said. "The Ukrainian people want peace."

They did not get it.

To get a full look at the conflict, how it came to this point, and what happens next, [visit the Time's full article](#).

Want to Help Ukraine? These California Organizations Need Your Support

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) [Russia's incursions](#) into eastern Ukraine have escalated in recent days, prompting a top Ukrainian official to call for a state of emergency and the U.S. and other countries to enact sanctions.

The urgency of the situation isn't new to organizations in California and elsewhere that have been helping Ukrainians affected by fighting that dates to Russia's 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and other territorial moves.

Eliza Gorham Shaw, a spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said that in eastern Ukraine, the Red Cross sees a "low intensity conflict with regular bouts of violence that has claimed the lives of many people, destroyed homes and kept whole families separated."

Red Cross teams have witnessed how this has affected people daily — on personal, psychological and emotional levels, Shaw said.

Closer to home, Ukrainians in California are newly concerned about the safety of their loved ones, many of whom have adapted to living with conflict, said Dmytro Kushneruk, the consul general of Ukraine in San Francisco.

If you're moved to help, Kushneruk pointed to three organizations in California that continue to help Ukrainians. The Red Cross is also active in Ukraine. Here's who they are and what they need.

Revived Soldiers Ukraine funds medication and medical supplies for field and army hospitals at the front lines of eastern Ukraine. [Revived Soldiers Ukraine](#) was founded in 2016 and has since brought 50 wounded Ukrainian soldiers to U.S. hospitals for care. The organization's president, Iryna Vashchuk Discipio, said they urgently need [monetary donations](#) to buy medication and to repair a car used to rush injured soldiers away from the front lines.

[Nova Ukraine](#) has several humanitarian efforts, including Heart2Heart, which assembles and delivers aid packages to Ukraine. You can donate clothes, shoes, household supplies, personal hygiene products, baby food (with an expiration date of not less than six months from date of purchase), diapers and medicine. Heart2Heart is specifically in need of shoes and clothing for children. They also accept wheelchairs, anti-decubitus pillows and personal hygiene items for wounded soldiers.

Hromada is a San Francisco-based organization that runs a charity, the [Anhelyk Foundation](#), that supports the children of families whose parents died in the fighting in eastern Ukraine. For the past four years, the foundation has supported these families by sending them \$50 per child. It also provides college scholarships. Monetary donations are accepted through [Paypal](#), on the organization website, or by a check mailed to Hromada, P.O. Box 7026, Corte Madera, CA 94976.

Shaw said the [Red Cross'](#) humanitarian work aims to help people rebuild their lives and cope with the wider consequences of conflict.

California's U.S. Senators Alex Padilla and Dianne Feinstein Join Western Senators in Calling for Megadrought Emergency Relief

[The Sierra Sun Times reports](#) U.S. Senators Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), and Ron. Wyden (D-Ore.) on Friday [called on Senate leadership](#) to include \$616 million in emergency drought funding and agricultural assistance in the upcoming omnibus appropriations bill as Western states continue to suffer from the worst megadrought in more than 1,200 years.

Senator Alex Padilla stated, “What makes this megadrought so challenging is that climate change magnifies the impacts beyond what our communities can withstand,” the senators wrote. “The Colorado River, the lifeblood of seven western states, could lose 29 percent of its flow by the 2050s and 55 percent by 2100, and federal assistance is essential to adapt to the dramatically lower flows. Many disadvantaged and tribal communities across the West are simply running out of water to drink.”

To read the full text of the letter sent to leadership, [click here](#).

With Gas Prices Rising, U.S. Eyes Oil from Its Emergency Stockpile

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) the Biden administration is considering tapping its emergency supply of oil again in coordination with allies to counter a surge in prices brought on by [Russia's moves against Ukraine](#), according to two people familiar with the matter.

Although no decision has been made, “robust conversations” within the administration are underway, including on potential price point triggers and how to coordinate a release from the reserve with other nations, said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing nonpublic government deliberations. Modeling is being done to determine the size and scope of any potential release, they said.

When asked whether the U.S. is considering another release of the strategic petroleum reserve to stem rising gas prices given the Ukraine crisis, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said, “that is certainly an option on the table.”

Oil prices slipped after the close of markets after Bloomberg News reported that the U.S. is considering a potential release from its oil reserves in coordination with allies. West Texas Intermediate futures fell close to \$1 after settling at \$92.10. Brent crude fell 72 cents, or 0.8%, after settling unchanged. The commodity continues trading at seven-year highs, despite daily fluctuations.

