



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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## 2015 February Storms After Action/Corrective Action Report

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May 2019

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# **2015 FEBRUARY STORMS**

## **After Action / Corrective Action Report**

May 2019

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Foreword .....1**
- **Executive Summary..... 2**
- **Response Activities .....4**
- **Attachment A – List of Acronyms ..... A1**
- **Attachment B – Corrective Actions ..... B1**

## FOREWORD

In California, in accordance with the *Emergency Services Act, Article 9.5, Government Code Section 8607(f)*, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) shall, in cooperation with involved state and local agencies, complete an After Action Report (AAR) after each gubernatorial declared disaster. Supporting State Emergency Management Systems (SEMS) regulations require that jurisdictions "declaring a local emergency for which the governor proclaims a state of emergency, and any state agency responding to that emergency, shall complete and transmit an AAR to Cal OES within 90 days of the close of the incident period."

An After Action/Corrective Action Report serves the following important functions:

- Provides a source for documenting response and early recovery activities
- Identifies problems and successes during emergency operations
- Analyzes the effectiveness of the different components of SEMS
- Describes and defines a plan of corrective action for implementing recommended improvements to existing emergency response efforts

This report shall provide a review of public safety response and disaster recovery activities conducted within the incident period. Cal OES shall make the AAR available within 120 days of the close of incident to all interested public safety and emergency management organizations.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On February 9, 2015, and lasting until February 9, 2015, an Atmospheric River (AR) system made its way across the California Coast and portions of Northern California. In the aftermath, the impacts of the heavy rain included localized urban and small stream flooding with Main Stem River flooding, winter road conditions above 5500 feet, occasional power outages over higher terrain due to strong southerly winds, and debris flows near wildfire burn scars.

Despite the significant amounts of rainfall, local jurisdictions were able to cope with storm damage without requiring outside resources. However, damage to major roadways proved to be beyond the fiscal capabilities of three OAs including Siskiyou, Humboldt, and Mendocino. To assist these jurisdictions with road repairs, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on May 19, 2015, to allow Caltrans access to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) emergency repair funds.

### **Incident Period**

02/05/2015 – 02/09/2015

### **Declarations and Proclamations**

#### **Local**

February 17, 2015 Humboldt County

March 17, 2015 Mendocino

February 11, 2015 Siskiyou County

#### **State of Emergency**

May 19, 2015

### **Summary of Successes**

Despite the significant impacts as a result of the storm, no resources outside of the affected jurisdictions were required.

### **Summary of Areas Needing Improvement**

No issues were identified for this incident where improvement was needed.

## **Organizations Contributing to this Report**

### **State Agencies**

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)  
California Highway Patrol (CHP)  
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

### **Local Government**

Siskiyou County

## **DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS**

### **Background**

On February 9, 2015, and lasting until February 9, 2015, an AR system made its way across the California Coast and portions of Northern California. The AR system brought several waves of precipitation to the area. The heaviest rainfall occurred during a 12-hour period from 0400 to 1600 hours Friday, February 6, 2015. Then there was a lull in the rainfall amounts Friday night into Saturday morning, as the heavy precipitation turned into light showers. The next weather system moved in Saturday afternoon and evening, generating another round of light to moderate rain.

After a second lull, there were light rain showers from late Saturday night into Sunday morning. The next weather system moved in Sunday afternoon into Sunday evening with moderate to heavy rain. Monday morning saw light showers with the rain ending that same evening.

The impacts of the heavy rain included localized urban and small stream flooding with Main Stem River flooding, winter road conditions above 5500 feet, occasional power outages over higher terrain due to strong southerly winds, and debris flows near wildfire burn scars.

Despite the significant amounts of rainfall, local jurisdictions were able to cope with storm damage with little or no outside resources. However, damage to major roadways proved to be beyond the fiscal capabilities of three OAs: Siskiyou, Humboldt, and Mendocino.

To assist these jurisdictions with road repairs, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on May 19, 2015, to allow Caltrans access to FHWA emergency repair funds. However, no OA received California Disaster Assistance Act funding.

## **RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

### **State Agencies**

#### California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Cal OES activated the State Operations Center in support of the Inland Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC).

