2025-2026 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY

KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
DISASTER READINESS

Preparedness is On You

Release Date
January 27, 2026

KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
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DISASTER READINESS

Preparedness is On You

Emergency Preparedness 3-day Backpack, OSHA approved.
(Go Bag with contents such as food and first aid materials displayed)
Photo from IndustrialSafety.com

SUMMARY:

The primary questions were: Does Kern County (County) and all 11 of its incorporated cities recognize and respond to disabled, non-ambulatory, and elderly residents in emergencies? Can the County notify those residents in a timely and effective way and provide transport in the event of evacuation? The 2025-2026 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) examined how the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is implemented and how all areas of the County respond and coordinate with this plan. Particular emphasis is on aid or evacuation assistance for disabled and elderly residents. The EOP is developed in response to local needs and to comply with mandated Federal Emergency Management and California State Emergency Management laws. This all-hazards document provides for the integration and coordination of planning efforts by the County with those of its cities, special districts, and regional State agencies.

The total County population is 907,958, per *World Population Review, 2025*. There are more than 147,000 residents 60 years of age or older, comprising 16% of the total population. According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), nearly 95% of adults aged 60 and older have at least one chronic condition; nearly 80% have two or more. Health concerns lead to increased need for assistance from local government and non-governmental organizations to meet these chronic needs. There are 47,000 older adults reporting they have one or more disabilities. This fast growing segment of the population includes almost 11,000 over the age of 85. (Area Plan 2024-2028, Message to the Community, Aging and Adult Services)

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

California Penal Code §925, authorizes the Grand Jury to conduct inquiries and investigations into the operations, accounts, and records of County departments. This report is a review of city and county disaster readiness, particularly in relation to elderly or disabled residents.

Under Federal and California State law, all counties and incorporated cities are required to plan for emergency response to disasters. This must include specific plans to address the needs of disabled and/or elderly residents. Some of the primary laws are:

- Stafford Act, November 1988
- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
- Title II of the Federal Americans with Disability Act, rev. 2016
- California Emergency Services Act, CESA, Sept. 1970
- California State Government Code §8589.6

The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is charged with coordinating with county, cities, special districts and regional response to large-area emergencies. The OES is critically important and is factored heavily in this report.

METHODOLOGY:

During this investigation internet research was conducted. Interviews and a tour were performed at OES. Further onsite interviews were conducted with representatives of the cities of Bakersfield and Shafter along with the Kern County Aging and Adult Services. Then phone interviews were conducted with representatives of the remaining nine incorporated cities. Interviews were held with the Kern County Fire Department, and a safety representative of the Department of Human Services.

DISCUSSION OF FACTS:

Kern County has significant geological elevation changes, several active earthquake faults, one major river system, and an ancient series of dry lakebeds. Seasonal droughts lead to large, difficult-to-control fires in remote regions. The County's economic bases of large-scale agricultural and oil production, along with heavy truck and rail transport, creates multiple potential ignition points for disasters.

The County is well prepared for large area disasters and emergencies. There have been extensive experiences with fire disasters in the Lake Isabella area, such as the 2016 Erskine fire, the 2024 Borel fire, and a 2024 chemical spill near Shafter.

In September of 2016, the County completed renovation of a dedicated, state-of-the-art Office of Emergency Services (OES) building. The building is self-contained with necessary systems and backups. There are administrative offices and a large conference room holding 51 seated positions, each with a computer, monitor, and phone (Addendum A). During emergencies, personnel from

emergency support services collaborate to provide real-time support to the Incident Commander. This includes specialists from fire, rescue, law enforcement, coroner, and technical support, along with damage assessments, city and support agency liaisons, and public information officers.

Their placement together in a single, large room allows staff responding to a disaster to have easy face-to-face, frequent communication which is critical for rapid, efficient response. The facility can become fully operational within hours of the initial call-out, and once it is operational, staff remain onsite or immediately available. The OES Manager is the lead administrator; however, this person is heavily reliant upon the specialists and on-scene first responders in decision-making. There are periodic practice events, termed "tabletops," where emergency specialists work out response scenarios to create efficient procedures. The OES Manager retired in September 2025 and has yet to be replaced.