The deliberations follow a White House move in November to authorize the release of 50 million barrels of crude from the reserve in an effort coordinated with India, Japan, South Korea and China to counter soaring prices as economies recovered from the pandemic.

The White House has credited that action with reducing the price of gasoline around 10 cents a gallon during the holiday driving season. But it remains under pressure to keep costs in check as fuel and consumer prices rise, potentially imperiling Democrats' hold on the House and Senate.

Analysts have said the U.S. average gasoline price could top \$4 a gallon amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with the California average climbing above \$5 a gallon. The average daily price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was \$3.54 nationwide and \$4.75 in California on Wednesday, [according to AAA](#).

As geopolitical tensions rise, a chorus of Wall Street banks and oil executives are forecasting a return to \$100 oil. On Wednesday, JPMorgan Chase & Co. said Brent crude is likely to average \$110 per barrel in the second quarter, assuming Russian escalation is coupled with an Iranian deal.

Americans are experiencing the highest inflation since the early 1980s, which is well outpacing wage growth and further darkening the outlook for the U.S. economy. The Russia-Ukraine

conflict may further take a toll on confidence, especially if gasoline prices continue to rise, and surging mortgage rates are making housing that much less affordable.

Russia is the largest exporter of natural gas, accounting for 17% of the global share, and produces 12% of the world's crude exports, on par with Saudi Arabia.

Biden, speaking from the White House on Tuesday, said the administration is “closely monitoring” energy supplies and is preparing to coordinate with big oil producers to secure supply and “blunt” gas prices.

“I want to limit the pain the American people are feeling at the gas pump,” he said.

LA Spending Up to \$837,000 to House a Single Homeless Person

[Fox 5 San Diego reports](#) a \$1.2 billion program intended to quickly build housing for Los Angeles' sprawling homeless population is moving too slowly while costs are spiking, with one project under development expected to hit as much as \$837,000 for each housing unit, a city audit disclosed Wednesday.

About 1,200 units have been completed since voters approved the spending in 2016, which was then a centerpiece in a strategy intended to get thousands of people off the streets. But the tally of units built so far is “wholly inadequate” in the context of the homeless crisis, said the audit issued by city Controller Ron Galperin.

In recent years, homeless encampments have spread into virtually every neighborhood, while the population has climbed to an estimated 41,000 people. Many are drug addicted or mentally ill, and violence is commonplace.

The program “is still unable to meet the demands of the homelessness crisis,” Galperin said in a letter accompanying the 31-page report. The pace of development is sluggish, he said, while the cost of each unit continues to rise — in some cases to “staggering heights.”

Most of the units are studios or one-bedroom apartments. The audit found 14% of the units build exceeded \$700,000 each, and one project in pre-development is estimated to cost almost \$837,000 per unit.

The audit noted that higher prices for construction materials during the pandemic, including lumber, along with labor shortages could be contributing to rising costs.

In a tweet, Democratic Mayor Eric Garcetti appeared to dispute any suggestion that the program – formally known by its title on the 2016 ballot, Proposition HHH – was off track.

The program “is producing more units than promised, at a lower cost than expected,” Garcetti wrote. “There are already 1,200 units online providing critical housing and services. And HHH will deliver over 10,300 units of supportive and affordable housing by 2026.”

John Maceri, chief executive of the People Concern, one of L.A.'s largest nonprofits serving the homeless, agreed with the overall finding that the city needs to build housing faster and cheaper. But he warned the program, while a step in the right direction, represents only a small fraction of the money needed to complete projects.

The solution, he said, is innovative financing, slashing red tape that slows projects and incentives for developers to aggregate funding to speed up construction. "Housing has not kept pace with the urgency of the unsheltered homelessness crisis," Maceri said.

The audit arrives at a time when homelessness is a dominant issue in the city's mayoral election, with a large field of candidates promising to do more on an issue that has placed Los Angeles in an unwelcome national spotlight. Sagging tents, rusting RVs and makeshift structures used by homeless people have become familiar sights from Hollywood to Venice Beach and even in the shadow of City Hall.

The scope of the expanding problem can be seen in the city budget: When Garcetti took office in 2013, the city was spending about \$10 million treating homelessness. The budget he signed last year included about \$1 billion.

