

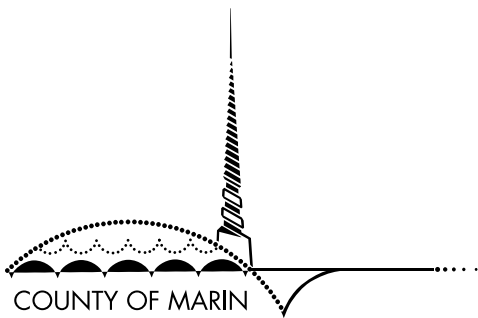


COUNTY OF MARIN

Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan 2026

Public Summary





Developed by the County of Marin Office of Emergency Management



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Emergency Operations Plan**

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■ Protecting the Community Before, During, and After Disasters

Marin County is a place of extraordinary natural beauty, strong neighborhoods, and interconnected communities. It is also a place shaped by powerful natural forces — earthquakes, wildfires, storms, flooding, drought, extreme heat, and coastal change. In addition, modern communities face technological disruptions, public health emergencies, power outages, and other complex threats.

The 2026 Marin County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is the County's official framework for how the County government and supporting agencies prepare for, respond to, and recover from these emergencies. It provides a coordinated structure that unites the County government, cities and towns, special districts, nonprofit organizations, private partners, and state and federal agencies into one integrated system with the ultimate focus being to support all members of the community. This summary helps describe the plan and its importance to the community, and the full plan can be found online via MarinCounty.gov and visiting the Fire Department page or public copies are available at the following locations:

- **County of Marin Fire Station – Office of Emergency Management**
 - 1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 301, San Rafael, CA 94903
- **Marin County Free Library – Civic Center Campus**
 - 4th and B Streets, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
- **Marin County Free Library – Point Reyes**
 - 11431 State Route One, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
- **Marin County Free Library – Corte Madera**
 - 707 Meadowsweet Drive, Corte Madera, CA 94925

This public summary explains how the full plan works, how it affects your daily life, and how it ensures every member of our community is protected with dignity, equity, and care.





■ Partnership and Collaboration

The County's Emergency Operations Plan is classified as an Operational Area plan to demonstrate and implement strong coordination between the County and Cities, Towns, and Special Districts. In addition to the County's Plan, many jurisdictions also have Emergency Operations Plans, and they are collectively referenced within the County's Operational Area Plan to ensure that we can work seamlessly together before, during, and after an incident.

■ What does the plan do?

At its core, the Emergency Operations Plan ensures that when a disaster exceeds routine response, the County of Marin activates a coordinated system designed to:

- Protect life and safety
- Stabilize the incident
- Preserve essential services
- Support displaced individuals and families
- Restore infrastructure and economic stability
- Build long-term resilience

When needed, the County activates its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC does not replace firefighters, law enforcement, or medical responders in the field. Instead, it supports them by coordinating resources, sharing information, prioritizing needs, and ensuring that decisions are made efficiently and lawfully.

The EOC becomes the central hub where public safety, public health, transportation, information and alerts, utilities, human services, and government leadership work together under a unified structure. This coordination ensures that evacuations, sheltering, medical support, debris removal, and public communications are aligned and effective for you!





■ How This Plan Connects to Everyday Life

Disasters affect people in deeply personal ways. The Emergency Operations Plan is designed around real-life questions that residents face:

- Will I receive an emergency alert in time?
- If I must evacuate, where do I go?
- Will shelters accommodate my disability or medical needs?
- Can I bring my service animal?
- Will information be available in my language?
- How will schools, businesses, and government services reopen?
- What help is available during recovery?

This plan ensures these things and more:

- Residents receive timely, accurate emergency notifications through multiple systems, including, AlertMarin, broadcast media, social media, and community outreach networks.
- Evacuations are organized using clearly defined zones and coordinated.
- Transportation assistance is coordinated for those who do not have access to a vehicle or who require mobility support.
- Shelters are safe, accessible, and equipped to meet medical, functional, and cultural needs.
- Public information is delivered in plain language, translated into multiple languages, and made accessible.
- Recovery resources are coordinated through local assistance centers, state and federal programs, and long-term recovery partnerships.

In every phase, the focus remains on protecting people first.