The City of Bakersfield is the only city in the County that relies upon its own fire department as the initial first responder to disasters. The Cities of Shafter and Arvin use their own police departments for initial disaster responses. All other incorporated cities have contractual agreements and rely upon the Kern County Fire Department (KCFD). First responders, police or fire, make on-site assessments of potential emergencies. Once an on-scene responder has determined a need for greater services, they forward a request to their Incident Commander, who may decide an emergency declaration is needed. For all 11 cities in the County, the City Manager, in conjunction with first responders, may request activation of the County OES. Upon activation, appropriate agencies, and personnel from all over the County, which may include State and Federal resources, are pulled in to respond and coordinate with the Incident Commander and on-scene first responders. (Addendum B)

California State Government Code §8589.6, also established voluntary guidelines for "local government agencies and community-based organizations to develop a disaster registry program." The County implemented a registry titled ReadyKern, a dedicated emergency alert notification program used to notify residents of disasters or evacuations. To allow efficient disaster management, the County uses software called Genasys Protect®, which, in addition to allowing real-time control of disaster responses, coordinates with ReadyKern in providing warning notices to residents. Also, the Kern County Sheriff's Office is developing a real-time resident geolocator application, allowing deputies to immediately update their commanders.

With an emergency declaration, two of the County social service agencies are activated: The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Kern County Aging and Adult Services (AAS). The DHS staff are activated to open and coordinate relief centers. The AAS makes efforts to identify and contact people who are listed in their system in need of extra support, such as medical or transportation help. With activation, the OES can dispatch transport assistance within 20 minutes after receiving a request. The AAS also works on pre-planning with their clients, including pre-disaster planning brochures, outreach to Kern communities, and works with In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). This gives more outreach to elderly and disabled people.

FINDINGS:

F1. Not all Kern County cities have current disaster plans, leading to an inability to coordinate with the OES.

F2. The County does not have a permanent Manager for the critical Office of Emergency Services. This position relies upon interpersonal communication for the efficient response to emergencies and has been left vacant for months.

F3. The OES has a state-of-the-art facility, and there is no apparent need for further upgrades at this time.

F4. The OES uses tabletop practices for disaster response but does not practice real-time field exercises.

F5. ReadyKern notification and Genasys Protect systems do not have the ability for registrants to note disabilities or the need for special transport when registering. This could lead to delays in evacuation. (Addendums C and D)

F6. There are not sufficient coordinated efforts by the County and cities to inform residents about the need to prepare for a disaster; thus, many residents are unaware of the need to have disaster plans.

F7. The OES has 10 emergency trailers: Three are Americans with Disability Act (ADA) equipped, one is a specialized ADA shower trailer. The remaining six are shelter supply trailers. This appears to be sufficient to meet the current disaster needs of the County. (Addendum E)

F8. The Kern County Sheriff's Office is implementing a new software program that allows deputies to use drop-down menus on cell phones to geolocate all residences and notify their command centers that contact has or has not been made. This system does not coordinate with Genasys or the OES.

F9. The County Emergency Operations Plan is specific in stating, "All Kern County residents share responsibility for minimizing the impacts of disasters on the community…." Therefore, the expectations are that residents should be responsible for their own welfare.

F10. County residents have been asked to have Go Bags ready should they need to evacuate. Currently, it is estimated that less than 10% of residents have a Go Bag prepared.

F11. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has historically been a major funder and driver of disaster preparedness. It is unknown how federal administration policies will affect FEMA's programs and their impact on OES.

