



## **News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (6/3/22)**

### **Tulsa Shooting Gunman Targeted Surgeon He Blamed for Pain, Police Say**

[CBS News reports](#) a man who blamed his surgeon for ongoing pain after a recent back surgery bought a AR-style rifle hours before carrying out a shooting at a Tulsa, Oklahoma, medical office, killing the surgeon and three other people before fatally shooting himself, police said Thursday. Tulsa Police Chief Wendell Franklin said the gunman had recently undergone back surgery and had called a clinic repeatedly complaining of pain.

Franklin said the doctor who performed the surgery, Dr. Preston Phillips, was killed Wednesday, along with another doctor, a receptionist, and a patient.

"We have also found a letter on the suspect which made it clear that he came in with the intent to kill Dr. Phillips and anyone who got in his way," Franklin said. "He blamed Dr. Phillips for the ongoing pain following the surgery."

Dr. Cliff Robertson, president and CEO of Saint Francis Health System, called Phillips "the consummate gentleman" and "a man that we should all strive to emulate." He said the three employees who were killed were "the three best people in the entire world" and that they "didn't deserve to die this way."

Authorities said the gunman, identified as Michael Louis, carried a rifle and handgun during the shooting on the hospital campus, the latest in a series of deadly mass shootings across the country in recent weeks.

The victims and gunman in Tulsa were found on the second floor of a medical office where an orthopedic clinic is located, police said. The shooter died from what police believed was a self-inflicted gunshot wound, Franklin said.

### **After Texas School Massacre, Memorial Day Weekend Sees Shootings Nationwide**

[KCRA 3 reports](#) even as the nation reeled over the massacre of 19 children and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, multiple mass shootings happened elsewhere over the Memorial Day weekend in areas both rural and urban. Still, single-death incidents accounted for most gun fatalities.

Gunfire erupted in the predawn hours of Sunday at a festival in the town of Taft, Oklahoma, sending hundreds of revelers scattering and customers inside the nearby Boots Café diving for cover. Eight people ages 9 to 56 were shot, and one of them died.

Six children ages 13 to 15 were wounded Saturday night in a touristy quarter of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Two groups got into an altercation, and two people in one of them pulled guns and started shooting.

At a club and liquor store in Benton Harbor in southwestern Michigan, a 19-year-old man was killed and six other people were wounded after gunfire rang out among a crowd around 2:30 a.m. Monday. Police found multiple shell casings of various calibers.

Ten people were injured and four are still in critical condition after shots were fired Monday night in downtown Charleston, South Carolina.

Charleston Police Chief Luther Reynolds said an officer responded to a noise complaint along South Street where several people were gathered for a party. The responding officer immediately took gunfire, according to Reynolds, which included two shots into the officer's cruiser. He said the shooting victims include one teen and nine adults. Those and others met a common definition of a mass shooting, in which four or more people are shot. Such occurrences have become so regular, news of them is likely to fade fast.

There were at least two incidents in Chicago between late Friday and Monday that qualified as mass shootings, including one near a closed elementary school on the West Side in which the wounded included a 16-year-old girl.

Single-fatality shootings also rocked families and communities: On the South Side, the body of a young man slain at an outdoor birthday party lay on the sidewalk early Sunday, covered by a white sheet. His mother stood nearby, crying. Overall, Chicago recorded 32 gunfire incidents over the weekend in which 47 people were shot and nine died.

Police chiefs there and in other cities cancelled days off to boost the numbers of officers over the holiday, hoping it would act as a deterrent. Independent conflict mediators also hit the streets, using social media to identify simmering conflicts with the potential to explode into real-world violence.

Such strategies may have worked in individual cases, but statistics from several cities didn't indicate violence was kept at or below levels from previous years. Chicago's Memorial Day weekend death toll was three times last year's.

It's long been a rule of thumb in northern cities that hot weather means more violence. Temperatures in Detroit and Chicago were in the 80s — unseasonably warm — during the three-day weekend, bringing more people outside and increasing the chances of clashes, often between rival gangs. Alcohol at holiday parties can fuel personal beefs, some of which first fester online.

Police in big cities often say most homicides have some tie-in to gangs, though others point to poverty and the desperation that comes with it as underlying causes.

### **California Has America's Toughest Gun Laws, and They Work**

[\*The New York Times\* reports](#) in ways that have tended to be underreported, California has significantly lowered gun deaths, Dr. Garen J. Wintemute, an emergency room doctor and longtime firearm violence research, said this week.

