

# The Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Minute

August 22, 2024

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## Message from the Chief



L. Vance Taylor presenting at a conference

One of the great opportunities I have as chief of the Office of Access and Functional Needs is participating in community events throughout the state. Doing so enables me to promote inclusive emergency management, share important resources, and learn about the wonderful work jurisdictions do to address their communities' unique needs.

Next month, I'll be participating in California's first statewide Government and Disability Summit, which the County of Ventura is hosting. Taking place from **September 24-27**, the Summit aims to strengthen partnerships among government representatives, disability organizations, and corporate supporters to promote the

empowerment and inclusion of individuals with disabilities across California. Attendees will learn from leaders from the local, state, and federal levels, advocates from throughout the state, and individuals with lived experiences with disabilities.

You can [register today](#) to join me at the Summit or visit [www.govdisabilitysummit.org](http://www.govdisabilitysummit.org) to learn more.

If your agency or organization is hosting webinars, workshops, summits, etc. that promote whole community planning and you would like OAFN to attend or participate, please us know by sending a message to [OAFN@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:OAFN@caloes.ca.gov).

Looking forward to supporting your efforts!

Thank you.

-Vance

**L. Vance Taylor**

Chief, Office of Access and Functional Needs  
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

## August Statewide Fire Response

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The California State Operations Center

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The California State Operations Center (SOC) activated to Level 3

earlier this month in response to the high potential for new wildfire starts caused by dry lightning.

To ensure the considerations of individuals throughout the state at highest risk for negative outcomes associated with wildfires were identified and addressed, the Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) deployed staff to the SOC to support activation operations.

Throughout the activation, OAFN actively promoted accessible information about preparedness, wildfires, evacuation resources, and response operations to whole community partners. OAFN coordinated the integration of American Sign Language interpreters at Local Assistance Centers, collaborated with State agencies such as the Department of Developmental Services, the Department of Rehabilitation, the Department of Social Services, and others, and partnered with Listos California to facilitate access to vital in-person and online resources for individuals with disabilities.

While the SOC activation ended, OAFN continues working closely with local and state partners to support the needs of impacted community members.

## MyShake App Alerts



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MyShake logo

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Over 500,000 users of the MyShake app received crucial advance alerts warning them of imminent shaking across Southern California prior to the region's two significant earthquakes this month.

The MyShake app, an advanced earthquake warning system designed to alert users before they feel shaking caused by earthquakes, utilizes a network of ground motion sensors spread across the state to detect seismic activity. When an earthquake is detected, the app sends notifications to users, empowering them with critical seconds to seek cover.

Since its launch in 2020, the MyShake app has undergone several major improvements. Following the most recent updates, the app's accuracy, speed, and user interface have all been enhanced – upgrades which proved useful during this month's respective 5.2 and 4.4 magnitude earthquakes on August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>.

With plans to continuously improve the app's ability to detect seismic activity and alert users promptly, individuals throughout California will enhance their ability to receive the advance warning needed to take appropriate protective actions.

While the MyShake app offers everyone the opportunity to receive notifications to improve their personal safety in advance of earthquakes, individuals with access and functional needs who may require additional time to drop or lock, cover, and hold on especially benefit from downloading and using this lifesaving resource.

The MyShake app can be downloaded for free directly from the [MyShake](#) website or via the [Apple](#) or [Android](#) sites.



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Thumbnail for the National AFN Symposium on YouTube

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Did you miss the 2024 National AFN Symposium? You can now watch all of the sessions on the following YouTube sites: [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#).

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