**Mutual Aid Defined**

Mutual aid is the voluntary sharing of personnel and resources when a department cannot sufficiently deploy its own resources to respond to an unusual occurrence. Resources are then requested by the affected department through a recognized system established by the Master Mutual Aid Agreement and Emergency Services Act. This cooperative system may be executed on a local, countywide, regional, statewide, and interstate basis. The state has been divided into seven mutual aid regions to more effectively apply, administer and coordinate mutual aid. Mutual aid can become mandatory at the option of the Governor. Generally, there is no reimbursement for providing mutual aid.

**Authorities**

The California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System and Plan derives its authority from the CA Emergency Services Act (Govt.Code §8550, §8569, §8615-8619, §8632, §8668) and the Master Mutual Aid Agreement. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC); an interstate mutual aid agreement.

**Mutual Aid Process**

**County (Operational Area)** – If event is beyond the resource capability of Coroner/Medical Examiner’s Office the County Coroner/M.E. then requests mutual aid from Regional Coroner/M.E. Mutual Aid Coordinator.

**Region** – A Coroner/M.E. in the region, who has been designated as the “Regional Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid Coordinator”, fulfills mutual aid request from other Operational Areas and their respective Coroner/M.E. resources.

**State** – If the Coroner/M.E. resources within the impacted region are not sufficient, the M.A. Regional Coordinator requests additional mutual aid assistance from the State Cal OES Coroner/M.E. Mutual Aid Coordinator. Other mutual aid regions may be called upon to assist.

**Channels For Requesting Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid**

- **Cal OES Coroner/M.E. Mutual Aid Coordinator**
- **REGION Coroner/M.E. Mutual Aid Coordinator**
- **DMORT, Federal Resources**
- **COUNTY Coroner/M.E.**

**Mutual Aid Considerations**

- State declaration of emergency not necessary to request and provide Coroner/M.E. mutual aid.
- No jurisdiction is required to unnecessarily deplete their own personnel, equipment, and capabilities in order to provide mutual aid.
- Mutual aid reimbursement costs may be applicable under state and federal disaster declarations. Otherwise, all mutual aid costs are the responsibility of individual agencies participating.
- Cal OES may assign mission numbers to mutual aid events in order to track and coordinate resources and for potential liability or financial purposes.
- Out-of state mutual aid is coordinated through Cal OES and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) unless as already specified in interstate agreements and MOUs.
- Upon consultation with the Coroners Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator and Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch, federal resources, including the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), may be requested at any time during the emergency.
- Adhere to the CA Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

September 2019
Sheriff/Coroner
Tom Bosenko
Shasta County
(530) 245-6054

Coroner
Kimberly Gin
Sacramento County
(916) 874-9320

Sheriff/Coroner
Douglas Binnewies
Mariposa County
(209) 966-3615

Sheriff/Coroner
Greg Ahern
Alameda County
(510) 667-7777

Sheriff/Coroner
Ian Parkinson
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4540

Medical Examiner:
Los Angeles County
(323) 343-0714

Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid Quick Reference Guide  
September 2019

Key Contacts
- Cal OES Warning/Communications Center (916) 845-8911
- CA State Coroners Association (951) 788-2656
- CA DOJ Bureau of Forensic Services, Missing/Unidentified Persons Unit (916) 227-3244
- Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team Region IX Commander (760) 497-6255
- CA Funeral Directors Association (800) 255-2332
- California Dental Identification Team (619) 444-6196
- FBI Disaster Squad (Forensic Analysis Unit)
  - Sacramento Division (916) 481-9110
  - San Francisco Division (415) 553-7400
  - Los Angeles Division (310) 477-6565
  - San Diego Division (858) 565-1255

Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch
OES Law Enforcement Branch peace officers are available 24 hours/day to assist your department with Coroner/M.E. mutual aid planning and coordination.

California Office of Emergency Services
Law Enforcement Branch
3650 Schriever Ave.
Mather, CA 95655
(916) 845-8700
24-hr (916) 845-8911