“For the last 20, maybe even 25 years — except for the two years of the pandemic, which have increased homicides and suicides across the country — our rates of firearm violence have

trended downward,” said Dr. Wintemute, who directs the Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento. “And this has been at a time when most of the rates in the rest of the country have gone up.”

California’s rate of firearm mortality is among the nation’s lowest, with 8.5 gun deaths per 100,000 people in 2020, compared with 13.7 per 100,000 nationally and 14.2 per 100,000 in Texas, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) has reported. And Californians are about 25 percent less likely to die in mass shootings, compared with residents of other states, according to a recent Public Policy Institute of California [analysis](#).

Dr. Wintemute was interviewed by a *Time*’s reporter on how California is different. [Click here](#) to view the full interview.

### **Teen Tried to Recruit Others for Mass Shooting, Bombing Plot at Berkeley High School**

[NBC Bay Area reports](#) police arrested a 16-year-old boy for allegedly trying to recruit other students to join a mass shooting and bombing plot at Berkeley High School, officials said Wednesday.

According to Berkeley Police Department, the teen went online about two weeks ago to advertise his idea. Officials said a person, who saw the advertisement online contacted police about the plot.

“There was a young person in possession of potentially dangerous materials, hearing about a threat to our high school is concerning,” said Berkeley Unified School District Superintendent Brent Stephens.

After receiving the tip, officers with a search warrant went to the student's home, where "they discovered parts to explosives, assault rifles, several knives and electric items that could be used to create additional weapons," Berkeley police said a statement.

The teenage suspect’s name is not being released at this time and neither is the name of the person, who told police of the plot.

“What’s positive in this particular instance is that somebody, an individual in our community came forward very early to report what they knew to police. The police took immediate action,” Stephens said.

But in their statement, police said nothing about why officers were tipped off on May 21, but the teen was not arrested until May 30, nine days later, and was allowed to turn himself in. The question came up at Wednesday night’s Berkeley school board meeting.

"During this time, we were actively apprised on a daily basis of both the whereabouts of this particular individual. And then, we were also leaning on the expertise of Berkeley police experts," Stephens said.

### **Santa Ana’s Mater Dei High, Closed Due to Threat, Will Reopen with Additional Security**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) a day after a threat by a former faculty member led Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana to [announce a closure](#) through the rest of the week, officials said Wednesday that the campus will reopen with additional security personnel and safety protocols.

All offices on campus will open Thursday for “everyone involved in the areas of counseling, athletics, campus ministry, the business office, activities, advancement and deans from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.,” according to a statement by school President Michael Brennan and Principal Frances Clare.

A flex day is planned Friday for all teaching faculty and students, Brennan and Clare said. Any student who needs to meet with a teacher, counselor or other school personnel to make up work or take tests or for other reasons should do so.

Students are asked to email their teacher if they need to meet, according to the statement.

With students slated to return to campus to take final exams beginning Monday, campus officials have implemented several security policies and procedures.

Additional security staff will be on hand, Brennan and Clare said. Santa Ana police will increase patrols in the area and may be on campus.

The following protocols already in place will be strictly enforced, according to the statement: All students must wear their Mater Dei uniform and school identification and must be checked by school security as they enter campus.

All classroom doors will be closed and locked during exams, and the entrance gate on Bristol Street will be closed, opening only for vendors, according to the statement. The gate at Monarch Way will be closed “at different times throughout the day.”

“All visitors will continue to go through the Raptor check point with security as they enter the campus throughout the school day,” Brennan and Clare said.

The school administrators said Santa Ana police have determined the threat has been dealt with “according to appropriate law enforcement procedures.”

Investigators determined that the threat did not constitute a criminal act, said Sgt. Maria Lopez, a police spokesperson. No arrest has been made or charges filed.

### **Sacramento Crime Stats: Homicide, Rape, Robberies, and Gun Violence All Soared in 2021**

[\*The Sacramento Bee\* reports](#) murder, rape, assault, robbery, and gun-related crimes all spiked significantly in 2021 compared to 2020, the Sacramento Police Department said in a summary of annual crime statistics.

The Sacramento Police Department recorded 58 homicides last year, up 32% from the 44 reported in 2020, according to a video news release posted Wednesday.

