



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (9/22/2023)

Interactive Map: FEMA Breaks Down Chance of Natural Disaster by Area in California

[KCRA 3 reports](#) the agency in charge of the country's emergency responses now has a map that helps break down the risk of natural disasters by community.

[Maps provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) show the areas of highest risk. The categories range from "very low to "very high."

Risk is defined by disasters such as wildfires, earthquakes and flooding. The amount of damage possible is also considered in risk.

Another category, "community disaster resilience zones," identifies areas FEMA considers disadvantaged. The agency would prioritize these areas for federal funding to lower the risk and impact of natural disasters. Parts of Sacramento, Yolo, Sutter, Colusa and Butte counties are included in these zones.

In Northern California, eight counties are labeled as "Relatively High," FEMA's second-highest rating. Those counties include: Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Solano, Yolo, Sutter and Butte.

Yuba, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties are considered "Relatively Moderate" on the risk scale.

In the Bay Area, Contra Costa, Alameda and Santa Clara counties are categorized as being the highest at risk of natural disaster. Napa, Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo are considered "Relatively High."

September is National Preparedness Month. Is Your Family Ready for an Emergency?

[NBC Los Angeles reports](#) a wildfire, earthquake, or any other natural disaster that could hit Southern California means you might have to make split-second decisions and be ready to act in a moment.

Being prepared comes down to four simple steps: be informed, make a plan, create an emergency kit and stay involved.

Preparedness also means knowing how you will communicate with family and others in case of an emergency. [The Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) suggests having multiple phone numbers for loved ones written down.

For older adults with special circumstances, the agency suggests adding the contacts for caretakers or doctors to that list.

Also, add one person who lives out of state who can be a main contact. If communication breaks down, that person can inform others on how you and your family are doing.

FEMA suggests using text messages, social media and emails to connect during emergencies. Mobile networks can become overwhelmed, making it hard to make and receive phone calls. Text messages require less bandwidth.

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

Prepare Your Pet During September as Emergency Preparedness Month

[Cal OES News reports](#) you may be ready for the next emergency, but did you remember to prepare your pet too? The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) would like to remind Californians they have a role to play in disaster preparedness, not only with their family and neighbors, but also their pets.

One of the most important steps to ensuring your pets safety is to have a plan. To get started with pet preparedness plans, consider the type of animal you have, the risks and needs your pet might have and make sure each member of your family is familiar with the plan.

1. Create an Evacuation Plan that includes your Animals:
 - a. Identify where you will take your pets, including alternate routes and locations.
 - b. Create a contact list of shelters, boarding facilities, hotels, kennels, fairgrounds and equestrian centers.
 - c. Contact these locations to determine their animal policies.
2. Review and Update Your Plan Often:
 - a. Practice your plan with family members to ensure everyone understands their role.
 - b. Refresh your pet emergency kit often, making sure that food and water are fresh, and medication is current.
 - c. Confirm that your pet's contact information is up to date.
3. Pack a Go-Bag: Having a Go-Bag can look different for animals than it does for people. Having a Go-Bag can help alleviate stress when a disaster strikes.
 - Make sure you have an emergency kit for your pet. Items in the kit should include pet food, water, medications, veterinary records, blankets, toys, treats, etc.
 - A pet carrier for each of your pets (write your pet's name, your name, and contact information on each carrier).
 - Make sure your pet has tags with current contact information.

- For cats: litter box and litter
- For dogs: plastic bags for poop
- Keep a current photo of your pet.

Emergency Preparedness on Campus

[Cal OES News reports](#) with the school year back in full swing, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) encourages teachers, staff, parents and guardians to be prepared for any kind of emergency on campus – from earthquakes to bomb threats.

Campus safety is a top priority. Reviewing safety plans, security procedures, and preparedness measures already in place can help reduce the risks at our schools and the steps you take now can prepare you and your students for any emergency they may face.

For a detailed list of tips, [visit the full article](#).

Ready for Anything: Cal OES Utilizes Fleet of More than 270 Fire Engines to Respond to All-Hazards Events

[Cal OES News reports](#) as California experiences more severe and complex disasters, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) works with local government fire departments in times of need.