#### Cal OES Inland Regional Emergency Operations Center (IREOC)

On February 06, 2015, at 1300 hours, the Inland REOC activated to Level 2 due to several weather related incidents throughout the region and to support Siskiyou, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, and El Dorado OAs. The IREOC returned to Level 1 activation at 2030 hours after the OAs the Inland REOC was supporting went to Duty Officer Status. The only resource request was for CALFIRE hand crews to remove debris from the Lake Almanor Basin in Plumas County to prevent any flooding. The hand crews were mission tasked on February 8, 2015 and demobilized the next day.

#### Cal OES Coastal Regional Emergency Operations Center (CREOC)

Although the Coastal REOC did not activate, the Cal OES Coastal Region Management and the Cal OES Coastal Duty Officer (CDO) conducted regional conference calls with the NWS, State partners, and OAs at 1100 and 1600 hours daily, in order to gather situational awareness, anticipate needs, and possible activations.

#### California Highway Patrol (CHP)

CHP responded and assisted with traffic control and closures. CHP Northern Division EOC was activated. No internal AAR recorded.

#### California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Per the State Operations center (SOC) Situation Report, San Mateo County requested Caltrans to conduct a hydraulic study for a mobile home park that was at risk during the storms. The specific location was not in the situation report.

After repeated requests, Caltrans did not provide Cal OES with an after action report. However, San Mateo County was not included in the Governor's State of Emergency.

#### California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)

Per the SOC Situation Report, CALFIRE hand crews assisted with tree debris removal from the Lake Almanor Basin, in Plumas County, to prevent flooding.



AFTER ACTION REPORT  
2015 FEBRUARY STORMS

After numerous requests to CALFIRE, an after action report was not received by Cal OES.

**Operational Areas**

Siskiyou County

Siskiyou County reported that when a series of winter storms brought precipitation to their County, the storms caused significant flood events throughout the county that required emergency response, evacuation, sheltering, and road maintenance response. Several roadways throughout Siskiyou County were damaged as a result of flooding. Officials from the Siskiyou County Road Department dispatched crews and equipment to repair the damaged roadways to make them safe and passable.

Severe flooding in the central and southern portions of Siskiyou County caused the Sacramento River to reach flood level, which prompted the evacuation of homes on Butterfly Avenue in the City of Dunsmuir. An evacuation shelter was established at the Dunsmuir Community Hall and Siskiyou County Human Services, the county's sheltering agent, responded to manage the shelter. Red Cross was contacted and advised of the incident.

Several residences in the community of Gazelle, CA were evacuated and several homes received minor to major damage due to flooding. Willow Creek, which flows through the east side of Gazelle, overflowed its banks causing water to flow through residences and over Old Hwy 99. Sandbags were deployed by CALFIRE and members of the Lake Shastina Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

In the Scott Valley area, the Scott River and Kidder Creek overflowed their banks, causing flooding to Scott Valley ranches and damage to roadways in the area. In particular, a business in Scott Valley, Moore's Gravel, suffered losses as the river breached its gravel yard and washed away its entire stock of finished gravel and damaged equipment.

Mendocino County

After numerous requests to Mendocino County, an after action report was not received by Cal OES.

Humboldt County

After repeated requests to Humboldt County, an after action report was not received by Cal OES.

**INITIAL RECOVERY ACTIVITIES**

The only notable damage other than roadway damage was when a slide occurred at an easement at the Dogwood Life Station in the town of Redway in Humboldt County. The slide caused a sewer main to become exposed which had the potential to release up to 400,000 gallons of sewage into the Eel River if the slide continued. The County contacted all concerned State and local agencies. In the end, the Community Service District (CSD) of Mendocino County was able to make repairs without State resources. CSD hired an engineer to look at the slide and determine how to stabilize the pipeline and then CSD hired a contractor to stabilize the pipeline.

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AAR	After Action Report
Cal OES	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CALFIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CDSS	California Department of Social Services
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CSD	Community Service District
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
NWS	National Weather Service
OA	Operational Area
REOC	Regional Emergency Operations Center
SEMS	Standardized Emergency Management System
SOC	State Operations Center

## **ISSUES AND CORRECTIVE ACTION MATRIX**

**No corrective actions were identified**