

State of California Emergency Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The State of California Emergency Plan outlines a State level strategy in support of local government efforts to protect the public during an emergency. In accordance with the California Emergency Services Act, the State of California Emergency Plan describes: (1) methods for carrying out emergency operations; (2) the process for rendering mutual aid; (3) emergency services of governmental agencies; (4) how resources are mobilized; (5) public information; and (6) continuity of government.¹ The plan is intended to establish statewide emergency management policy and provide guidance and standardization for use by all entities of the California emergency organization.

NOTABLE CHANGES SINCE 1998/2005

The State of California Emergency Plan was last substantially updated in 1998 (a federal compliance update was done in 2005). The 2008 version has been redrafted significantly to comply with the latest federal, state, and local government emergency planning standards. Of the 15 sections in the revised draft, six sections have new content worth noting.

Section 5, *Situation and Assumptions*, includes an enhanced premise for the Plan. A discussion of the population and geography points out that California is the most populous state in the nation with a large and varied geography. Fourteen natural and manmade hazards and their corresponding vulnerabilities are listed, including terrorism.

Section 6, *Emergency Management Organization* incorporates the federal requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and its relationship to California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). The roles of the State Operations Center (SOC) and the Regional Emergency Operations Centers (REOCs) are better established in this version and the need for alternate emergency facilities is discussed.

Also in Section 6, a broader emergency management community is described that includes tribal governments, other states and international resources. The plan addresses an enhanced private sector role that includes California residents, voluntary organizations, business, at-risk individuals and people with disabilities and older adults as primary stakeholders.

Section 8, *Emergency Preparedness* restructures the content to focus on preparedness planning, training, exercises and prevention programs. Standards are recommended for communications and information management and emphasis is placed on preparing resources before an emergency occurs.

Section 9, *Response Concept of Operations* discusses the sequence of events that typically occur during the response phase of an emergency. This version broadens the discussion of direction,

¹ Government Code Section 8560

control and coordination. It also better describes the role of the California State Warning Center (CSWC) and its capabilities. The importance of intelligence gathering and situation reporting is included. The Public Information section now includes the concepts of public outreach, emergency public information, joint information systems and the use of joint information centers. The mutual aid discussion is broadened to include the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

Section 10, *Recovery Concept of Operations* emphasizes that the recovery phase does not present itself as a separate step after response ends. Instead, recovery phase objectives are considered concurrent with the response phase objectives. Other recovery concepts described in the Plan include the use of Local Assistance Centers, Disaster Recovery Centers and a state-federal Joint Field Office (JFO), along with an overview of how individual assistance, public assistance and debris management programs are implemented.

Section 12, *California Emergency Functions* establishes discipline specific working groups that will support the emergency management organization before, during and after an emergency. Incorporation of functional working groups will significantly enhance the planning process at the state level and bring together the parts that make the whole of a function.

The California Emergency Functions (CA-EFs) are organized to be consistent with the federal Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) described in the National Response Framework. Federal ESFs provide a structure for coordinating federal interagency support for a federal response to an incident. They are mechanisms for grouping functions most frequently used to provide federal support to states during an emergency.

At the state level, the California EFs consist of a grouping of state agencies, departments and other stakeholders with similar functional responsibilities. This grouping will allow each CA-EF to collaboratively prepare for, cohesively respond to, and effectively recover from an emergency. A single state agency is assigned to lead each CA-EF based on its authorities, resources, and capabilities.

Local governments and Operational Areas (OAs) are not required to implement the CA-EF concept unless they choose to do so. Instead, they should organize consistent with local resources and established SEMS regulations and guidelines.

Section 13, *State Roles and Responsibilities* provides a more complete listing of state agencies and departments, along with their primary and support roles. This version strengthens the description of the services and capabilities offered by the listed agencies. The Plan calls for state emergency services to be coordinated as far as possible with the comparable functions of its political subdivisions, the federal government, other states, and private agencies to effectively utilize manpower, resources, and facilities. Each assigned agency is responsible for developing its own functional plans that outline how that agency will respond to the emergency.

PROJECTED PLAN APPROVAL SCHEDULE

Dec 2008: CEC briefing on Plan status
Feb 2009: Final draft presented to the CEC along with a recommendation for approval
Mar 2009: Plan approved by the Governor and distributed
Mar 2009: California Emergency Function working group activities begin

STATE OF CA EMERGENCY PLAN DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

- Oct 2007:** **Plan revision begins**, and an OES Executive Oversight Team and meeting schedule established to steer the project and OES policy discussion.
- Oct-Dec 2007:** **Analysis Initiated** to review current Plan content, review federal and state planning guidance and identify Plan content revisions.
- Jan-Mar 2008:** **State Agency Interviews and Stakeholder Meetings** held to assess discipline-specific needs for the Plan.
- Mar-Jul 2008:** **Initial SEP Draft Completed (Dated 7/21/08)**, posted on OES website and distributed to stakeholders at meetings.
- Jul-Aug 2008:** **Regional Focus Group Meetings** held to assess local government, non-government organization (NGO) and community-based organization (CBO) needs. Regional meetings held in the following locations:
- City of San Jose
 - San Bernardino County
 - Orange County
 - Santa Barbara County
 - OES Headquarters
 - City of Rancho Cordova
 - Napa County
- Aug-Sep 2008:** **Second SEP Draft Completed (Dated 10/22/08)** with revisions based on input received.
- Mar-Nov 2008:** **Plan Update Briefings Held:**
- Governor's Emergency Operations Executive Council (GEOEC)
 - Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Advisory Board
 - Statewide Emergency Planning Committee (SWEPC)
 - Emergency Partnership Advisory Workgroup (EPAW)
 - California Emergency Council (CEC)
- Nov-Dec 2008:** **Third SEP Draft Completed (Dated 11/20/08)** and an update provided to the CEC.
- Feb-Mar 2009 and continuing:** **Final Draft Prepared:**
- Submitted for CEC Recommendation of Approval
 - Submitted to Governor for Approval
 - Approved Plan distributed and posted
 - California Emergency Function (CA-EF) Working Group activities begin
 - CA-EF development will be ongoing