



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (1/27/2023)

Upcoming Oversight Hearing – 1st of the New Year!

Topic: California’s Preparedness for and Response to Extreme Atmospheric River Incidents

When: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 10:30 am

Where: State Capitol, Room 437

Authorities Identify 72-Year-Old Man as Suspected Gunman in Lunar New Year Mass Shooting

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) authorities have identified the man responsible for a deadly shooting inside a Monterey Park dance studio as Hemet resident Huu Can Tran, 72.

Tran died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in a strip mall parking lot near Sepulveda and Hawthorne boulevards in Torrance, law enforcement sources said.

“We still are not clear on the motive,” Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said.

Two law enforcement sources said the suspect recently showed up to the Hemet police station saying his family was trying to poison him.

“The investigation continues ... we want to know how something this awful can happen,” Luna said.

The manhunt for the shooter began after he opened fire inside Star Ballroom Dance Studio on West Garvey Avenue around 10:20 p.m. Saturday, killing 10 people and wounding 10 others. It was Lunar New Year’s Eve.

About 20 minutes after the shooting in Monterey Park, Tran walked into Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio in nearby Alhambra, officials said. “The suspect walked in there, probably with the intent to kill two more people,” Luna said. “But two community members disarmed him, took possession of his weapon, and the suspect ran away.”

At 10:20 a.m. Sunday, police found the white cargo van that was seen leaving the scene of the shooting, Luna said. When officers left their patrol vehicle to make contact with the occupant, they heard one gunshot come from the van.

At 1 p.m., a SWAT team determined that the suspect had a self-inflicted gunshot wound and he was pronounced dead at the scene. The man inside the van was Tran, the mass shooting suspect, authorities said.

During the search of the van, several pieces of evidence were found, linking the suspect to both locations. A handgun was found inside the van, which had stolen license plates, authorities said.

The weapon taken by community members in Alhambra was a magazine-fed semiautomatic assault pistol, with an extended magazine attached, according to authorities. This particular firearm with an extended magazine is illegal to possess in California.

For further information, [visit the full article](#).

Man Seen as Hero Grabbed Gun from Monterey Park Shooter: ‘I Needed to Take This Weapon’

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) after opening fire at a Monterey Park dance studio Saturday night, the Lunar New Year gunman went to a second dance facility not far away in Alhambra, which officials said appeared to be his next target.

But when he arrived at Lai Lai Ballroom and Studio in Alhambra, he faced resistance.

“The suspect walked in there, probably with the intent to kill two more people,” Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said. “But two community members disarmed him, took possession of his weapon, and the suspect ran away.”

The two people were not identified, but the suspect fled the studio in a white van the police found hours later.

“I needed to take this weapon away from him,” Brandon Tsay [said in an interview](#) on “Good Morning America.” “When I got the courage, I lunged at him with both my hands, grabbed the weapon and we had a struggle. We struggled into the lobby, trying to get this gun away from each other. He was hitting me across the face, bashing the back of my head.

“I needed to take this weapon, disarm him, or else everybody would have died,” he said.

Luna said he considered the two people who stopped the gunman “to be heroes.”

Police believe that van is the one officers tracked to Torrance before noon Sunday, where officers surrounded the vehicle. The gunman was found dead inside.

At Lai Lai Ballroom and Studio on Sunday morning, a handmade sign affixed to the front doors said, “Closed, in observance to Star Dance Tragedy” in red marker.

There were no obvious signs that anything had occurred in the foyer visible through the glass doors, save for a bottle of hand sanitizer askew in the middle of the floor.

Standing outside the squat white-painted brick building, Charlene Lung — an 82-year-old retired teacher — said she had been taking a private dance class inside and was unaware of the mass shooting or any incident at Lai Lai.

She and her instructor, who were both wearing dance shoes, had entered through a side door earlier that morning and hadn't seen the sign posted on the front door.

"If any one of us know of a shooting incident we wouldn't be here because it's risky," Lung said, explaining that she had been enjoying Lunar New Year's Eve celebrations with her family Saturday night and not seen any news.

The shooting at the Monterey Park ballroom dance studio left 10 people dead and 10 hurt. No motive has been established.

