



Office of Emergency Services
CEO Report September 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, 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

EOC Activations/ Wildfires – The county Emergency Operations Center was activated for several wildfire responses recently. Evacuation Orders and Warnings were issued for the Coyote Fire, Feliz Fire, Anderson Fire, and Williams Fire. The EOC provides support functions for the incident such as establishing Temporary Evacuation Points and evacuation shelters. The EOC was also activated for an earthquake on June 24, 2026. The magnitude 5.6 quake was centered in the Pine Mountain area, south of Willits and approximately 11 miles north of Redwood Valley.



MJHMP – The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan went to the Board of Supervisors for approval on September 1, 2026.

PG&E Dam Tour/Exercise – OES was among the invitees to a tour of the Potter Valley–Van Arsdale Dam facility. This was followed by an exercise of our responsibilities during a simulated failure of the dam.





MACS Swear-in – The Mendocino County Auxiliary Communications Service is a group of volunteer amateur (ham) radio operators who step up during emergencies to provide alternate communications when traditional methods are overwhelmed or unavailable. A recent swearing-in ceremony included new members and long-time volunteers who all took the oath to serve the county.



RAPT Tool Webinar – OES learned about the updates to the FEMA Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool. RAPT provides emergency managers with easy access to over 100 preloaded GIS data layers including population, infrastructure, and hazards. This tool assists state and local agencies in assessing disaster impacts and navigating potential resilience challenges.

Ready Together Community Preparedness Seminar- OES has attended two planning meetings, with the City of Ukiah and other local partners, for a March community planning seminar. The goal is to further collaboration between local emergency management agencies and responders.

Criminal/Epidemiological Training and Exercise- OES staff attended training and exercise during August in Lakeport, for bioterrorism incidents. The training was provided by the FBI's regional Weapons of Mass Destruction and Bioterrorism coordinator.

Wildfire Collaborative Planning Review- The U.S. Government Accountability Office conducted a field visit to Ukiah to learn how Community Wildfire Defense Grant-funded projects are progressing. They were interested in actions taken thus far and additional actions that agencies could take to further reduce wildfire risk. These grant funds are intended to develop and implement projects identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). As the agency responsible for the Mendocino County CWPP, OES provided

input in conjunction with Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Fuels Crew and the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council.