Reported rapes increased by 31%, robberies by 27%, motor vehicle thefts by 26% and assaults by 16%, department spokesman Officer Chad Lewis said in the video.

The department also recorded 752 reports of shootings in 2021, up 25% from 600 the previous year. The number of shooting victims rose 17%, to 256 from 2019.

The department seized 1,673 firearms last year – a 34% jump compared with 2020 – and made 1,166 arrests for illegal firearm possession, a 38% increase from 2020, Lewis said in the video. He said 410 firearms, about a quarter of all guns seized last year, were privately manufactured ghost guns.

“What that tells me when we’re seizing that many guns, there’s a lot more out there for sure that we don’t know about,” Police Chief Kathy Lester recently told The Sacramento Bee.

Lester has stressed the importance of reversing the recent rise in gun violence. Less than four months into her tenure, a gang shootout near 10th and K streets downtown left six dead and 12 wounded in the deadliest mass shooting incident in Sacramento’s history.

At her swearing-in ceremony in March, Lester said public safety agencies face a “nationwide call to evolve” amid increases in “violence and hate, and disadvantaged communities that are being further stressed.”

She also spoke of a need to strengthen the public’s trust in law enforcement, as community activists across the country have called for “defunding the police” in the wake of police use-of-force incidents, including the fatal shooting of Stephon Clark by Sacramento officers in 2018. Some local activists have called for redirecting some of the city’s budget currently routed to the Police Department toward efforts to address root causes of violence.

Daniel Hahn, who retired at the end of 2021 after four years as Sacramento’s police chief, said the number of guns on the street appeared to be “skyrocketing” that year.

Hahn blamed increases in homicide and other violent crime as a “perfect storm” of factors including more guns on the streets, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and California’s decision last year to reduce jail and prison inmate populations through early release programs.

### **San Francisco Church Shocked by Swastika Scrawled on its Front Door**

[\*The San Francisco Chronicle reports\*](#) in the wake of mass shootings and hate crimes, the discovery of a swastika on the front door of the River of Life Church in Visitacion Valley in San Francisco has shocked and concerned the congregation and its pastor.

Pastor Robert Cowan said his wife, April, noticed the swastika — scrawled in black marker above a window on the front door — when she went to the church Thursday afternoon to open it up for a line-dancing class. She immediately called her husband and son, a San Francisco police officer, who advised his parents to report the incident as a crime.

“As you can imagine, I was very stunned,” he said. “That’s the very last thing I would have suspected in San Francisco — maybe if we were in Mississippi. But in a multicultural environment like Visitacion Valley, I was surprised.”

Cowan, a San Francisco native, knows that racism and discrimination are alive in the Bay Area but was still stunned to find a hate symbol championing Nazi Germany on his church’s front door.

Given recent mass shootings, including at churches, Cowan says the incident has provoked “anxious trepidation” among congregants that the incident could presage a physical attack.

San Francisco police quickly assured Cowan they would investigate. They also referred him to SF Safe, a nonprofit that works with the Police Department on safety programs.

Cowan said he plans to increase security at the church, including adding cameras and training congregation members in what to do if someone were to attack the church when people are present.

“I would hate to have to do drills,” he said, “but we are going to prepare the congregation.”

The first step will be a meeting with the congregation, which has between 50 and 100 members, he said, to discuss the incident and any worries or concerns people may have.

Cowan said he intends to remove the swastika — but not quite yet.

“It’s going to be after the congregation meets on Wednesday,” he said, “so they can see it themselves and know what we’re dealing with.”

### **California’s New Coronavirus Wave is Disrupting Lives, Even with Less Severe Illness**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) a new surge of coronavirus cases is taking shape, as California slogs into a third pandemic summer with far fewer hospitalizations and deaths but still significant disruptions.

There are fewer cases of serious illness than occurred during other waves, underscoring the protection imparted by vaccinations, therapeutic drugs and, for some, partial natural immunity stemming from a previous infection.

Still, officials are deciding how best to respond now that cases are rapidly rising after plunging in the spring.

The extent of infection has prompted some schools, including UCLA, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Berkeley’s K-12 public schools, to reinstitute indoor mask mandates and has reignited concerns that hospitals may soon be asked to care for larger numbers of coronavirus-positive patients.