Still, government's inability to clear encampments from streets, parks and sidewalks has left voters angry and frustrated. In 2019, then-President Donald Trump threatened to intercede, though he never acted on the threat. San Francisco's progressive mayor, London Breed, last month declared a state of emergency in the city's Tenderloin district after becoming fed up with the homelessness and open drug-peddling there.

In LA, the audit said the HHH project includes 8,091 housing units — most with connected services for mental health and substance abuse treatment — spread across 125 projects. About 4,200 are in construction. Other funds outside the HHH program are being used for another 2,369 units.

The audit signaled that a fresh approach — and billions more in spending — would be needed in the future.

Giant Bear Known as 'Hank the Tank' Burglarizes Another Lake Tahoe Home; 40 Break-Ins Since July

[ABC 7 reports](#) Hank the Tank, a big bear notorious for wreaking havoc in residential neighborhoods, has hit another home in Lake Tahoe, California.

The 500-pound bear is known in the area for breaking into homes and eating people's food. Now, being blamed for 40 break-ins since last July.

"This is what we call a severely habituated bear, meaning this bear has lost all fear of people and it is associating people with food and food sources," Peter Tira with the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife said.

Police say he carried out his most recent break-in by [entering a home through a window](#). They say officers banged on the outside of the home until Hank popped out of the back door.

"It's really scary because we use to be able to go on walks and bike rides by ourselves, but it's become a bigger problem," said resident Olivia Philip.

"So now we bring the bear horn whenever we go on walks or bike rides," said Samantha Philip.

The BEAR League, a nonprofit wildlife rescue group, does not want Hank to be killed. But rather, taken to a sanctuary. Executive director Ann Bryant says a sanctuary in Colorado will take him in.

"It's extremely frustrating to imagine with these other options to save his life that the threat is always looming over that you know he could be killed," Bryant said. "We can't sit back and just accept that. It's not tolerable, you know. To kill him is going to send a message to the public that the Department of Wildlife doesn't think his life is worth anything, that he's just a nuisance. He's a pest."

The Dept. has set traps in the area in hope of catching the big bear, but they have since been removed after a public outcry. They say authorities have responded to over 150 calls about Hank- including emergency calls where people are fearful for their safety.

Both the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and BEAR League agree Hank needs to be taken off the streets, but how that'll happen, is not clear.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **2022 Listos California Cert Support Grant (LC) Program RFP;** *disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$500k
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2022 Listos California Target Grant (LG) Program RFP;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$6 million
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2022 Listos California Tribal Grant (LI) Program RFP;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$1 million
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2022 Listos California Statewide Grant (LS) Program RFP;** *disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$8 million
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

CAL FIRE Forest Health

[The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection](#) has created the Forest Health Program to fund active restoration and reforestation activities aimed at providing for more resilient and sustained forests to ensure future existence of forests in California while also mitigating climate change, protecting communities from fire risk, strengthening rural economies and improving California's water & air.

The following activities are eligible for funding through the Forest Health Program:

- a. Forest Fuels Reduction – Eligible activities must focus on treating understory trees and brush with the goals of reducing fire hazards, improving tree growth, stabilizing carbon in retained trees, and increasing forest resilience.
- b. Prescribed Fire – Eligible activities must focus on the need to reintroduce fires to fire-adapted forest ecosystems.
- c. Pest Management – Eligible activities must address pest control and related forest health improvement, while reducing pest-related mortality, improving tree growth, stabilizing carbon retained in trees, and increasing forest resilience.
- d. Reforestation – Eligible activities should establish a diverse, native forest, which will result in stable carbon sequestration and storage, improved watershed and habitat functions, and forest resilience.
- e. Biomass Utilization – Eligible activities must: 1) utilize woody biomass for wood products such as post and pole, firewood, dimensional lumber, plywood, or other products which allows for continued carbon storage; 2) generate energy through combustion or gasification, which displaces carbon-intensive fossil fuel-based energy; or 3) utilize woody biomass to help develop markets for beneficial uses of the material.

CAL FIRE will enter into grant agreements with local, state, and federal public agencies; Native American tribes; universities; special districts; industrial and nonindustrial private forest landowners; and non-profit organizations

Activities must be applied across large landscapes to achieve regional resilience. Projects that implement a mix of activities with multiple, experienced partners will be given priority. Projects may include planning, organizational and business capacity-building, and workforce and infrastructure development as components of proposed projects. Up to 10% of the total project budget may be spent on such activities.