Why it Took 5 Hours for Authorities to Alert the Public about Monterey Park Gunman

[NBC Los Angeles reports](#) in the wake of the Monterey Park mass shooting that left 11 people dead, authorities have been scrutinized as to why it took five hours to alert the public that the shooter was on the loose.

When asked for an explanation regarding the delay, Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said that his department was "strategic" in their handling of releasing information but that he would review what occurred. He indicated the delay was not an accident, but on purpose.

"When we started putting out public information, the priority was to get this person into custody," Luna said. "Ultimately it worked. We will go back and look at it as we always do. Nobody is as critical as ourselves as to what worked and specifically what didn't work."

Authorities stated that the initial call regarding the shooting at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio was received at 10:22 p.m., where Monterey Park police officers assessed the scene and searched for the gunman.

At 11:53 p.m. an unofficial source that was monitoring police chatter on a scanner, RMG News, tweeted, "the suspect is still on the loose according to PD on scene."

Hours later, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Information Bureau issued a news advisory at 2:49 a.m., confirming that there were fatalities and adding that the suspect was male. However, there was no mention that the killer was on the loose.

Five hours after the shooting, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Capt. Andrew Meyer held a news conference, announcing that the death toll was up to 10, and finally stating that the suspect fled the scene and "remains outstanding."

Rep. Judy Chu, who has represented Monterey Park in various elected positions since 1988 told NBCLA that she gives authorities the "benefit of the doubt" since they were able to release pictures of the shooter, descriptions of his white cargo van, and ultimately got the shooter himself.

"I have to look at the results, which is they did catch this shooter in record time," Chu said.

Some experts have stated five hours is a concerning amount of time for there to be no official public announcement.

“To have him out of pocket for that long with no information at all was very concerning and I don’t understand why the delay,” said Errol Southers, a counterterrorism and security expert at USC.

However, Southers pointed to potential factors that may have prompted authorities to withhold information such as the time of day, and the tendency of homicide investigators to keep suspects in the dark for as long as possible.

Last year, the Active Shooter Alert Act – which would establish an Amber-alert like system that would notify the public to stay away from an active shooting situation — stalled in the Senate, but Rep. Mike Thompson has said that he intends on re-introducing the legislation.

Although similar alert systems exist, Chu said that the bill would make the system consistent nationwide, and provide the federal funds needed to implement such a system.

“Federal duplication is not needed,” Southers said.

Chu said she believes that while the shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay have caused widespread fear and anxiety among community members, people should continue to go out and celebrate events with one another—especially celebrations related to the Lunar New Year.

“We need to continue living our lives especially for those moments that are special for us and we need to do it with one another,” Chu said.

Gunfire as Children Watched: What We Know about the Half Moon Bay Shooting

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) the gunfire rang out Monday afternoon in the farms that dot the coastal hills of San Mateo County in and around Half Moon Bay.

When it was over, seven people were dead at multiple agricultural locations. Then, the alleged gunman was found parked next to a Sheriff’s Office substation, where he was taken into custody. It came two days after the [mass shooting in Monterey Park](#) and less than two weeks after the [Goshen, Calif., shooting that left six dead](#).

For full details on what is known about the shootings, the gunman, and the victim, [visit the full article](#).

Suspected Arrested in Des Moines Shooting that Left 2 Students Dead, Founder of Education Program in Serious Condition, Police Say

[CNN reports](#) a man was arrested and charged with murder after a shooting at an educational program for at-risk youth in Des Moines, Iowa, left two students dead and the program’s founder seriously injured, authorities said in a press release.

At 12:53 p.m. Monday, police and fire personnel responded to a report of a shooting at 455 SW 5th Street, which houses the non-profit, called Starts Right Here, Des Moines police said in a news release.

They found the shooting victims, who were taken to hospitals. The names of the slain were not released.

Preston Walls, 18, was charged with two counts of first-degree murder, attempted murder and criminal gang participation, police said in an updated statement.

“Walls, and both deceased victims, are known gang members, belonging to opposing gangs, and evidence indicates that that these crimes were committed as a result of an ongoing gang dispute,” the updated news release said. Des Moines Police provided no further details outlining these claims.

Police said Walls cut off a court-ordered GPS ankle monitor approximately 16 minutes prior to the shooting.

CNN has been unable to determine if Walls has retained legal counsel at this time.