■ **Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Are Built In**

Marin County recognizes that disasters do not affect everyone equally. Older adults, individuals with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, lower-income households, renters, and people experiencing homelessness often face greater barriers during emergencies.

For that reason, equity and accessibility are not separate initiatives within the plan. They are foundational principles guiding all emergency operations.

The County integrated proven frameworks and best practices into sheltering, evacuation, and service delivery planning. This ensures that individuals with access and functional needs receive appropriate support without delay.

Emergency messaging is multilingual and delivered in accessible formats. American Sign Language interpretation and captioning are provided during public briefings. Websites and digital materials are designed to meet accessibility standards. Shelters comply with ADA requirements and support individuals who rely on medical devices, mobility aids, or personal care assistance.

Service animals are always permitted to remain with their handlers, and pet sheltering is coordinated to support the human–animal bond while maintaining safety and compliance with state law.

Disaster Service Workers (County and local government employees) are trained and reassigned during emergencies, where they provide surge staffing for shelters, call centers, logistics, and community outreach, ensuring the County can expand capacity quickly and equitably.

These measures align with California Government Code requirements for accessibility and language access, as well as federal civil rights protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act.



■ **A Whole Community Approach**

The County of Marin – Office of Emergency Management serves as the Operational Area coordinator for multi-jurisdictional emergency coordination. This means the County coordinates response efforts across all jurisdictions within its boundaries while respecting the authority of cities, towns, and special districts.

The system brings together:

- Fire agencies and law enforcement
- Health and Human Services
- Public Works and infrastructure partners
- Water and sanitation districts
- Transit agencies
- School districts
- Volunteer and faith-based organizations
- Business and utility partners
- State and federal agencies

Volunteers and Non-profits support shelters, feeding operations, case management, and long-term recovery assistance. Community-based organizations help ensure culturally competent outreach and service delivery. Private sector partners assist with restoring utilities, supply chains, and local economic activity.

This integrated structure allows Marin County to respond as one coordinated community rather than as isolated agencies.

■ **Legal Authority and Accountability**

The Emergency Operations Plan operates under established state and federal law, including:

- The California Emergency Services Act
- The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)
- The National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- California Government Code §§ 8593.3 and 8593.9 (accessibility requirements)
- California Government Code § 7299.7 (language access compliance)

When a Local Emergency is proclaimed, the County gains the authority necessary to mobilize resources, issue protective measures, and request state or federal assistance. All actions are documented carefully to ensure transparency, fiscal accountability, and eligibility for disaster recovery funding.





■ **Planning for Climate and Future Risk**

Climate change is intensifying hazards that already affect Marin County. Wildfires are more severe. Heat waves last longer. Atmospheric rivers produce heavier rainfall. Sea level rise threatens coastal and bayfront communities.

The Emergency Operations Plan integrates climate considerations across preparedness, response, and recovery. This includes pre-positioning resources during Red Flag conditions, expanding cooling centers during extreme heat events, strengthening flood response planning, and incorporating resilience into rebuilding efforts.

Recovery is not just about restoring what existed before. It is about reducing future risk and building stronger systems.

■ **Recovery with Compassion and Resilience**

Recovery begins as soon as immediate life-safety threats stabilize. The County coordinates debris removal, damage assessments, housing support, and restoration of essential services. When necessary, a Long-Term Recovery Group is established to guide rebuilding, economic stabilization, and community healing over months or years.

Recovery efforts prioritize the most impacted populations and incorporate community input. Behavioral health services, housing assistance, and economic recovery programs are integrated into long-term planning.

The goal is not only to recover, but to emerge stronger and more resilient.

■ **A Living Plan**

This Emergency Operations Plan is not static. It is reviewed annually, updated at least every five years, and revised after major incidents and exercises. Lessons learned are incorporated into training, policy, and future planning.

Marin County remains committed to continuous improvement, transparency, and community engagement.

■ **Our Commitment to the Community**

Emergencies test systems, institutions, and communities. Marin County's Emergency Operations Plan reflects a commitment to respond with strength, act with integrity, communicate transparently, and recover with compassion.

Above all, it reflects a promise – that every community member and visitor, regardless of age, language, ability, income, or background, will be supported before, during, and after disaster.

Together, Marin County is prepared not only to respond, but to protect, restore, and build resilience for generations to come.



