**2023 California State Emergency Plan Update**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question**: What is the State Emergency Plan?

**Answer**: The California State Emergency Plan (SEP) plays a key role in providing guidance to local jurisdictions and the public on emergency management. It describes the methods for conducting emergency operations, the process for rendering mutual aid, the emergency response capabilities of state governmental agencies, how resources are mobilized, how the public is informed, and the process to ensure continuity of government during an emergency or disaster. The SEP also outlines mitigation programs to reduce vulnerabilities, disaster preparedness activities, identifies known hazards within the state, and discusses coordination and participation of the larger emergency management community.

**Question**: Why is the plan being updated?

**Answer**: The current SEP was published in 2017. The California Emergency Services Act (ESA) requires the SEP be updated on a five-year cycle. Over the last five years, California has experienced no fewer than 80 proclaimed states of emergency including wildfires, flooding, mudslides, earthquakes, severe storms, drought, power shutoffs, and a viral pandemic. Billions of dollars were expended by state and local government in response and recovery efforts. Updating and maintaining the SEP is crucial to the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services’ mission to protect lives, build capabilities, and foster resilient communities.

**Question**: Why should I review and comment on the plan?

**Answer**: Traditional emergency management structures can leave little room for a collaborative community-centered approach to emergency response. With this update, whole community planning is being used to ensure culturally diverse communities are given the opportunity to voice their needs. Your participation in the planning process will help ensure the SEP is more inclusive and responds to the needs of all of California’s culturally diverse communities.

**Question**: What are the changes included in this update?

**Answer**: Cal OES has undertaken a comprehensive update of the SEP. The following list highlights the more important changes to the plan:

* Incorporated whole community planning approach.
* Updated hazards discussion with focus on wildfires, volcanic events, earthquakes, pandemics, sever weather, dam failures, PSPS events, and cyberattacks.
* Added information on Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Stakeholder Preparedness Review.
* Added information on the Fire and Rescue Coordination Center, Air Coordination Group, Medical and Health Coordination Center, and the Logistics Support Team.
* Added information on the Unified Coordination Group.
* Updated the Recovery Operations Section.
* Added a new section on the Recovery Support Functions.
* Updated and refreshed the state agency roles and responsibilities section.
* Added the California Disaster Recovery Framework.

**Question**: Does the updated SEP include guidance on COVID-19?

**Answer**: The SEP discusses the unprecedented impacts that the SARS-CoV-2 virus or COVID-19 had on the state, its population, and its economy and covers information on the hazards that pandemics and epidemics pose to the state. The SEP does not provide specific guidance on COVID-19. For health information and guidance about the coronavirus and measures to protect against it, please visit [COVID19.CA.GOV](https://covid19.ca.gov/) or call the COVID-19 hotline at (833) 422-4255.

**Question**: Will the SEP be available in languages other than English, and may I request a paper copy?

**Answer**: As the official language of California, the SEP is currently available in English only. A Spanish version is being considered. The 2023 SEP Coordinating Draft is available for download from the Cal OES Planning and Preparedness webpage and may be printed at the user’s discretion. Paper copies of the plan will not be distributed by the state.