Known as the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, Cal OES helps coordinate the response of local, state, federal and tribal partners to emerging incidents statewide, deploying resources and personnel statewide.

In particular, during wildfire season Cal OES deploys a fleet of more than 270 fire engines to over 60 local government partners across the state, including most recently, the first ever engine assigned to a [Tribal Nation](#).

This fleet of fire apparatus is assigned to local government fire agencies to maintain surge capacity while responding to day-to-day incidents.

To review the full list of resources Cal OES assigns to local partners, [visit the full article](#).

Three California Hidden Disasters: Tsunamis, Earthquakes and Volcanos

[Cal OES News reports](#) California, celebrated for its stunning landscapes and picturesque coastline, is also a region known for geologic activity. Nestled along the Pacific Ring of Fire, the state is susceptible to a variety of natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes. These three hidden disasters can strike at any time.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) consistently monitors these hidden threats and encourages awareness to prepare for, respond to and recover from these potential disasters. Cal OES, along with state and local partners, continues to explore measures to mitigate the impacts of these disasters on California communities, providing them the information needed to stay safe.

For full details and tips on how best to prepare for these three types of disasters, [visit the full article](#).

This California County Had its Biggest Earthquake in 100 Years. Here's What That Means

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) a California county experienced its largest earthquake on record Monday night, amid a [swarm of more than 10 earthquakes](#).

The 4.5 earthquake that occurred near Westley shortly after 9 p.m. on Monday was bigger than any in Stanislaus County going back a century in U.S. Geological Survey records, said USGS research geologist Austin Elliott.

While earthquakes like this don't necessarily signal anything big is imminent, they are a reminder that the ground can shake at any moment, Elliott noted.

"No individual small earthquake inherently indicates anything larger is coming, and most earthquakes of this magnitude pass without further events and without further larger events," Elliott said.

Aftershock sequences can last weeks and months, but for an earthquake of 4.5 magnitude, the aftershocks will likely be small and people will stop being able to feel them after a few days, he said.

Stanislaus County is seismically active, but 14 earthquakes in 24 hours is not typical.

"A lot of the people who felt these ones are living in the Central Valley, Turlock, Modesto, Patterson ... (and are) probably not so used to having an earthquake occur so close to them," Elliott said.

The earthquakes Monday were caused by a mix of compressional convergent faulting, where there are two sides of a tectonic plate coming together, and strike slip faulting, where there are two sides sliding past each other, Elliott said.

Elliott said there are known faults in the region, but the earthquakes were too small to pin on a specific fault.

The faults in the region are known to produce earthquakes, but they don't lead to earthquakes as often as the San Andreas and the Calaveras faults, Elliott said.

He said the earthquakes could have been caused by fault structures that are not mapped.

"Earthquakes of this magnitude — twos and threes and fours — that may be happening, there are all kinds of little fractures and faults that are possible to produce small earthquakes," Elliott said.

To the west of Stanislaus County are strike-slip faults including the San Andreas and Calaveras, and to the east of the county are convergent faults on the margin of the Central Valley.

What Would Happen if Tijuana Sewage Crisis is Declared an Emergency?

[The San Diego Union-Tribune reports](#) saying this is “a pivotal moment that calls for resolute action,” all 18 mayors in San Diego County sent a letter last week to Gov. Gavin Newsom imploring him to declare a state of emergency over the decades-long sewage crisis at the border.

It is the latest in a string of pleas from local, county, state and congressional leaders demanding an immediate and forceful response from the governor and President Joe Biden to the constant contamination from the Tijuana River Valley that has closed beaches, imperiled residents’ health and jeopardized the South Bay economy.

“The magnitude of this crisis, with its far-reaching consequences, demands the full mobilization of every resource and enforcement authority at the state’s disposal,” the mayors say in their letter.

But what exactly would a state of emergency do? And does the sewage crisis meet the criteria?

Thirty years ago, in September 1993, San Diego was the first city to declare a local emergency because of the cross-border pollution and that declaration has remained active ever since.

It took three decades for the county of San Diego to follow suit. In June, the Board of Supervisors [unanimously voted](#) to issue a declaration and last week they continued it for at least another 60 days. Imperial Beach has had an emergency declaration in place for four years.

