



DISASTER Management

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires and extreme weather have steadily increased in recent years, making the work of first responders critical in reducing loss of life and property. Here's a look at our disaster management cycle:

STEP 01

REPORT AND RESPOND

The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) becomes aware of an impending or current disaster. OES creates an incident team, coordinates public alerts and messaging, and works with first responders to keep close track of the incident.



STEP 02

SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

The OES team utilizes what is known as the Standard Emergency Management System to leverage support and assistance from neighboring agencies and the State, which may include personnel or equipment.



STEP 03

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

The County, in partnership with disaster organizations including the American Red Cross, provide essential services to displaced residents at shelter locations.



STEP 04

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Depending on the magnitude of the incident, the County, then the State, then the Federal Government consider declaring states of emergency. Federal agencies such as FEMA become involved during the recovery phase only after the President declares an emergency and determines a community's needs exceed what the County and State can provide.



STEP 05

REPAIR & RESTORATION

Once life and safety concerns of a disaster have been mitigated, public service professionals begin removing debris, repairing roads and restoring essential services such as water and electricity, which may have been interrupted during the disaster event.



STEP 06

RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

If necessary, the County will establish Local Assistance Centers to link impacted residents with a one-stop shop to access information and services to assist with recovery. Commodity Point of Distribution (CPOD) sites may be opened to offer essential items such as food, water, baby items and animal feed.



STEP 07

RECOVERY ASSESSMENT

OES will continue the recovery phase, which tends to be a longer-term process. During this phase, damage information is collected and assessed in coordination with state and federal partners (if State and Federal disasters have been declared) to assist with determining potential cost recovery opportunities, including FEMA support.



In all, it takes a collective effort from federal, state, and local governments and the community to recover from a major disaster. Sometimes it may take years for a community to completely recover. Ultimately, the goal is to become a more resilient community by preparing ahead of disasters.



For emergency preparedness tips, please visit Prepare.SBCounty.gov