



Office of Emergency Services
CEO Report June 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.

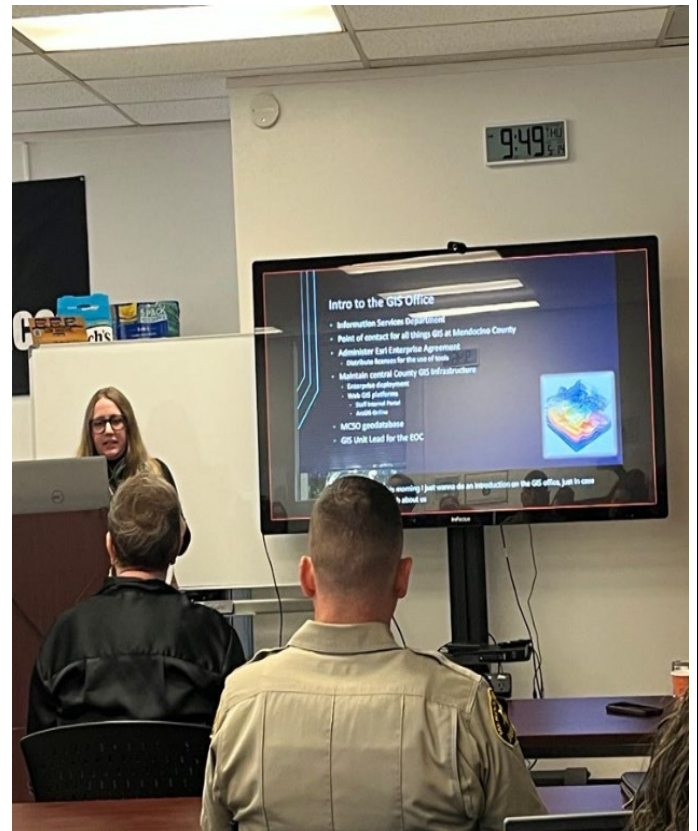
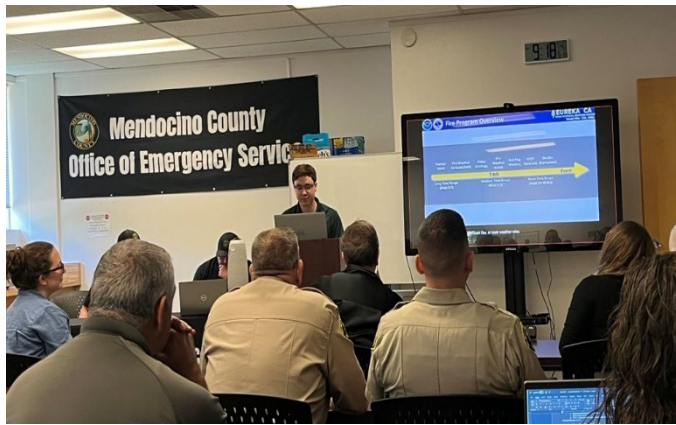
In the last month, OES focused on strengthening coordination through collaborative planning and regional information sharing. These efforts directly support Mendocino County's strategic goal of building a prepared and resilient county by improving readiness for wildfire, enhancing response capabilities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

Key Activities and Coordination Efforts

Pre-Fire Season Coordination Meeting

The Office of Emergency Services hosted its annual Pre-Fire Season Coordination Meeting. The meeting consisted of a seasonal weather outlook, update on current conditions, a geographical information services presentation, and status updates from operational area partners. This meeting offered a collaborative forum to address concerns and bridge operational gaps before an incident occurs ensuring all response agencies are fully aligned to better serve the community during a disaster. This yearly meeting provides a forum for information exchange and leads to better preparedness throughout the county.

A presentation by Mendocino County GIS Coordinator, Tarah Rhine, highlighted how GIS tools are used to create maps, enhance situational awareness, share public information, and collect field data. As the County continues to expand its GIS capabilities, these tools will be further integrated into Emergency Operations Center operations to support emergency response and decision-making.



Outreach Events

County OES hosted informational booths at the Laytonville Resource Fair and the Cahto Tribe Earth Day Celebration. Staff provided emergency preparedness materials, assisted residents with enrolling in local emergency alert systems, and helped individuals identify their designated evacuation zones. County OES values the invitation to participate in the Cahto Tribe Earth Day Celebration and appreciates the opportunity to strengthen collaboration with Tribal leadership and community members in advancing shared emergency preparedness goals.

These face-to-face outreach efforts directly support the County's strategic goals of a Prepared and Resilient County and a Safe and Healthy County by ensuring equitable access to life-safety information and preparedness tools. In-person engagement is especially critical for reaching vulnerable populations, rural communities, and residents with limited internet access, helping to ensure that all residents are better informed and prepared before emergencies occur.



Joint Evacuation Training

On Monday, May 18, Office of Emergency Services (OES) staff participated in a regional evacuation planning and coordination meeting organized and led by the CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit. The training focused on evacuation planning for the Brooktrails area of Willits and the East Hills area of Ukiah during major wildland fires and other emergencies.

The meeting included discussion and coordination related to evacuation procedures, emergency access routes, interagency communication, and incident management considerations. Participating agencies also engaged in collaborative planning efforts to improve regional preparedness and strengthen coordination during emergency incidents. These ongoing coordination efforts help enhance the County's emergency readiness and advance the County's strategic goals of maintaining a prepared and resilient county, as well as a safe and healthy county.