



Emergency Management

County Policy Guidelines

Preamble

It is the overarching policy of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to support legislative and regulatory proposals that maximize California counties' ability to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters and public health emergencies, protecting both physical and fiscal health. Such proposals must recognize that the 58 California counties have unique characteristics, differing capacities, and diverse environments. In addition, emergency management and homeland security policies, practices, and funding should be designed to promote innovation at the local level and to permit maximum flexibility, so that services can best target individual community needs, hazards, threats, and capacities.

The following policy statements are to be utilized by CSAC staff as a foundation for lobbying efforts on behalf of counties.

Policy Guidelines

- Support adherence to the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) processes, especially as they relate to the operational area concept.
- Support restructuring of the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Office of Homeland Security (OHS) that results in a clear definition of each agencies' roles and responsibilities and eliminates duplicative and/or conflicting statutory/regulatory requirements. Support affirmation by OES and OHS of the California taxpayers' interest in obtaining and retaining federal funds for support of both emergency services and homeland security.
- Advocate for broad county access to technologies that offer effective and wide-ranging communications capabilities for alerting the public in emergency situations.
- Work to ensure that proposals that impose responsibilities upon counties are accompanied by full and flexible funding.
- Advocate for improved coordination between state and local offices of emergency services and state and local departments with health and safety-related responsibilities (e.g. California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Services, and the Emergency Medical Services Authority, and county offices of emergency services, county health agencies and local emergency services agencies).

- Support full and flexible funding for on-going emergency preparedness and all hazard planning.
- Support grant processes, procedures, and guidelines that allow full funding for personnel in order to carry out emergency management and homeland security mandates.
- Support efforts to reform the existing state and federal grant funding structure that result in a streamlined and flexible process for the protection of Californians' physical and fiscal health and wellbeing.
- Support full and flexible funding for on-going emergency preparedness exercises and training, focusing on an all hazards approach, at the state and local level.
- Support full and flexible funding for emergency communication system interoperability between all local government agencies and the State of California.
- Advocate at the federal level for policies and requirements that are practically achievable by local governments.

Adopted by the CSAC Board of Directors on Thursday, March 29, 2007