F12. The County has plans for the notification, transport to, and placement in shelters for the elderly, handicapped, and disabled residents. The County does not have a reliable program for residents to pre-notify the OES of special needs in the event of a disaster.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The 2025-2026 Kern County Grand Jury recommends:

R1. By June 1, 2026, all incorporated cities in the County should have current Emergency Plans in place. The plans must be reviewed every 4 years. The plans should be coordinated with other local and regional authorities. (Finding F1)

R2. A field exercise incorporating the OES, along with local city resources, should be held at a minimum once every four years, allowing bottom-up input from on-the-ground responders. The first such exercise should occur not later than December 1, 2026. (Finding F4)

R3. The OES Manager is a critical position for the safety of residents. This position should never be left vacant and needs priority hiring. The process requires urgent attention and should be fully completed no later than April 1, 2026. (Finding F2)

R4. By June 1, 2026, a resident-friendly registration system should be implemented to prevent confusion and allow consistent, reliable communication of emergency notices to the public. (Findings F5, F6)

R5. By June 1, 2026, the Department of Aging and Adult Services should provide basic disaster response training to all In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) staff. The IHSS should be encouraged to inform their clients about disaster preparation. (Findings F6, F9, F10)

R6. The KCSO's new geo-location software should be fully implemented and automatically update the OES command in real time. This should be completed by November 1, 2026. (Finding F8).

R7. Elderly and disabled residents should be assisted with preparing Go Bags by County or City volunteers. The Department of Aging and Adult Services should implement this by June 1, 2026. (Finding F6, F10)

R8. The ReadyKern form should include an option for residents to note they need assistance in emergencies. This should be implemented by April 1, 2026. (Finding F5)

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury would like to thank the City and County staff who took time to answer many questions. They provided valuable insight into the management of disasters, particularly in responding to the needs of the disabled, non-ambulatory, and elderly. The staff were professional and courteous at all times, and have been directly responsible for protecting and, in some instances, saving residents' lives in times of emergency.

NOTES:

- The Kern County Board of Supervisors should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: https://www.kerncounty.com/grandjury

- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website https://www.kerncounty.com/grandjury

RESPONSE DEADLINE:

- **REQUESTED WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM:** The Kern County Board of Supervisors. Findings F1 - F12, Recommendations R1 - R8.

- **REQUESTED WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM**: Kern County Fire Department. Findings F1 - F7, and F9 - F12, Recommendations R1 - R4, and R8.

- **REQUESTED WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM**: Kern County Department of Aging and Adult Services. Findings F5, F6, F10, F11, and F12. Recommendations R4, R5, R7, and R8.

RESPONSES ARE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO PENAL CODE §§933(c) AND 933.05:

- **PRESIDING JUDGE**
  SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
  COUNTY OF KERN
  1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212
  BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

- **FOREMAN**
  KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
  1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
  BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Cal. Penal Code §929, requires that reports of the Grand Jury do not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.