Police didn’t identify the injured person but Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie said it was Starts Right Here program president and R&B hip hop artist Will Holmes, also known as “Will Keeps.” Police said he was in serious condition.

The shooting occurred after the suspect, who had a 9mm handgun with an extended ammunition magazine, “entered into a common area where all three victims were located,” the police statement said.

Holmes “attempted to escort Walls from the area. Walls pulled away from Holmes, pulled the handgun and began to shoot both teenage victims. Holmes was standing nearby and was also shot. Walls then fled the scene on foot,” according to the news release.

Police got a description of a vehicle related to the shooting and made a traffic stop about 20 minutes after the shooting, two miles away, Police Sgt. Paul Parizek said at a news conference.

Two people stayed in the vehicle and one got out and ran, Parizek said. Police found the suspect with a tracking dog, he said.

Police say they found a 9mm handgun nearby. “The ammunition magazine in the handgun has a capacity of 31 rounds, and contained three,” according to the news release.

Two additional people remain in custody as police investigate the incident.

You May Feel Secondary Trauma from Mass Shooting Coverage. Therapists Discuss Ways to Cope

[*The Los Angeles Times* reports](#) the violence is consuming your thoughts. The social media apps you use for a distraction from reality are flooded with accounts and updates about the mass shooting.

You may even start to feel the terror, outrage or despondency as physical sensations.

“Symptoms are your body’s way of communicating that there’s an issue happening,” clinical psychologist Amanda Seon-Walker told the Times last year.

When we read and watch the news after a mass shooting — Buffalo, Laguna Woods and Uvalde last year; and now Monterey Park in 2023 — we can experience what experts call secondary and collective trauma.

Last year, we asked four psychologists about secondary and collective trauma, how it affects us and what we can do [to healthily process and cope](#). Here are their responses.

For the full list of healthy coping mechanisms, [visit the full article](#).

Why Number of US Mass Shootings Has Risen Sharply

[BBC reports](#) California has woken up to news of three mass shootings this week. On Monday, a gunman opened fire at two plant nurseries in Half Moon Bay, killing seven and injuring one person.

A few hours later, another gunman opened fire 41 miles (65km) away at a petrol station in Oakland, injuring seven and killing one person.

And on the Saturday prior, 11 people who had gathered to dance died on the eve of Lunar New Year in Monterey Park near Los Angeles.

If it feels like these incidents are becoming more frequent in the US that is because they are.

Different definitions exist for what constitutes a mass shooting, but non-profit the Gun Violence Archive - which counts shootings where four or more people are killed or injured, excluding the gunman - has tracked 40 such incidents in the US since the start of the year.

It is the highest number of mass shootings on record for any January, according to the organization that publicly tracks gun-related deaths and injuries in the US.

The previous record was set last year at 34. Between 2014 and 2022, there was an average of 25 mass shootings recorded in the month of January.

The surge in violence has reignited what has now become a familiar and highly political debate in the US over gun ownership rights and legislation.

It also has some people asking: What's driving the rise?

For full details as to why experts think these statistics are growing, [visit the full article](#).

Thieves Steal ATM from Huntington Beach Barber Shop, Inland Empire Businesses

[The Daily Bulletin reports](#) Huntington Beach police are investigating after an ATM was stolen from a barber shop early Saturday morning, Jan. 21, authorities said.

Officers responded to the 19100 block of Brookhurst Street about 12:50 a.m. and found a shattered glass window and the ATM gone, Huntington Beach police spokeswoman Jessica Cuchilla said.

Surveillance video provided to OnSceneTV shows one man breaking a window, entering the barber shop and tying a rope around the ATM, then running outside to a white pickup truck.

As the driver pulls away from the building, the ATM tips over and breaks, but the rope slips off. Eventually, two men enter the barber shop and carry part of the ATM out and load it into the back of the truck before fleeing.

The timestamped video shows the suspect first entering the shop just past 12:45 a.m.

Similar thefts have been reported in the Inland Empire, including a tattoo parlor in Perris, Papa Joe's Sports Bar in Moreno Valley and another barber shop in Loma Linda, [according to KTLA](#). Others have also been reported in Colton and San Bernardino.

Authorities in San Bernardino and Riverside counties did not confirm investigations into the heists. It's not known if they are related to the Huntington Beach theft.

