



CEO Report

About OES

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 (OA). The Mendocino County OA includes the county and its cities, towns, and special districts, in coordination with tribes.

2024 Training and Exercises

The OES maintains a strict training and exercise regimen both for OES direct staff and for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff activated in the event of an emergency. The OES also lead and participates in several exercises per year, including internal exercises, regional exercises and state-wide exercises.

In 2024 the OES staff completed nearly 30 trainings in topics such as Management, Finance, Emergency Management Mutual Aid, Resource Requests, Evacuation Mapping, Alert and Warning System, Standardized Emergency Management System, Exercise and Evaluation, Command Staff, Violent Extremism Prevention, Interagency Recovery, Inclusive Evacuation and Transportation, Inclusive Sheltering and Operations, Planning for Rural and Underserved Populations, Debris Management, Community Disaster Recovery, and Access and Functional Needs.

OES staff have conducted trainings for the Administration, Logistics, Planning, and Finance Sections EOC staff. The OES is in process of scheduling an Operations Section training in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office.

OES hosted, participated in and/or coordinated several exercises in 2024.

- The Great Shakeout
- Tsunami Communications Test
- Tsunami State Playbook Exercise
- Regional HAM Radio Communications Exercise
- Catastrophic Incident Base Plan Workshop



- PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff Exercise
- REHIT – Hazardous Waste Exercise
- National Weather Service Heat Risk Index



OES participated in the 2024 Great Shakeout Exercise on October 17. The County's call center was activated for call center staff training.

The HAM Radio Group also conducted their simulated exercise at the EOC.

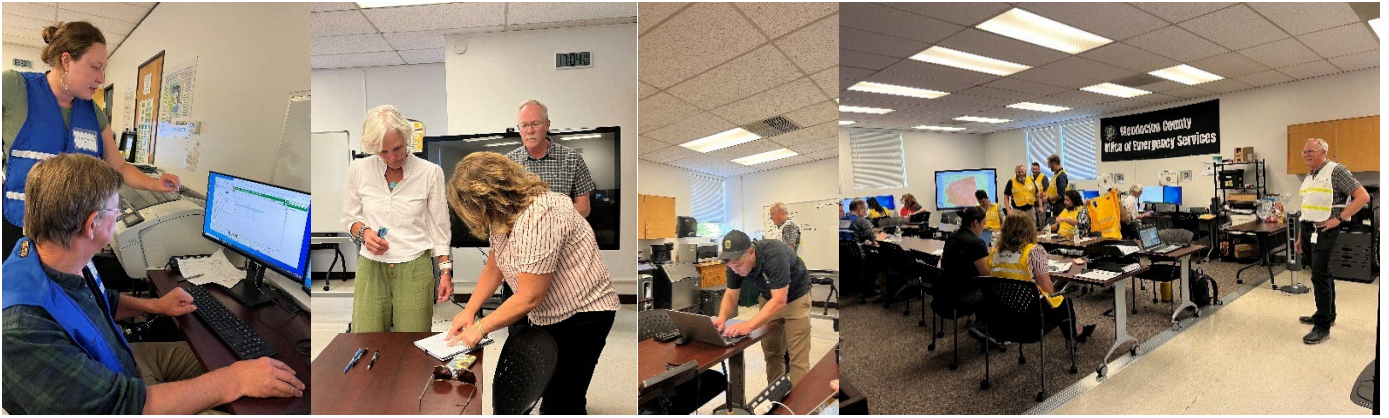


Operational Area Coordination

The OES has put a strong emphasis on increasing coordination between the County and our local and state partners. As usual, OES staff organized and/or hosted pre-fire season and preseason flood coordination meetings at the EOC in 2024. These meetings bring together all the agencies, jurisdictions, and partner organizations within the Mendocino County OA to share updates, preview the upcoming hazards and ensure that all partners are in communication before a disaster or emergency strikes. OES staff also organized multiple OA Coordination Meetings for OA partners throughout the year when inclement weather or increased risk of disaster was identified.

OES staff participated in numerous meetings with OA and State level partners in 2024.

- Five meetings of the County Fire Chiefs Association
- Three meetings of the Emergency Medical Care Committee
- Four meetings of the County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
- CALOES Emergency Managers Director's Summit
- Listos California Summit
- Listos Summer Safety Briefing
- Wildfire Preparedness Meeting – City of Ukiah
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) meetings with local transport providers
- Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management Meeting
- CALFIRE – Howard Forest Facility Tour and Controlled Burn



Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Activations

The OES activated the EOC twice in 2024, in response to the July 25th Grange Fire in Anderson Valley and the 7.0 magnitude earthquake on December 5th near Rio Dell in Humboldt County. EOC staff responded promptly to both activations. The Grange Fire was contained to approximately 80 acres and the December Earthquake resulted in no reported damages in Mendocino County, although a Tsunami warning was issued by the National Weather Service.

Preparedness Outreach

The OES has worked to increase community preparedness outreach across Mendocino County throughout 2024. OES staff conducted public outreach at the Redwood Empire Fair, the Ready Together Preparedness Fair in Ukiah, the Laytonville Resource Fair, the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show, the Brooktrails Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, the Ukiah Pumpkin Fest's Fire & Safety Expo, and the Round Valley Blackberry Festival.

The OES hosted the 2024 Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting on October 16, 2024. Attendees included key emergency responders with primary responsibility for flood emergency response and coordination. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) lead the discussion on resource needs, status of prepositioning flood fight materials and flood fight methods, and other concerns relating to the upcoming flood season.



Emergency Planning

OES staff have worked diligently to update County emergency plans to ensure that the County is resilient, prepared, and in compliance with state and federal requirements. As part of that process,

OES staff have led ongoing efforts to complete an update of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), the Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP), the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and the creation of a County flood plan, funded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

- The EOP is currently being reviewed by Cal OES before going before the County Board of Supervisors for final adoption.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released for the MJHMP in 2024, and several rounds of interviews were held with potential contractors who will assist in preparing the updated plan.
- The CWPP has gone out for public comment and our contractor will soon present the draft to OES.
- The County applied for and was awarded a \$289,000 DWR flood grant. Once that funding is received, the RFP process will begin, after which work on crafting the plan will begin.



In addition to updating County plans, the OES has worked with several OA partners to review plans/procedures/operations for their jurisdictions/organizations.

- City of Fort Bragg EOP
- City of Willits EOP
- Emergency Action Plan – Potter Valley Dam Project
- Evaluator – Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Battalion Chief Assessment Center
- Grant Review Panel – Community Foundation of Mendocino County: Community Response, Resilience and Preparedness
- Evaluator – Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA)
- Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Strategic Plan

2024 Major Project Accomplishments

The OES continued implementation of capacity and capability upgrades to the EOC throughout 2024. An Emergency Call Center and a dedicated space with necessary equipment installation for the Mendocino Auxiliary Communications volunteers are now co-located at the EOC facility. OES staff completed the transition to the Genasys mapping system for evacuations, which can be found

at MendoReady.org. The OES has adopted the ARC GIS Online and Survey 123 programs to align operations more closely with State and Federal partners when responding to disasters and emergencies of a larger scale. OES staff were also part of beta testing the new CAL EOC 360 platform that is being rolled out by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CALOES).