Some observers say there’s no sign that California is nearing a peak, as the latest variant’s exceptional contagiousness is thought to be approaching that of measles. [State modeling suggests](#) that the spread of COVID-19 is likely still increasing in Southern California, the San Joaquin Valley and Greater Sacramento.

Even if hospitals don’t become burdened, there’s concern that climbing rates of transmission could keep people at home for a week or more, ruining plans for graduations, weddings and vacations and making it difficult for businesses to maintain adequate staffing.

There’s also worry that unlike in previous waves, people tired of the pandemic will be less willing to wear masks or take other measures to reduce coronavirus spread, potentially threatening the health of vulnerable people at higher risk of severe complications and increasing the chance of people suffering from long COVID.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, some businesses and institutions are taking care to avoid greater spread, including the Golden State Warriors, whose coach, Steve Kerr, was briefly out with a coronavirus infection as the team marched through the NBA playoffs, and Apple, which reportedly postponed a three-day-a-week return-to-work plan.

Statewide, officials are reporting nearly 15,000 [new coronavirus cases a day](#), a rate nearly as high as during last summer’s Delta surge. The latest wave was spawned by the highly infectious Omicron strains.

To read further details on how the state is being affected, [visit the full article](#).

## **‘Some Counties Have Significant Undercounts’: Data Reveals California’s ‘Hidden’ COVID Deaths**

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) COVID-19 has officially killed more than 90,000 Californians, roughly equivalent to the populations of Santa Barbara and San Leandro. But research suggests the true toll of the pandemic could be much higher, with more than 20,000 “hidden” excess deaths concentrated in the southernmost counties, plus a handful of rural counties to the north.

These deaths, according to researchers, are a combination of uncounted COVID-19 fatalities — some deliberately overlooked for political reasons — and deaths from other pandemic-related causes, like gun violence, traffic accidents, overdoses and strained hospital systems.

California recorded about 75,000 COVID-19 deaths through 2021, according to data collected by researchers from the [National Center for Health Statistics](#). But over that same time frame, the state recorded 95,000 more deaths than it probably would have in a pre-pandemic period, leaving about 19,000 deaths unaccounted for by the official COVID tallies. These non-COVID excess deaths, known as residual excess deaths, increase the pandemic’s death toll by 25% through the end of 2021.

“California is definitely subject to underreporting” of deaths, Andrew Stokes, a professor at Boston University’s School of Public Health and a lead researcher working on the excess deaths data project, told The Chronicle. “Some counties have significant undercounts.”

While other research teams have calculated excess deaths and residual mortality through more recent months, the 2020 and 2021 estimates by Stokes’ team go down to the county level, providing a window into which parts of the state are seeing the most “hidden” pandemic deaths. (Because the team used data from the National Center for Health Statistics, its county-level COVID-19 death counts are different from those of the California Department of Public Health, which draws on a different data set.)

For the full details of this newfound data, [visit the full article](#).

## **As Bay Area Cases Swell Again, It’s ‘Very Hard Right Now to Avoid Getting COVID’**

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) coronavirus cases blew up across the Bay Area in May, as the region became entrenched in a sixth surge that is likely many times larger than what reported infections show and may even be approaching the magnitude of this past winter’s massive omicron wave, health experts say.

COVID hospitalizations are climbing in the Bay Area too — they’ve nearly doubled since the start of the month — though they remain at a relatively low and manageable level compared to prior surges, experts said. The number of patients with COVID needing intensive care in the region has more than doubled over the past month, but ICU capacity is not tapped out.

Deaths also remain far below the levels seen in earlier waves; the Bay Area has reported on average three deaths a day for almost all of May.

The mix of variants fueling this surge makes it tough to speculate when cases will level off, experts said — cases could have already peaked and will soon start dropping, or they may keep

climbing for longer. Plus, subvariants that have yet to get a foothold in the region could further prolong this wave or a drive a new one later in the summer.

Regardless of where this current surge is headed, health experts said people who want to avoid becoming infected should be resuming aggressive COVID precautions by now, if they haven't already, including wearing masks indoors and avoiding crowded spaces — from busy restaurants and movie theaters to graduation parties.

For data on where the Bay Area is now and experts' predictions for the near future, [view the full article](#).

### **COVID-19 Surge Worsens in State, With the Sacramento Area Now Among Hardest Hit**

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) coronavirus activity surged throughout May in California, with most transmission and hospitalization numbers roughly doubling over the course of the month as highly contagious subvariants of omicron continue to gain traction.