Under the county’s declaration, staff were directed to report back by next month with documented economic damages from cross-border pollution. Initial estimates for the county and affected cities exceed \$20 million (disposing of garbage, placing beach closure signs, enforcement and water testing) since 2010 and are expected to climb, Nora Vargas, chair of the Board of Supervisors, told the state Office of Emergency Services last month.

She had requested via a letter that money be made available through California’s Disaster Assistance Act for costs incurred and that the state provide access to federal resources to help local governments and impacted businesses.

Newsom’s [response](#) was an Aug. 9 letter to Biden asking him to free up \$300 million in previously allocated funding to upgrade the failing federal wastewater plant in San Ysidro that treats sewage from Tijuana. On Sept. 1, the Governor’s Office [announced](#) that the federal government would put those funds to work. But he stopped short of declaring a state emergency or asking the president to declare a federal emergency.

The local declarations are largely symbolic, calling attention to the issue and pressing the governor and president to fast-track significantly more spending to fix the problem.

“We can only do so much at the local level,” said Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre. “A state declaration would be, at minimum, for solidarity and, at best, to actually help us get the immediate relief that we need, not just calling for money that was already secured.”

When a state of emergency is declared, a lot of red tape is cut. For example, it could accelerate and simplify the bidding process for construction contracts and free up federal money for personnel, equipment and supplies.

That process played out in March. Newsom [requested](#) presidential emergency and major disaster declarations to bolster the state's response to severe storms. Biden immediately [approved](#) them, making available grants for temporary housing and home repairs and money on a cost-sharing basis to fix damaged infrastructure.

The U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission, which operates the deteriorating San Ysidro-based wastewater treatment plant, said last week it will [solicit bids](#) to hire design and construction firms later this fall. It has declined to provide a clear timeline to execute the full project, which is now expected to cost about \$900 million.

The federal government does not automatically offer help when disaster strikes. There is a process to follow, and it starts with a request to the president from the governor.

A request is made after state and local governments have exhausted their resources, according to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. They need to prove what was done to alleviate an emergency, as well as what kind of and how much federal assistance is needed.

Unhealthy Air Lingers in Bay Area After Wildfires

[The New York Times reports](#) smoke continued to linger on Thursday in the Bay Area and Northern California, where the air quality was rated as “unhealthy for some.”

Winds are bringing [smoke from wildfires](#) in northwestern California and southwestern Oregon to the Bay Area, according to the National Weather Service. Smoky air from the fires could linger across the Bay Area through Thursday, the Weather Service said in [a post on X](#).

Wind directions are likely to shift late Thursday and Friday, it said, bringing relief from the smoke.

Air quality levels remained unhealthy for sensitive groups, such as people with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teens, on Thursday, according to the [Environmental Protection Agency](#). It noted that air quality levels were expected to remain unhealthy for sensitive groups on Friday before returning to more moderate levels on Saturday.

One of the main contributors to the smoke is the [Smith River Complex fire](#), east of Crescent City, Calif., which spreads from Northern California past the Oregon state line.

Five fires farther south in California's [Siskiyou Wilderness](#) area, and winds from the Anvil fire just east of Port Orford, Ore., are also adding to the smoky conditions.

The National Weather Service in the Bay Area issued a red flag warning through late Thursday afternoon for the North Bay interior mountains, indicating an increased risk of fire danger.

“The combination of gusty winds and low humidity can cause fire to rapidly grow in size and intensity,” [National Weather Service](#) meteorologists wrote on Thursday. Humidity is expected to be as low as 24 percent and winds could reach up to 15 miles per hour with 30 m.p.h. gusts. on Thursday.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District, a government agency, issued an [air quality advisory on Tuesday](#).

Photos on social media showed hazy conditions in the Bay Area, including the Golden Gate Bridge, which was [cloaked in smoke](#) on Wednesday.

Spare the Air, a program that urges Bay Area residents to reduce air pollution by driving less or walking, extended its smoke alert through Friday.

“If you smell smoke, avoid exposure by staying indoors if heat allows,” Spare the Air [said on X on](#) Thursday.