All Forest Health projects must have climate benefits from 1) treatment activities, 2) avoided future wildfire and fossil fuel use, and/or 3) reforestation and/or growth and yield of remaining vegetation. Applicants are required to submit supporting documentation to enable CAL FIRE staff to validate benefits using the Forest Health Quantification Methodology and Calculator Tool developed by CAL FIRE and the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Project Scale: Forest Health projects must focus on large, landscape-scale forestlands composed of one or more landowners, which may cover multiple jurisdictions.

Funding Limits: Eligible Forest Health projects must be large, landscape-scale, with multiple benefits. The minimum grant amount requested should be no less than \$750,000. The maximum allowable amount is \$5 million.

CAL FIRE will enter into grant agreements with local, state, and federal public agencies; Native American tribes; universities; special districts; industrial and non-industrial private forest landowners; and non-profit organizations.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, March 4, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$120 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

Toxicology Driving Under the Influence/Driving Under the Influence of Drugs: Crime Laboratories

[California Highway Patrol](#) has created this funding to disperse grant funds from The Control, Regulate, and Tax Adult Use Marijuana Act (AUMA) to local governments and qualified nonprofit organizations for the education, prevention, and enforcement of impaired driving laws pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 34019.

With the passage of Proposition 64, the AUMA, in 2016 California voters mandated the state set aside funding for the California Highway Patrol (CHP). It is the intent of the CHP to enhance traffic safety by administering AUMA grant funds to educate the public regarding the dangers of impaired driving, fund efforts to remove impaired drivers from the roadway, and advance research into impaired driving issues.

Toxicology Driving Under the Influence (DUI)/Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID) laboratory grant funds shall be used to improve and advance the standardization of practices in toxicology crime laboratories supporting DUI/DUID projects to aid in the enforcement of traffic laws related to DUI of alcohol and other drugs, including cannabis and cannabis products.

Grant applications shall be submitted through the online Grant Management System (GMS). Applications will be reviewed and approved through the GMS. Notification of awards will be sent to the awarded grantees electronically.

Eligible cost categories include: Personnel, Travel, Equipment, Consultants/Contracts, and Other Direct Costs.

Eligible applicants include public agencies and local governments.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Saturday, March 19, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$6 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2020 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) For Federally-Recognized Tribes in California RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this funding to support building or sustaining security enhancement projects that fall within one of the Cal OES HSGP Investment Justifications. Statewide preparedness activities must address high-priority preparedness gaps across one or more of the 32 core capabilities, in addition to requiring a direct nexus to the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, or Recovery from acts of terrorism.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). The intent of the Program is to support state, local, and tribal efforts to prevent acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events and to prepare the nation for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the United States.

HSGP provides funding to implement investments that enhance terrorism preparedness and serve to build, sustain, and deliver the 32 core capabilities across the five mission areas of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. The building, sustainment, and delivery of these core capabilities require the combined effort of the whole community, inclusive of children,

individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, diverse communities, and people with limited English proficiency. A list of the Mission Areas and Core Capabilities may be found here.

Eligible applicants include tribal governments or federally-recognized tribes in California.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, March 21, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$650k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022 Best Practice Initial Child Interview Video Training (VQ) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this funding to educate first responders on how to properly conduct a forensically-sound, trauma-informed victim interview during an initial child sexual abuse investigation to ensure successful prosecution. This will be accomplished through the creation of three training videos.

Background Information: The initial minimal facts-finding field interview of the child sexual abuse victim is essential for law enforcement (LE) and Child Protective Services (CPS) for safety planning, potential prosecution, and for service referrals. It puts the abuse/sexual act in context, can provide timeframes necessary for medical evaluation and evidence collection, and identifies other parties/witnesses. Effective forensically-sound interviews are imperative to the overall success of the investigation.

Programmatic Description: The purpose of VQ Program is to educate first responders on how to properly conduct a forensically-sound, trauma-informed victim interview during an initial child sexual abuse investigation to ensure successful prosecution. This will be accomplished through the creation of three training videos: A Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified video for law enforcement (LE); a video specific to Child Protective Service (CPS) personnel, and one for the broader category of first responder mandated reporters. These training videos are to be made available statewide.

Eligible applicants include businesses, individuals, nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, March 22, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$200k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).