ADDENDUM A

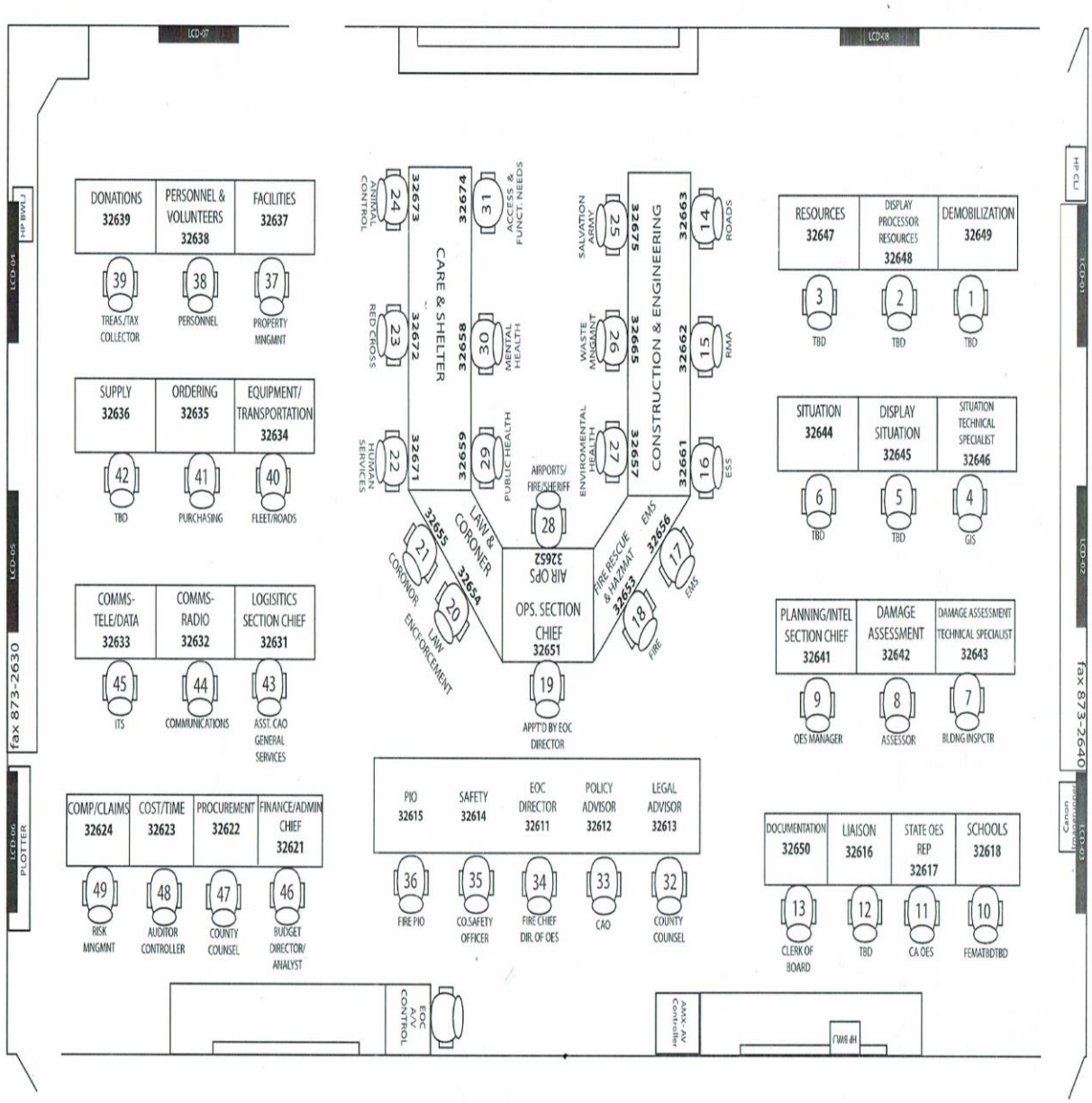

Image from the Kern County Fire Department

ADDENDUM B

Picture of OES EOC showing layout of desks
including computers and identifying vests,
located at each station

ADDENDUM C

Evacuation Transportation Assistance During Disaster Response

1. When the Incident Commander issues an Evacuation Order or Evacuation Warning, Kern OES will activate the county's emergency telephone notification system [ReadyKern] to disseminate the warning information to the residents in the threatened geography who have registered to receive alerts. [approximately 10 minutes]

2. The ReadyKern message will include instructions for residents to call 855-264-6565, which is the Aging & Adult Services Elder Abuse Hotline and is staffed 24/7/365. Aging & Adult Services department staff speak with the constituent to fully understand the scope of need and complete an intake form, which is sent to the Kern EOC to an email account accessible by all Kern OES staff to ensure messages are not missed due to breaks/absences: evactransportation@kerncountyfire.org.

3. Upon receipt, Kern OES staff will make direct contact with the constituent to confirm their desire to evacuate and, if so, to confirm that transportation will be deployed to their location. [immediately, approximately 2 minutes]

4. Kern OES staff contacts the transportation provider, which at most events is handled by Kern Regional Transit, a unit of the Ken Public Works Dept. [immediately, approximately 2 minutes]

5. Kern Regional Transit then deploys the driver and van/bus to the constituent, who is often assisted into the vehicle by the driver, and transported to the mass care shelter. Residents are allowed to bring their pets to the shelter; animal sheltering is always conducted in close proximity to human sheltering operations and is supported by the Kern County Animal Services Dept. Service Animals are always allowed in the vehicle and inside the shelter.

ADDENDUM D

READYKERN REGISTRATION FORM

KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
ATTENTION: READYKERN PROGRAM
2601 PANORAMA DRIVE, BUILDING B
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

Please complete this form and return by mail to the Kern County Fire Department at the address provided above. (Fields in ***bold** are required.)

To register online, visit www.ReadyKern.com.