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

Cal OES Prepositions Firefighting Resources, Personnel After Red Flag Warning Issued

[Cal OES News reports](#) working proactively to place firefighting resources in high-risk areas, the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has strategically prepositioned critical fire engines and personnel in Sonoma, Lake and Colusa counties to be able to respond if needed.

The prepositioned fire resources include:

Sonoma County:

- 5 Local Government Engines Type 3
- 1 OES Water Tender
- 1 Local Government Helicopter
- 1 Local Government Dispatcher

Lake County:

- 4 Local Government Engine Type 3
- 1 Local Government Water Tenders

Colusa County:

- 4 Local Government Engines Type 3
- 2 Local Government Water Tenders Type 1
- 1 Local Government Helicopter Type 3

The Sacramento National Weather Service issued a red flag warning. Breezy conditions and low humidity is expected to lead to critical fire weather. This is an important reminder to be prepared for changing conditions.

- Sign up for [emergency alerts](#) through your county.
- Pack a go bag.
- Talk with your family about an emergency plan.
- Know multiple routes out of your neighborhood.

The Cal OES Fire and Rescue Branch facilitates the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, which includes moving more than 270 fire engines from 60 local government resources across the state in support of all-risk emergency response on behalf of local, state and federal government fire organizations. Cal OES assigns local government fire agencies with fire apparatus to maintain surge capacity during day-to-day duties and major emergencies.

For more from Cal OES, visit CalOES.ca.gov and follow us on Twitter [@Cal_OES](https://twitter.com/Cal_OES).

Map: PG&E Cuts Power for More Than 1,100 to Prevent Wildfires in Parts of Northern California

[KCRA 3 reports](#) Pacific Gas and Electric Co. said it plans to restore power Thursday evening for more than 1,100 customers across portions of Northern California. The cuts were to prevent possible wildfires amid dry and windy weather.

The utility had [said at one point that it might turn off power](#) for about 5,200 customers starting Wednesday. It warned that while the activation of the Public Safety Power Shutoffs program could impact parts of eight counties and two tribal communities, most of those affected would be in Tehama and Shasta counties.

The first cuts happened for about 1,100 customers in parts of Tehama County around 11:45 p.m. on Wednesday. Early Thursday morning, PG&E said it shut off power for about 60 more customers in parts of Lake and Napa counties.

About 4,000 people in other counties have been told that favorable weather conditions delayed having to shut off power there, [PG&E said in an update at 5:30 a.m.](#)

"As weather conditions have improved, 'all-clear' notifications have allowed PG&E crews to begin inspection of the affected powerlines before re-energizing them. Currently, all affected customers that can be restored will be re-energized by this evening," the utility said in another update at 1:15 p.m.

Meteorologist Dirk Verdoorn said the fire danger with possible wind gusts of 20 to 35 mph and humidity below 25% on Thursday would be isolated for parts of Lake, Napa, Colusa, Shasta and Tehama counties.

The north winds are not "widespread and the winds aren't going to be over the top strong," he said. "They're going to be notable and it's something to be aware of, but it's not going to be crazy."

To review the full list of who could be impacted, [visit the full article](#).

Insurance Commissioner Orders Protections for 15,000 Californians Following Fires

[The Insurance Journal reports](#) California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara on Thursday ordered insurers to preserve residential insurance coverage for more than 15,000 policyholders affected by fires in Del Norte County and Siskiyou County after Gov. Gavin Newsom issued emergency declarations last month.

The commissioner's order shields those living within the perimeters or adjoining ZIP Codes of the Smith River Complex fire and the Happy Camp Complex fire from insurance non-renewal or cancellation for one year from the date of the governor's August 29 emergency declaration regardless of whether they suffered a loss.

Today's order protects over 15,000 policyholders for one year. Consumers can go to the [California Department of Insurance website](#) to see if their ZIP Code is included in the moratorium.

IRS Reminder to Storm Victims in 55 California Counties; File and Pay by October 16

[The Sierra Sun Times reports](#) the Internal Revenue Service reminds individuals and businesses in most of California and parts of Alabama and Georgia that their 2022 federal income tax returns and tax payments are due on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023. The normal due date of April 18 was postponed for many residents of these states in the wake of natural disasters earlier this year.

