

Office of Emergency Services
CEO Report November 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, and special districts. OES also 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

The Great Shakeout California

On October 15, Mendocino County Auxiliary Communication Services (MACS) participated in the Great California ShakeOut by hosting an amateur (HAM) radio communications exercise. HAM radio volunteers checked in through the countywide system to report simulated earthquake conditions from across the county and test various radio communication methods.

El Nino Statewide Briefing

OES staff attended a statewide El Niño briefing. The briefing provided a seasonal weather outlook and an update on what state resources are available to counties for this winter season.

Flood Plan Planning Meeting #3

The core team for the Mendocino County Flood Response Plan met for Planning Meeting # 3. Topics of this meeting focused on evacuation planning, identifying flood fight resources, and access and functional needs support. Planning Meeting #4 is scheduled for early 2027.

Pre-Winter Weather Coordination Meeting

On October 15th, OES hosted a Pre-Season Winter Weather Coordination meeting. The meeting brought together more than 80 attendees including Operational Area partners from cities, county departments, local fire departments, volunteer organizations, state, federal, and tribal agencies. Key topics of the meeting included a seasonal weather outlook by National Weather Service, critical agency updates, and presentations from PG&E and swiftwater rescue teams outlining their roles and capabilities during winter weather events.





California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

OES met with CDFW staff to discuss locations vulnerable to flooding and options to address those vulnerabilities. Permitting, engineering, and funding assistance options were explored.

Hopland Municipal Advisory Committee Meeting (MAC)

OES staff attended the Hopland MAC meeting on October 21st. Community members discussed their concerns about Feliz Creek and potential flooding this coming rainy season. Potential grant funding opportunities were discussed.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

OES held a meeting with NRCS and Cal OES to discuss the County's potential role as sponsor for prospective NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program assistance and to review eligibility considerations for Feliz Creek based on recent hazard impacts. Although NRCS programs may not be a viable fit at this time, we will continue working alongside our partners to explore and identify other possible solutions.