Some of the state's worst COVID-19 infection rates are now in the Sacramento area. The California Department of Public Health on Tuesday evening reported the statewide case rate at 33.1 per 100,000 and test positivity at 7.9%. The state entered May with a case rate of 16.3 per 100,000 and positivity at 3.1%.

CDPH on Tuesday reported 2,190 patients hospitalized with confirmed COVID-19 including 272 in intensive care units, up from about 1,050 hospitalized and 150 in ICUs on May 1. Both figures remain well below the highs of more than 15,000 hospitalized with 2,600 in intensive care at the peak of the omicron surge in January.

For the Sacramento region, state health officials on Tuesday reported Placer County at 14.2% positivity, El Dorado County at 13.9%, Sacramento County at 12%, and Yolo County at 3.4%.

Placer and El Dorado's positivity rates ranked fourth- and fifth-highest, respectively, among California's 58 counties, trailing only tiny Alpine and Sierra counties (25% and 15.4%, respectively) along with Siskiyou County (16.7%).

San Francisco, an early epicenter of the current surge, appears to have plateaued at about 11% positivity. Its case rate is nearly double the state average at 56 per 100,000, though that is largely due to the Bay Area's comparatively high volume of tests conducted.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week placed Sacramento and Placer counties into the "medium" community level for COVID-19 danger, following Yolo County entering medium the previous week.

All three, plus El Dorado, are on track to enter the "high" community level in the next weekly update Thursday. CDC guidance calls for indoor masking in counties that reach the high level, and Sacramento City Unified would return to a mask mandate if Sacramento County enters that level.

The current surge, marking California's fifth wave during the 27-month global health crisis, has seen a rise in outbreaks at schools, state prisons and nursing homes. It has also complicated return-to-office plans, including for state workers.



Governor Gavin Newsom tested positive for COVID-19 Saturday morning and had mild symptoms, his office said in a statement. He will be isolating through at least Thursday and until he tests negative.

To read more on how the state is being affected in various areas, [visit the full article](#).

### **FDA Investigates Hepatitis A Outbreak in California Linked to Strawberries**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) public health officials are investigating a hepatitis A outbreak linked to strawberries with 17 reported cases nationwide, including 15 in California, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Fresh organic strawberries under the FreshKampo or HEB brand labels are the likely cause of the outbreak, according to investigations showing that patients in California, Minnesota and Canada reported buying FreshKampo or HEB strawberries before becoming ill. Canadian authorities reported 10 cases in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Recorded illnesses range from March 28 through April 30, and the affected strawberries would have been sold between March 5 and April 25, [the FDA said](#). Though the strawberries are past their shelf life, anyone who froze FreshKampo or HEB strawberries should not eat them; if anyone isn't sure of the label of their strawberries, they should also throw them away, the FDA said.

Anyone who ate those strawberries in the last two weeks and had not been vaccinated against hepatitis A should consult a doctor to determine whether they will need post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), which can stave off infection in unvaccinated people.

Twelve hospitalizations have been reported in the U.S., according to the FDA, which is investigating the outbreak with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Hepatitis A symptoms include fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, jaundice, dark urine and pale stool. Typically, people infected with hepatitis A recover within two weeks, but in rare cases the infection may become chronic, which can lead to more serious health problems, including liver failure and death, according to the FDA.

According to the FDA, the strawberries were sold at retailers, including, but not limited to, Aldi, HEB, Kroger, Safeway, Sprouts Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Walmart, Weis Markets and WinCo Foods.

The investigation is ongoing and could expand to include more products.

Earlier this month, the FDA [recalled Jif peanut butter products produced at the J.M. Smucker Co.](#) facility in Lexington, Ky., due to potential salmonella contamination. That recall now extends to candy and other products made with peanut butter from the Jif makers.

### **California's Fire Season 'Well Underway,' State and Federal Officials Warn**

[Palo Alto Online reports](#) state firefighters have responded to nearly 2,300 wildfires so far in 2022, burning nearly 11,000 acres, state and federal officials said Wednesday.

This year's fire season is "well underway," said Fire Chief Daniel Berlant, Cal Fire's deputy director of community wildfire preparedness and mitigation, during a virtual discussion Wednesday.

