



Office of Emergency Services
CEO Report May 2026

Role of the Office of Emergency Services

The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) serves as the lead agency for coordinating preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts across the Mendocino County Operational Area (OA). The OA includes the County, its cities and towns, special districts, and works in partnership with Tribal governments, state and federal agencies, and community-based organizations.

OES's primary role is coordination, ensuring that agencies across the OA are aligned, informed, and ready to act together during emergencies. This includes developing comprehensive plans, facilitating communication, integrating partner capabilities, and maintaining situational awareness across jurisdictions. OES works to ensure that the County is prepared to respond efficiently and effectively to all hazards, from wildfires and earthquakes to winter storms and floods.

In the last month, OES focused on strengthening coordination through collaborative planning, specialized training, regional information sharing, and communications exercises. These efforts directly support Mendocino County's strategic goal of building a prepared and resilient county by improving readiness for flooding, enhancing response capabilities for complex incidents, incorporating long term environmental risks into emergency planning, and strengthening reliable emergency communications systems.

Key Activities and Coordination Efforts

Flood Response Planning Core Team Kickoff

OES convened OA partners for the initial stakeholder meeting to launch the development of the County Flood Response Plan. This kickoff established a coordinated planning framework, bringing together agencies to define roles, share capabilities, and identify gaps. By facilitating this process, OES is aligning partners around a common strategy for flood response, improving the County's ability to manage increasingly frequent and severe storm events.

FEMA Radiological Nuclear WMD Operations Training

OES staff participated in a FEMA training hosted by the County Environmental Health Department focused on radiological and nuclear incident response. This training strengthens OES's ability to coordinate multi agency response to low frequency, high impact events by improving understanding of hazard recognition, notification protocols, and protective actions. Enhanced technical knowledge supports more effective decision making and interagency coordination during complex emergencies.

Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee

OES engaged with the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee to support development of regional resilience strategies and updates to the Local Coastal Program. Through this participation, OES ensures that emergency management considerations such as evacuation planning, infrastructure impacts, and continuity of operations are integrated into long term adaptation efforts. This coordination helps align hazard mitigation planning with broader climate resilience initiatives across partner agencies.

Water Year Coordination Sonoma Water Briefing

OES participated in a regional coordination briefing with Sonoma Water to review current water year conditions, including precipitation trends and water supply outlooks. This engagement supports shared situational awareness with neighboring jurisdictions and resource agencies. The information informs early planning for both drought and flood conditions, enabling OES to coordinate proactive preparedness measures and align local strategies with regional conditions.

BEACON 2026 Regional Communications Exercise

On April 30, Mendocino County Auxiliary Communications Services (MACS), in coordination with OES, participated in the Building Emergency Area Communications, Operations, and Networks (BEACON) exercise for Mutual Aid Region II. Amateur radio operators were deployed to schools, hospitals, and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to test communication links with local, state, and regional partners.

This exercise validated redundant communication systems and strengthened interoperability across the OA. Reliable backup communications are critical during disasters when primary systems may fail, and this effort reinforces the County's ability to maintain coordination and situational awareness under adverse conditions.