The IRS normally provides relief, including postponing various tax filing and payment deadlines, for any area designated by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#). As long as their address of record is in a disaster-area locality, individual and business taxpayers automatically get the extra time, without having to ask for it.

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

Funding Opportunities

Statewide Flood Emergency Response Grant Program

[The Department of Water Resources](#) designed this grant to provide funding for local flood emergency responders to improve their capacity to respond to flood emergencies.

Eligible activities include planning, mapping, training, exercises, the development of emergency management tools, communications and communications equipment, the purchase of flood fighting materials and equipment, the development or improvement of emergency response facilities, and more.

Applicants must be a California public agency with primary responsibility for flood emergency response and coordination. This applies to counties, cities, flood control districts, reclamation districts, local maintaining agencies, and some tribes in California.

Multiple agencies may apply under the same application, but must designate a lead agency that is a flood emergency first responder.

Applicants must have jurisdiction within the State of California. This jurisdiction must fall fully or partially outside of the Legal Delta. A separate program exists to fund similar projects for applicants with jurisdiction within the Legal Delta. All projects must reduce the risk of levee failure or flooding.

Projects under this grant program may be funded up to 100% using grant funds. Additional external funding may be used to complete projects but is not required. Once awarded, project funding will be provided through a reimbursement process detailed in the grant agreement to be executed after award notification.

The application period for this funding is ongoing. Total estimated funding available is \$1.4 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Round 2

[The Strategic Growth Council](#) has created this program to help communities establish partnerships, funding pathways, plan and policy readiness, and a local network of TA providers to pursue funding and implement climate projects. RCC funds collaboratives of cross-sectoral and community-rooted partners, seeking to advance both place-based and region-wide climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency efforts.

The Regional Climate Collaborative (RCC) Program is a grant program that provides resources to advance climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience within under-resourced communities. The program funds cross-sector partners to form a Collaborative and conduct various capacity building activities, such as partnership development, project and plan development, data collection, education and training, and the creation of technical assistance hubs to pursue climate investments.

SGC has a total of \$8.5 million available for Round 2 awards and anticipates funding 6 Collaboratives. Round 2 has two funding tracks:

1. Small grants range between \$500,000-\$999,999
2. Large grants range between \$1,000,000-\$1,750,000

The program includes a two-step application process. Both steps are required.

1. Pre-Proposal: Applicants must submit a Pre-Proposal by September 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM PT. The purpose of the Pre-Proposal is to help applicants, TA providers, and SGC assess whether applicants are on track to submit a complete, competitive application that meets all threshold requirements and to identify sections of the application that will need increased support. While Pre-Proposals are not scored, SGC will provide feedback on Pre-Proposals to help applicants strengthen their Full Proposal. Submitting a Pre-Proposal is required to move forward to the Full Proposal phase. (This can be seen as the intent to apply).

2. Full Proposal: Applicants must submit a Full Proposal by December 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM PT. Building off the Pre-Proposal, the Full Proposal requires more detail and final versions of the

budget and workplan. Applicants can modify their project between the Pre-Proposal and Full Proposal.

Application technical assistance is available. Please email CACE@sgc.ca.gov to learn more.

Projects may occur on state or federal lands, as long as the project area meets the eligibility requirements. The program has a regional and place-based component. Project Area requirements start on page 15 of the Round 2 Guidelines.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$8.5 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program

[The Department of Water Resources](#) has created this program with the intent of helping the counties to establish standing drought task forces or to develop the county drought resilience plans, per Senate Bill 552.

The DWR County Drought Resilience Planning Grant Program is offered as a sub-program of the Small Community Drought Relief (SCDR) Program, per the allocation of the Budget Act of 2021, Section 2, Item 3860-101-0001(a). Per Senate Bill (SB) 552 of 2021, counties are required to establish a drought and water shortage task force and develop a drought and water shortage emergency response and long-term mitigation plan for domestic wells and state small water systems (serving 4-14 connections) (CWC Section 10609.70).

California's 58 Counties are eligible to submit applications.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, December 29, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$5 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).