REGISTER A RESIDENCE

***First Name:**_____ ***Last Name:**_____
***Address:**_____
***City:**_____ ***State:**_____ ***ZIP Code:**_____
***Primary Phone #:**_____ Secondary Phone #:_____
Primary Mobile Phone #:_____ Secondary Mobile Phone #:_____
Primary E-mail Address:_____ Secondary E-mail Address:_____
TDD/TTY Device #[1]:_____

AND/OR

REGISTER A BUSINESS

***Business Name:**_____
***Contact First Name:**_____ ***Last Name:**_____
***Address:**_____
***City:**_____ ***State:**_____ ***ZIP Code:**_____
***Primary Phone #:**_____ Secondary Phone #:_____
Primary Mobile Phone #:_____ Secondary Mobile Phone #:_____
Primary E-mail Address:_____ Secondary E-mail Address:_____
TDD/TTY Device #[1]:_____

[1] **T**elecommunication **D**evice for the **D**eaf/**T**ele**ty**pewriter

Registration Form, 2017

ReadyKern Application Form
Image from ReadyKern Website

Genasys

KERN COUNTY, CA – Emergencies can happen at any time, including wildfires, earthquakes, and floods. In the wake of disasters, it is repeatedly seen that every minute counts. To help our residents be better prepared for emergencies, the Kern County Fire Department and Kern County Office of Emergency Services have partnered with Genasys to divide the county into pre-established evacuation zones. This new Genasys Protect evacuation management and communication tool has been a project nearly two years in the making and is now live! We are excited to see the benefits it will bring to our community by reducing the time needed to give evacuation notifications.

- Go to protect.genasys.com to find your zone.
- Once you find your zone name, write it down and post it somewhere that is easy to find. Knowing your zone name will help you quickly identify if the status of your zone is changed due to an emergency.
- Authorities will use Zone names in emergency alerts to notify residents of which areas are affected. Sign up to receive emergency alerts at readykern.com.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Genasys evacuation management tool, also known as Genasys Protect?

Genasys Protect is a platform utilized to allow communities and first responders to more effectively plan, communicate, and execute evacuations. The platform will be used countywide, including the County and all cities.

What is the Genasys Protect Community Site?

The Genasys Protect Community Site (protect.genasys.com) is a web-based platform for our community to find their evacuation zones and view emergency information. Residents can look up their address using the search bar.

Residents can also download the Genasys Protect App for iOS and Android, which will provide evacuation information to their mobile devices, including notifications if they choose to allow them. https://protect.genasys.com/download

The App allows individuals who live, follow, or are visiting zones to receive evacuation messaging as a critical alert (alarms when phones are in silent mode).

Do I still need to sign up for ReadyKern to receive emergency notifications?

Yes, residents in Kern County should sign up to receive emergency notifications via ReadyKern. Zone names will be used in ReadyKern notifications, so it is important to #KnowYourZone. Genasys Protect doesn't replace ReadyKern. It enhances its effectiveness.

Sign up to receive emergency notifications, readykern.com

Why do we need evacuation zones?

Pre-established evacuation zones help first responders and emergency service agencies prepare before an emergency strikes and help streamline the evacuation process, reducing confusion and allowing residents to evacuate quickly. It also ensures that first responders and community members are on the same page with the same information.

How do I Find My Zone?

Visit protect.genasys.com and type in your address in the search bar. Write the zone name down, memorize it, and post it in a high-traffic location, like on your refrigerator.

Where does the information in Genasys Protect come from, and who keeps it updated?

The Kern County Fire Department worked directly with Genasys to add and approve all information for the zones. Emergency response personnel update the status and information during emergencies.