Berlant noted that the state has seen fire weather mostly year-round in recent years due to rising seasonal temperatures and the West Coast's ongoing drought. As a result, 18 of the 20 most destructive fires in state history have occurred in the last 22 years.

Berlant was one of a handful of speakers participating in the discussion of the state's wildfire prevention and preparedness efforts, which also included U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, California Office of Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilarducci, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman and California Air Resources Board Deputy Executive Officer Chanell Fletcher.

According to Berlant and Ghilarducci, the state is allocating hundreds of millions of dollars toward fire prevention projects and support for local governments in parts of the state that are most at risk of wildfires.

On Wednesday, Cal Fire announced it would direct some \$118 million toward 144 local wildfire prevention projects. Cal Fire also funded 105 similar projects in September 2021.

Padilla said federal legislators are also taking steps to prepare for future wildfires.

His [FEMA Improvement, Reform and Efficiency \(FIRE\) Act](#) would update the legislation governing the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency to include wildfires alongside disasters the agency has always focused on like hurricanes, tornadoes and floods. The bill would also allow FEMA to pre-deploy resources in areas that are under red flag warnings.

According to Padilla, the U.S. Senate is currently considering the bill, which the chamber's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved in February.

### **California Announces New Emergency Drought Regulations**

[JD Supra reports](#) on May 24, 2022, the California State Water Resources Control Board announced [emergency drought restrictions](#) resulting from Governor Newsom's [Executive Order N-7-22](#). The regulations are the latest in a series of attempts by the state to deal with the ongoing severe drought. The regulations cover two areas: a ban on irrigating non-functional turf and a requirement that urban water suppliers implement the Level 2 demand reduction actions in their water shortage contingency plan.

For a breakdown of the restrictions, [visit the full article](#). To view all restrictions in detail, [click here](#).

### **21 Oil Wells Now Found Leaking Methane Near California Homes**

[The Desert Sun reports](#) a total of 21 oil wells have been found to be leaking methane in or near two Bakersfield neighborhoods, and more than two dozen are being tested by state and regional air regulators.

California Geologic Energy Management Division, or CalGEM, said in an update on its website that state and regional air regulators are in the area again today to interview residents and take additional methane readings.

Repairs are at various stages for the nearly two dozen wells, several of which were found to be leaking at least 50,000 parts per million of methane — a level at which the colorless, odorless gas can explode if ignited.

Six wells owned by Sunray near the Morning Star neighborhood were tested again on Wednesday and are no longer leaking after a contractor hired by CalGEM temporarily plugged them.

Work continues on seven idle wells operated by Zynergy in the same area. CalGEM inspectors confirmed that four of the wells are repaired and no longer leaking methane. Contractors are on site Thursday to work on the remaining three wells.

A state staffer told The Desert Sun last week that [California's top oil regulator was "lying"](#) about the level of risks at the sites, and said methane can build up underground in tight spaces and explode also. Since then, CalGEM announced it was installing pressure monitors on at least some of the wells as they are repaired or closed off.

CalGEM continues its inspection efforts for the 25 wells owned by Griffin Resources. One well that was hissing and emitting high levels of methane over Memorial Day weekend was safely depressurized on May 30. The agency has identified another well owned by the company showing high pressure readings, and is working to gain access to the site where the well is located.

Six other wells are showing low-level methane leaks, and CalGEM is evaluating options to ensure the leaks are quickly fixed. Over the weekend, the company appealed CalGEM's emergency order to permanently plug and decommission these wells and 17 others. Sunray has also appealed a CalGEM order to address problems at five oil fields across central California, saying in a letter that it has addressed many of the problems.

Idled wells are a burgeoning problem in California's century-old oil fields. A state study concluded two years ago that taxpayers could be saddled with more than \$1 billion in cleanup costs if operators walk away from their responsibilities to properly plug and abandon them.

A [report](#) released Thursday by a consumer advocacy group and a coalition of environmental justice groups concludes costs associated with the industry to the state could top \$10 trillion by 2045. Industry advocates say locally produced oil is vital, and is done under some of the strictest regulations in the world.

### **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to Transition to Three-Digit Number**

[California Medical Association reports](#) on July 16, 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255) will be replaced with a simple, easy-to-remember three-digit number (988). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded \$105 million to 54 states and territories in advance of this date to help states meet the growing demand for mental health care. For those in crisis, 988 will serve as a universal entry point so that no matter where patients live, they can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death amongst preteens and adults ages 25-34 according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it's a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or

substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

The 988 dialing code is just a first step toward strengthening and transforming crisis care in this country. Over time, the vision for 988 is to have additional crisis services available in communities across the nation, much the way emergency medical services work. The 988 number will make mental health help more accessible for individuals in need, especially during the pandemic.