Lana Mack, general manager of Papa Joe's Sports Bar in Moreno Valley, told KTLA one of the suspects crowbars the window, enters, and puts heavy-duty straps around the ATM before the other suspect attempts to drive it out of the building through the window. That theft was also caught on surveillance video.

"The fact that it was done pretty quickly, you can see they had some practice and all of us pretty much agreed on that," Mack told the station.

Another Storm Lashes California After a Barrage of Brutal Weather Kills 19. But a Break is Finally on the Horizon

[CNN reports](#) storm-ravaged California must endure one more round of ferocious winds, torrential rain and possible flooding as the latest atmospheric river pummels the state Monday.

About 8 million people are under flood watches until midnight Monday for coastal Central California, including the Bay Area.

Fresh rainfall could trigger more flooding, mudslides and landslides as oversaturated land from recent downpours gets inundated again. California has already endured more than 500 landslides since December 30, according to the [California Geological Survey](#).

And violent winds could topple trees in weakened soils, threatening more power outages and misery in the state.

Since Christmas week, an onslaught of storms has killed 19 people, destroyed homes and turned entire neighborhoods into lakes.

But California will get a desperately needed reprieve at the end of this week.

"As we push into the day on Tuesday, we're looking for quieter weather across much of the state, with one fast-moving additional system arriving for later Wednesday into early Thursday," said David Lawrence of the [National Weather Service](#).

"After that, looking for a period of dry weather for much of the state finally as we head into late week and pretty much through the weekend."

For more information, [visit the full article](#).

California to Get Major Boost in Water Supplies after January Storms

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) California water agencies that serve 27 million people will see an increased allocation of supplies from the state after a series of winter storms boosted reservoirs and snowpack, officials announced Thursday.

Less than two months after the Department of Water Resources said it could [give only 5% of requested supplies](#) in 2023 to the 29 agencies that rely on the State Water Project, the department increased its allocation to 30%. The State Water Project is a complex system of reservoirs, canals and dams that is a major component of California's water system.

Officials said the allocation could change as the rest of the wet season develops. But the news marks a significant turnaround for California, which has been mired in extreme drought conditions for more than three years. [Last year's final allocation was just 5%](#), and the state has not issued an allocation of 30% or higher since 2019.

“We are pleased that we can increase the allocation now and provide more water to local water agencies,” DWR Director Karla Nemeth said in a statement. “These storms made clear the importance of our efforts to modernize our existing water infrastructure for an era of intensified drought and flood. Given these dramatic swings, these storm flows are badly needed to refill groundwater basins and support recycled water plants.”

The storms came as something of a surprise after officials warned residents to brace for another dry winter driven by La Niña, a climate pattern in the tropical Pacific often associated with arid conditions in California.

Instead, a series of nine powerful atmospheric rivers deluged the state, causing floods and landslides but also increasing reservoir and snowpack levels. As of Thursday, the statewide snowpack was [216% of normal for the date](#).

The state's largest reservoirs also saw some drought recovery, with Lake Shasta at 55% of capacity on Thursday and Lake Oroville at 63% — up from 32% and 30%, respectively, just one month ago, [state data show](#).

The reservoirs gained a combined 1.62 million acre-feet of water in storage as a direct result of the winter storms, or roughly enough to provide water to 5.6 million households for a year, according to the DWR.

The increased allocation will come as a relief to many agencies, including the massive Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which supplies the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and 25 other agencies in the region. The MWD in December [declared a drought emergency](#) and warned that its entire service area could see mandatory cuts if conditions did not improve.

“Depleted state reservoirs are starting to recover from record lows, and this increased allocation will certainly help communities hit hardest by this drought recover as well,” MWD General Manager Adel Hagekhalil said in a statement Thursday.

“But make no mistake, while the recent storms will help alleviate the acute emergency in areas dependent on supplies from the State Water Project, Southern California’s water challenges are far from over,” he said. “We continue to draw down our largest local reservoir, Diamond Valley Lake, to meet demands.”

For further information, [visit the full article](#).