Information provided by Genasys website

ADDENDUM E

Exhibit 3 — AFN Shelter Equipment List (per Trailer)		
Equipment Item	Notes	
BEDDING		
ADA Cots w/rolling rack		8
Pool Noodles (18 per pk)	Protective barrier for ADA cots	1
portable playpen/bassinet		1
MOBILITY SUPPORT		
Manual Hoyer Lift w/ Lg sling	Transfer support	1
Hoyer lift Sling (various sizes)		4
1 8" Wheelchair with footrest		1
Walker with folding seat		1
Adjustable cane		1
Folding Blind Cane with wrist strap		1
Transfer Board		1
Privacy curtains and curtain stand		3
Wheelchair seat cushion 16x16x3		2
Grabbers		2
Gravel Mats		2
Threshold ramps		1
6' portable ramp		1
Folding bedside commode		1
Plastic portable urinal		5
MEDICATION STORAGE		
Refrigerator with lock		1
HYGIENE:		
infant Diapers-Size 1 (case)		1
Infant Diapers-Size 2 (case)		1
Infant Diapers-Size 3 (case)		1
Infant Diapers-Size 4 (case)		1
Infant Diapers-Size 5 (case)		1
Infant Diapers-Size Newborn (case)		1

Infant Diaper Wipes (case)		1
Chux: bed pads 23x36 (150 count/box)		1
Pull up briefs, various sizes (case)		3
Wipes Adult 1 case/12 pk		1
Barrier Cream fragrance free loz 48 tubes/case		1
Shower Bench		1
Shower wheelchair		1
Portable shower grab bars		2
Portable shower caddy for toiletry supplies		4

Exhibit 3 — AFN Shelter Equipment List (per Trailer)		
Extendable shower head		2
Long handled bath sponge		10
6 Quart wash basin		5
Shower mats I f9"x1 '9"		2
Cavicide 240z spray		2
FEEDING		
Disposable bibs- child (10/pack)		2
Disposable infant spoons (8/pack)		1
Bottles (12 per pk)		1
disposable sippy cups (6 per pk)		2
Bibs - Adult (300 count/case)		1
Handle foam grips 3/8 inch (6 per pk)		1
Drinking straws (100 count/box)		1
Mini Food processor	Softened dietary needs	1
COMMUNICATIONS		
Rubbermaid Audio Guard	Audio safety alert	1
Rubbermaid Safety cone		1
Communication board		2
UbiDuo 2 Wireless/ Carry Bag/ Power cord		1

Exhibit 3 — AFN Shelter Equipment List (per Trailer)		
Pet potty pads (35.5 x 23.5 in) 50ct		1
animal waste bags 50rolls		1
Laptop computer & Printer(for remote ASL/nonEnglish)	Remote ASL/language services	2
VISUAL SUPPORT		
Magnifiers. 2"x4[1t]		4
Magnifiers 5 x 7		4
Scrolling LED sign		1
SENSORY SUPPORT		
disposable earplugs - corded (200ct/box) & uncorded (100 ct/box)		2
Over the ear Headphones		2
POWER		
Charger for GEL battery		1
Charger for AGM battery		1
Extension Cords		1
SERVICE ANIMALS		
Blankets - bedding for service animals 10yd per k		1
Flea collar (6 count/box)		2
Indoor pet relieving station		1

Notes:

1. UbiDuo and computer laptops/printers are NOT stored in the trailer due to potential damage. Equipment is staged with Kern DHS Sheltering staff for deployment.
2. Contact Animal Services for food and water bowels (sic) for Service Animals

Forms provided by the Department of Human Services

APPENDICES

Appendix A

State of California Planning Best Practices For County Emergency Plans
(First Ed. November 2021)
www.caloes.ca.gov

Background

On September 29, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB-2968 – County Emergency Plans: Best Practices (Rodriguez) into California law. This amendment to California Government Code section 8593.9 requires Cal OES to develop best practices for counties developing and updating a county emergency plan, by January 1, 2022. This document aims to meet the requirements of that law.

The Emergency Plan Definition

An emergency plan is a document that defines the scope of preparedness and emergency management activities necessary for that jurisdiction to effectively respond to a large-scale incident or disaster. The government at each jurisdiction is responsible for ensuring that necessary and appropriate actions are taken to protect people, property, and the environment from the consequences of emergencies and disasters. An emergency plan formalizes how resources are to be used in diverse scenarios, and which courses of action should be taken so that the community has a plan for several types of response operations.

Legal Requirements for an Emergency Plan

Government Code section 8610 of the Emergency Services Act (ESA) permits cities and counties to form Local Disaster Councils (LDCs). If established, these councils are required to approve the development of emergency plans and send a copy of these plans to the State Office of Emergency Services.

