



Office of Emergency Services CEO Report July 2025

About OES

The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is the primary local coordination agency for emergencies and disasters affecting residents, public infrastructure, and government operations in the Mendocino County Operational Area. The Mendocino County OA includes the county and its cities, towns, and special districts, in coordination with tribes.

Introduction

The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) recently strengthened wildfire readiness through several key actions. On June 26, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) training exercise simulated wildfire conditions during Red Flag warnings, giving staff hands-on experience and identifying key areas for improvement. New staff in the Finance Section received additional training, and volunteer radio operators were officially sworn in. OES also enhanced regional coordination through a meeting with five neighboring counties, the National Weather Service, and Cal OES to plan for fire season and address changes in federal and state priorities and funding opportunities. Recent outreach efforts were expanded to include a series of Spanish-language preparedness interviews for local radio. Finally, an evacuation zone in South County was renamed to improve mapping and better reflect local fire response areas, in cooperation with Anderson Valley Fire, Hopland Fire, and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

EOC Activation Exercise

On June 26, OES hosted a well-attended training exercise involving key components of the county's emergency response system, including the EOC, Call Center, and HAM Radio teams. The exercise simulated a wildfire igniting during a Red Flag Warning, creating a complex and high-risk scenario for staff and operational area partners to manage collaboratively.

During the exercise, participants simulated a full operational period, rigorously testing coordination, communication protocols, and decision-making processes under realistic emergency conditions. The exercise provided critical hands-on training, particularly for new staff members, increasing their familiarity with EOC roles and procedures. Performance across all teams was commendable, fostering a cooperative and productive environment throughout the event.

Importantly, the exercise also identified several areas where existing procedures can be refined and updated. These insights will inform ongoing improvements to ensure more effective and efficient emergency response in future incidents.

OES extends sincere thanks to all staff and operational partners, including Hopland Fire, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Cal OES, CAL FIRE, Mendocino County Office of Education, and the National Weather Service,

whose dedication and active participation were instrumental in the success of the exercise. Their efforts continue to enhance Mendocino County's readiness and resilience in the face of wildfire threats and other emergencies.



North Counties Fire Coordination Meeting

OES participated in a North Bay/North Coast regional meeting with emergency services partners from Sonoma, Lake, Napa, Marin, and Solano Counties, along with representatives from the National Weather Service, and Cal OES. The meeting featured in-depth discussions on the upcoming seasonal weather outlook and its potential impact on fire activity. Participants shared updates on local programs and resources, reviewed fire season readiness strategies, and evaluated the effectiveness of current alert and warning systems. Additionally, the group addressed recent changes in federal and state priorities and funding opportunities, ensuring alignment with evolving policies. Mutual aid protocols were also discussed to facilitate efficient inter-county support during emergencies. This collaborative effort reinforced regional partnerships and enhanced overall preparedness across the North Bay/North Coast area.

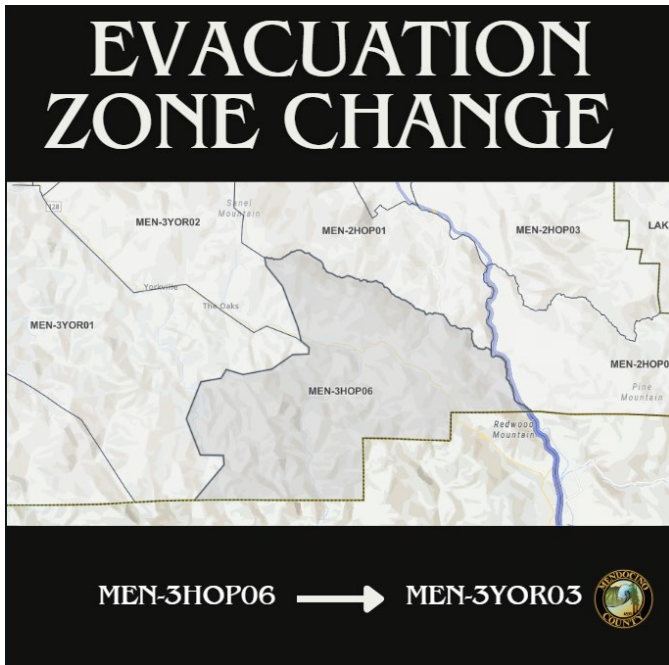
MendoLatino Radio Spanish Language Interview with OES on Emergency Preparedness

OES conducted in-depth radio interviews focused on emergency preparedness, with sessions lasting approximately 30 minutes. To better serve Mendocino County's diverse community, these interviews were translated into Spanish. The programs are scheduled to air in late July on KZYX Radio and will also be made available in podcast format for convenient, on-demand access. This outreach effort aims to enhance public awareness and preparedness across language barriers, ensuring critical information reaches a wider audience. It also supports the County of Mendocino's strategic goals of promoting a safe and healthy county and a prepared and resilient county.

Evacuation Zone Change

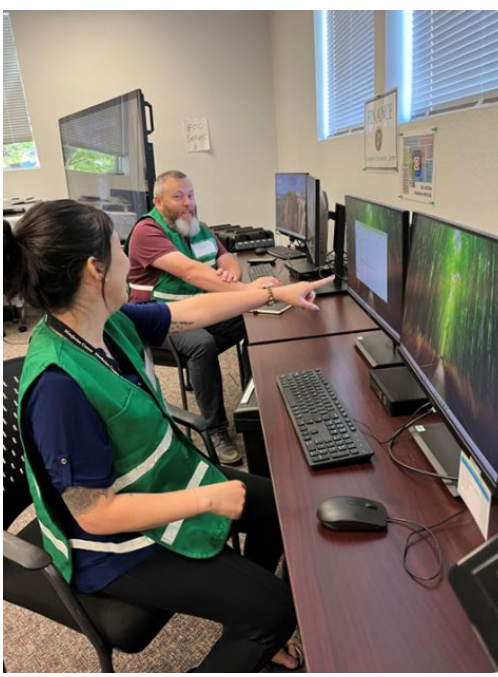
Effective July 9, OES updated Evacuation Zone 3HOP06, now designated as 3YOR03. This change was made in collaboration with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Hopland Fire, and Anderson Valley Fire to ensure evacuation zones more accurately reflect local agency response areas. Please note that only the zone name has

changed; the geographic boundaries remain unchanged. Residents within the updated zone are encouraged to review the revised evacuation maps and information. Visit MendoReady.org to view the updated zone on the Current Emergencies Map and to sign up for MendoAlert and Nixle notifications.



Finance Section Training

On June 25, OES conducted a comprehensive training session for the EOC Finance Section. The program provided staff with an in-depth understanding of the core principles governing the finance section and overall EOC operations. It equipped participants with the knowledge necessary to perform effectively during emergency response, detailing position-specific responsibilities and clarifying the communication and collaboration protocols among EOC sections.



Mendocino Auxiliary Communications Welcomes New Disaster Service Workers

Five members of the Mendocino County Auxiliary Communications Service (MACS) recently took their Loyalty Oath Affirmation, authorizing them to serve as disaster service workers. MACS volunteers operate HAM radios, delivering essential communication capabilities during emergencies when other channels are compromised.

