



## *"California's Emergency Plans for Wildfire Season in a COVID-19 Environment"*

Pacific ADA Center  
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## Overview

This presentation will focus on California's plans to navigate the 2020 wildfire season in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic environment. Specifically, today's presentation will address California's efforts regarding:

- Integrated emergency communication;
- Integrated transportation/evacuation; and
- Integrated emergency sheltering operations



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## Perspective

To understand where we are, we need to know where we've been

History: Local jurisdictions, states, and the nation as a whole have not always integrated their emergency plans

Hurricane Katrina: 70% of all who perished had an access or functional need



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## The Office of Access & Functional Needs

Established by the Governor to identify the needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and all Californians with access or functional needs before, during, and after a disaster.

OAFN integrates disability needs and resources throughout every facet of the emergency management process.



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## The COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 disproportionately impacts older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions, many of whom have a disability. The pandemic strains existing resources and complicates how we plan, prepare, respond, and recover from all disasters, such as wildfires.

To do the most for all Californians, we have adapted, updated, revised, and ensured each component of the emergency management system is integrated.



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## Partnership & Planning

No single entity owns the entirety of emergency management. Cal OES partners with whole community partners, state agencies, local jurisdictions, the private sector, and others to ensure an effective, coordinated response to disasters.

State-issued guidance to local jurisdictions emphasizes the importance of, and steps to, use integrated communication, transportation/evacuation, and sheltering operational plans throughout the 2020 wildfire season that encompass pandemic concerns.



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## Emergency Transportation/Evacuation

To meet the emergency transportation/evacuation needs of California's whole community, three key elements must come together at the outset (and throughout) every wildfire:

- **Awareness** (do people know who to call?)
- **Coordination** (are MOUs in place?); and
- **Operational expediency** (are we moving faster?)



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## Sheltering in a COVID-19 Environment

- Operational Area Guidance for Locals
  - Worked with CDPH, EMSA, Red Cross, and Cal OES
  - Guidance distribution plan
  - AFN Considerations



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## Sheltering Continued

- Sheltering Considerations
  - Non-Congregate (Hotels/Motels)
  - Camp Sites
  - Congregate with additional guidance
  
- Sheltering Staff
  - Red Cross
  - VEST/FAST Members
  - CDSS ESCs
  - Volunteers
  - Shelter Training



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## Sheltering Continued

- Feeding Plan
  - Clam Shell
  - No Buffet Style Serving
  
- Effective Communications
  - ASL Services – Video Remote Interpreting
  - Language Translation Services
  - Large Print for Signage



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## Cal OES

Crisis Communications  
Public Information  
Media Relations



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## Cal OES Emergency Communication:

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)  
ASL Interpretation  
Disaster Response Interpreter (DRI) Training  
Accessible Information



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# Be Prepared \* Have a Plan \* Wear a Mask