Pursuant to Government Code section 8593.9, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) is required to review ten (10) county emergency plans each year and confirm:

1. Whether the plan is consistent with CalOES' proposed best practices.
2. Whether the plan protects and accommodates vulnerable populations during
3. natural disasters.
4. Whether the plan has established procedures for alerting, evacuating, and sheltering individuals during an emergency.
5. Any other necessary and appropriate element, as determined by CalOES

An emergency plan is the base plan for the response operations that occur in a county. Emergency plans describing response operations may also be called:

- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
- Facility Emergency Response Plan • General Plan – Safety Element
- County Emergency Management Plan (EMP) Assembly Bill 2311 (Brown, Chapter 520, 2016), which added California Government Code section 8593.3, requires each county and city to integrate access and functional needs upon the next update to its emergency response plan.

Assembly Bill 477 (Cervantes, Chapter 218, 2019), further amends California Government Code section 8593.3, requiring each county and city to include representatives from access and functional needs populations in the next regular update to its emergency plan. Specifically, jurisdictions must include internal and external stakeholders throughout each phase of the emergency planning process in:

- Emergency communications
- Emergency evacuations
- Emergency sheltering

Appendix B
Kern County Basic Emergency Plan
Introduction

THE KERN COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN ESTABLISHES AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNS FUNCTIONS AND TASKS CONSISTENT WITH CALIFORNIA'S STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SEMS) AND THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS).

THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY IS AN INHERENT RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. SINCE DISASTERS IN MANY DEVASTATING FORMS MAY STRIKE AT ANY TIME, THE COUNTY OF KERN ENDEAVORS TO SAVE LIVES AND MINIMIZE PROPERTY DAMAGE THROUGH PRIOR PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS MEASURES, AND TRAINING. SOUND EMERGENCY PLANS CARRIED OUT BY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WELL-TRAINED PERSONNEL CAN AND WILL MINIMIZE LOSSES FROM ANY DISASTERS THAT MAY OCCUR.

AS DEFINED BY SEMS, AN OPERATIONAL AREA IS DEFINED AS AN INTERMEDIATE LEVEL OF THE STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION, CONSISTING OF A COUNTY AND ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY BOUNDARY. THE COUNTY OF KERN IS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THE KERN OPERATIONAL AREA AND IS TASKED TO COORDINATE EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE COUNTY, CITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND TO SERVE AS A COMMUNICATIONS LINK FOCUSING ON THE COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND DISSEMINATION OF VITAL DISASTER INFORMATION.

THE PLAN PROVIDES FOR THE INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION OF PLANNING EFFORTS OF THE COUNTY/OPERATIONAL AREA WITH THOSE OF ITS CITIES, SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND THE STATE. THE CONTENT IS BASED ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY THE CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. THE INTENT OF THE PLAN IS TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND SHORT-TERM RECOVERY BY PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSE TO ALL SIGNIFICANT EMERGENCIES, REGARDLESS OF THE NATURE OF THE EVENT.

THE PLAN IS COMPRISED OF FOUR MAJOR PARTS AS FOLLOWS:

- BASIC PLAN – OVERVIEW OF COUNTY/OPERATIONAL AREA'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION, AND CONCEPT OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
- GENERAL PROCEDURES – EMERGENCY PROCEDURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY EMPLOYEES AT THE TIME OF A MAJOR EMERGENCY OR DISASTER
- EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) PROCEDURES & ANNEXES – EOC PROCEDURES, ANNEX AND CHECKLISTS FOR EACH MAJOR EOC FUNCTION, AND RESOURCE AND CONTACT LISTS. (THIS SECTION WILL BE UPDATED IN 2009 TO BETTER SUPPORT THE NEWLY OPENED KERN COUNTY EOC)
- CONTINGENCY PLANS – EVENT-SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS (E.G., TERRORISM). THE CONTINGENCY PLANS ARE SEPARATE DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE IMPLEMENTED INDEPENDENT OF THE PLAN AND ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE PLAN BY REFERENCE.

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