



MARS PROJECT UPDATE

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Fire and Rescue Division is pleased to announce a brand new development in our efforts to upgrade the Mutual Aid Reimbursement System (MARS). We are migrating the previous MARS application, first released in July 2019, to a new platform. This platform will allow us to expedite development of an improved MARS application that will:

- Reduce the time it takes for mutual aid responders to be reimbursed
- Provide on-line / electronic submission of all appropriate forms and documents to be utilized by local government fire agencies and paying entities
- Provide online and offline submission capabilities for the F-42 form
- Provide automated report generation and real-time access to reimbursement status
- Improve efficiency and data completeness with automated workflows and business rules
- Increase data accuracy with built-in checks and balances for the accuracy of form submission, reducing the amount of delay caused by inaccurate submissions
- Streamline the reimbursement process and improve transparency in support of the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA)

Our current systems, though functional, are outdated. As the magnitude and duration of all-hazard incidents change, our systems must be easily accessible, expandable and most of all, efficient and accurate. The new MARS will be designed to meet these challenges.

Using an incremental development approach, MARS will be implemented as a streamlined application that can be placed into service promptly. The initial application will contain the features needed to automate our processes and fulfill business objectives, while allowing users to provide feedback that can be incorporated into future enhancements. The incremental development approach allows the project team to design, develop and test a few features at a time. Not only will this provide for faster implementation, but it will allow us to provide insight into the new application throughout development.

We anticipate MARS will be ready for implementation in the 3rd quarter of 2021, with training activities beginning in mid-to-late summer. Cal OES will provide additional details and regular updates as they become available.

Questions? Email MARShelpdesk@caloes.ca.gov or call the Cal OES Fire and Rescue main line at (916) 845-8711.