For more information about the transition [click here](#). If you're interested in helping respond to people in crisis [apply here](#) to become a crisis counselor.

### **ICMYI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon**

- **2022-23 Listos California Community Resilience Campaign (LX) Program RFP;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief*
  - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
  - Deadline: **Friday, June 3, 2022 (TODAY)**
  - Total Estimated Funding: \$9.5 million
  - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2022-23 California Medical Training Center (EM) Program RFP;** *disaster prevention & relief; science, technology, and research & development*
  - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
  - Deadline: **Friday, June 3, 2022 (TODAY)**
  - Total Estimated Funding: \$942,523
  - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2022-23 Domestic Violence Housing First (XD) Program RFP;** *consumer protection; disadvantaged communities; health & human services; housing, community, and economic development*
  - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
  - Deadline: **Friday, June 10, 2022**
  - Total Estimated Funding: \$22.75 million
  - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)

### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **2022-24 Sexual Assault American Rescue Plan (AR) Program RFP**

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the AR Program to help rape crisis centers and sexual assault programs continue adapting to meet the emergency needs of sexual assault survivors in response to the COVID -19 public health emergency.

Funds are to be used to continue efforts to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19. Funding may support a range of in-scope activities including counseling, mobile advocacy, telehealth, teletherapy, peer support, temporary housing, rental assistance and nominal relocation expenses, supplies, equipment, and software to assist in carrying out virtual services.

The Applicant must be a governmental or non-governmental organization (NGO) serving sexual assault victims. Priority will be given to NGOs not currently funded through the Rape Crisis

(RC), Victim Advocacy in Detention Facilities (KA), Campus Sexual Assault (CT), or the Child Sexual Abuse Treatment (CS) Programs.

The proposal must be submitted per the instructions in C. SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND REQUIREMENTS.

The deadline to apply for this funding is Wednesday, June 29, 2022. Total estimated funding available is \$3,370,077. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

### **2022-23 Transitional Housing (XH) Program RFP**

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the XH Program to provide victims of crime with transitional/short-term housing assistance and a range of supportive services with the goal of moving victims into safe, permanent housing.

The XH Program is designed after the Housing First model; a form of rapid rehousing adapted to move and rehouse victims of crime who are experiencing homelessness into permanent housing quickly and provide ongoing supportive services. Transitional/short-term housing is a temporary solution – usually a room or apartment – meant to be a safe space in which victims can process their trauma and build a supportive network with the goal of moving into safe, permanent housing.

Since 2017, California has implemented the Housing First Model as defined in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 8255 to address the prevalence of homelessness in California. The Housing First Model is an approach to connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness quickly and successfully to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as treatment, or sobriety.

Applicants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (Unique Entity ID) registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM). Applicants who do not currently have a Unique Entity ID will need to register at SAM.gov to obtain one.

See full Request for Proposal for complete requirements.

Applicants may request a partial or full match waiver (match waiver requests are not considered during the Proposal Rating process).

To request a match waiver, Applicants must submit the VOCA Match Waiver Request form (Cal OES Form 2-159) with their proposal. Up to two VOCA fund sources can be entered on one form. All sections of the form must be completed and answers to questions 6 and 7 must be specific and unique to the Applicant and Program.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, July 5, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$17.15 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

### **2022-23 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program RFP**

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the KC Program for Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) to provide direct victim services to child abuse survivors and their families through a multidisciplinary team approach. These services must include victim-centered, trauma-informed forensic interviews, advocacy, direct or referral to therapy/counseling, and referrals for medical exams.

Eligible Applicants must work in conjunction with a CAC registered under the Children's Advocacy Centers of California (CACC).

To request a match waiver, Applicants must submit the VOCA Match Waiver Request form (Cal OES Form 2-159) with their application. Up to two VOCA fund sources can be entered on one form. An additional VOCA Match Waiver Request form may be necessary when there are more than two VOCA fund sources. All sections of the form must be completed and answers to questions 6 and 7 must be specific and unique to the Applicant and Program.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, August 26, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$8,646,426. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).