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Climate Resilience and Community Access Grant Program 2022;** *disadvantaged communities; education; environment & water; health & human services; housing, development, and economic development; parks & recreation; science, technology, and research & development*
 - Funded by: Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
 - Deadline: **Friday, January 27, 2023**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$2.917 million
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Evidence Practices Round 1: Parent and Caregiver Programs and Practices Grants;** *disadvantaged communities; education; health & human services*
 - Funded by: Department of Health Care Services
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, January 31, 2023**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$30 million
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)
- **2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Program;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief; environment & water*
 - Funded by: Department of Water Resources
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, January 31, 2023**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$285 million
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Stop the Hate Program Funding

[The Department of Social Services](#) has created this funding to provide support and services to victims and survivors of hate incidents and hate crimes and their families, to facilitate hate incident or hate crime prevention measures, and to create more inclusive regional and local communities, especially for those who are historically vulnerable because of their racial, ethnic, religious, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, disability or other identities.

Funding will be awarded to qualified nonprofit organizations to provide direct, prevention and intervention services to populations who have experienced or are at greatest risk of experiencing

incidents of bias and hate crimes. Funded organizations will receive funds for a 2-year service term beginning 07/01/2023.

This funding is available to nonprofit entities.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, February 13, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$50 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – DR4610 2021 Northeast Wildfires

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this program as the result of a Presidential Disaster Declaration. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds plans and projects that reduce the effects of future natural disasters. In California, these funds are administered by the Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Section. Eligible subapplicants include state agencies, local governments, special districts, and some private non-profits.

The HMGP funding opportunity provides support for communities to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. In California, natural hazards include wildfire, earthquake, drought, extreme weather, flooding, and other impacts of climate change. HMGP funding can also support the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) and project scoping activities. For eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities.

Eligibility Guidelines:

- State Agencies – Activities must be consistent with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Federally Recognized Tribes – Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved tribal hazard mitigation plan.
- Local Governments/Communities/Special Districts – Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan.
- Private non-profit – the County in which they are located must meet the LHMP requirement.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program requires local entities to provide matching funds. The standard is 75% Federal Share and 25% Local Share

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, February 20, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$54,241,263. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

CDFA Community Resilience Centers Program

[The CA Department of Food and Agriculture](#) has created this program to build local resilience across California communities by improving community facilities. It is a priority of the CRC program to fund resilience center projects in disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities, or sites serving these communities.

Recent and ongoing climate events and public health emergencies impact every part of California. Such events encompass shorter-term events like earthquakes, extreme heat, mudslides, flood, wildfires, power outages, and disruptions; they also include longer-term events like the COVID pandemic, sea level rise, drought, and rising temperatures. Due to historic redlining and cycles of underinvestment, communities across California face differential access to local community resilience opportunities including public health resources, clean energy infrastructure, and emergency response services. Given California's range of geographies and biomes, diverse populations and their needs, and existing infrastructure, building local community resilience offers the most appropriate, comprehensive, and relevant approach for each community to achieve equitable outcomes in the face of climate impacts and disruptions. Since projects developed for and by community residents have greater success and are better designed to meet and effectively respond to unique challenges and opportunities, community resilience center projects and programming must demonstrate robust, inclusive, consistent, and effective engagement with residents throughout the ideation, development, implementation, and feedback processes.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program described here builds on this foundation, in alignment with California's Statewide Adaptation Strategy and other efforts, to build local resilience across California communities. It is a priority of the CRC program to fund resilience center projects in disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities, or sites serving these communities.

The CRC Program will focus on improving community facilities to enhance the state's emergency preparedness capabilities, particularly in response to climate change. Funding shall be used to support infrastructure for emergency evacuation, shelter, base camps during emergency events, and critical deferred maintenance. Elements for this infrastructure may include cooling and heating centers, clean air centers, and extended emergency evacuation response centers, equipped with community kitchens, shower facilities, broadband, back-up power, and other community needs during an emergency or climate events.

A secondary goal of the CRC Program is to equip facilities to provide long-term, year-round community services and activities to enhance the community's resilience through civic, social, educational, and economic development programming.

The CRC program focuses investment on disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities. Priority communities will be identified as defined by Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code and identified through CalEnviroScreen 4.0 and by Section 65302.10 of the California Government Code and identified through the Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool for Transformative Climate Communities (TCC).

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, February 27, 2023**. Total estimated available funding is \$38 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).