

# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF EMERGENCY SERVICES



**COUNTY** *of* **VENTURA**

## **ALL HAZARDS EVACUATION PLAN**

**PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2024**



**VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF**  
*Emergency Services*



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# Ventura County Evacuation Plan

**Version 1.0**  
**September 2024**

## **PREPARED BY**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This document has been prepared by a task force of Operational Area Partners and Stakeholders in accordance with FEMA's 2021 Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101 (version 3.0): Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans. In addition to Emergency Management personnel from each of the 10 incorporated cities, the following organizations were solicited as primary partners in this planning effort. A complete listing of the additional neighboring jurisdictions and other local, state, and federal organizations solicited for input and comments during the planning process can be found in Appendix C.

### COUNTY OF VENTURA

Ventura County Sheriff's Office

Ventura County Fire Protection District

### LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

City of Fillmore Fire Department

City of Oxnard Fire Department

City of Oxnard Police Department

City of Port Hueneme Police Department

City of Santa Paula Police Department

City of Simi Valley Police Department

City of Ventura Fire Department

City of Ventura Police Department

### COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES

Ventura County Executive Office

Ventura County Human Services Agency

Ventura County Animal Services Agency

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## PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the roles and responsibilities of each partner agency involved in evacuation operations.</li> <li>▪ Identify options for coordinating evacuations during a disaster.</li> <li>▪ Provide guidance regarding possible resources for meeting the needs of people, including those with disabilities or other access and functional needs.</li> </ul>
<b>FEDERAL EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS (ESF)</b>	ESF #13 – Public Safety and Security
<b>STATE OF CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY FUNCTION (CA-ESF)</b>	CA-ESF #13 – Law Enforcement
<b>AUTHORITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act</li> <li>▪ California Health and Safety Code § 34070</li> <li>▪ California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code § 8550-8668</li> <li>▪ Ventura County Code Chapter 3 (Public Emergency), Article 2, Ordinance 5325</li> <li>▪ California Penal Code Title 11 Of Crimes Against the Public Peace [403 - 420.1]</li> </ul>
<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) National Incident Management System (NIMS)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	This Plan is an Annex to the Ventura County Operational Area (OA) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
<b>HAZARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Hazards with potential to cause large-scale displacement of community members.
<b>OUTCOMES</b>	This plan provides a structure to effectively coordinate, manage, and support large-scale evacuations during disaster events involving the Ventura County Operational Area.
<b>APPROVAL</b>	Ventura Sheriff's Emergency Services
<b>REVIEW CYCLE</b>	Every five years. Next review slated for 2029.
<b>WEBSITE</b>	<a href="https://www.readyventuracounty.org">https://www.readyventuracounty.org</a>

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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This Plan is a functional Annex to the Ventura County Emergency Operations Plan. It establishes the emergency organization, assigns tasks, specifies policies and general procedures, and provides for coordination of planning efforts for respective staff potentially involved in enacting large-scale evacuations which exceed the day-to-day capabilities of the various public safety agencies in Ventura County.

## 2. PLAN OVERVIEW

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### 2.1 PURPOSE

As dictated by the County's Emergency Operations Plan, the local law enforcement agency is charged with the responsibility of evacuation in response to a major event threatening the life safety of residents and visitors of the Ventura County Operational Area.

The purpose of this Plan is to provide a guide for the Ventura County Operational Area to conduct operations to (1) support the evacuation of populations affected by an incident, (2) support the inbound movement of emergency service personnel and resources, and (3) support the repopulation of evacuated areas once a threat has concluded.

### 2.2 SCOPE

This plan is designed as an annex to the Ventura County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and emphasizes the responsibilities, tasks, and actions that pertain to large-scale evacuations within the County.

Ventura County is subject to a host of hazards and threats that can potentially trigger the need for evacuations – many of which can occur with little to no warning. These include wildfires, floods, landslides, debris flows, dam failure, tsunamis, hazardous materials spills, and domestic or international terrorism events. The strategies outlined in this Plan are designed using an all-hazards approach to

preparing for and managing evacuations, with a special emphasis placed on the wildfire threat. “Life safety” will carry the highest priority in incident management.

The plan is consistent with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS). It aligns with Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 13 – Public Safety and Security, in the National Response Framework and with Emergency Support Function (CA-ESF) # 13 – Law Enforcement within the California Emergency Plan. This plan also complies and integrates with local plans and ordinances, State law, and State and Federal emergency planning guidance.

This document incorporates state and national best practices, as well as lessons learned locally to provide a comprehensive look at considerations that are critical to ensuring effective implementation of large-scale evacuations in the Ventura County Operation Area (OA), and the concepts and principles that complementary plans should be built around.

## 2.3 OBJECTIVES

The goal of any evacuation is to move as few people as necessary the shortest distance to safety. Table 2-1 outlines seven objectives for conducting an evacuation that were used to guide the development of this plan.

**Table 2-1. Evacuation Planning Objectives**

OBJECTIVE 1	Provide for the safe and effective evacuation of people and animals from an area that poses a threat to their health and safety to a safe area.
OBJECTIVE 2	Provide timely and accurate instructions to individuals impacted by an evacuation.
OBJECTIVE 3	Efficiently use available transportation resources and existing infrastructure to facilitate the movement of people and animals.
OBJECTIVE 4	Coordinate and help facilitate the activation of care and shelter services.
OBJECTIVE 5	Work collaboratively with local partners to affect an evacuation.
OBJECTIVE 6	Support securing evacuated areas until re-entry is possible.
OBJECTIVE 7	Ensure re-entry to evacuated areas is safe, feasible and appropriate.

## 2.4 LEGAL AUTHORITY

California's evacuation laws grant most evacuation-related authority to local governments. However, certain individuals at both the state and local levels have the authority to close and evacuate an area where "a menace to the public health or safety is created by a calamity including flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident, or other disaster." These individuals include peace officers, local health officials, California Highway Patrol officers, police officers, sheriffs, marshals, supervising full-time public lifeguards, and supervising full-time public marine safety officers.

Local law enforcement is the lead agency for evacuations within the incorporated cities of the County. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office acts as the lead agency for evacuations of both the unincorporated areas of Ventura County and the incorporated cities that contract with the Sheriff's Office for services. The Sheriff's Office also serves as the Law Enforcement Operational Area Mutual Aid Coordinator.

### 2.4.1 California Penal Code

#### TITLE 11. OF CRIMES AGAINST THE PUBLIC PEACE [403 - 420.1]

409.5. (a) Whenever a menace to the public health or safety is created by a calamity including a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident, or other disaster, officers of the Department of the California Highway Patrol, police departments, marshal's office or sheriff's office, any officer or employee of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection designated a peace officer by subdivision (g) of Section 830.2, any officer or employee of the Department of Parks and Recreation designated a peace officer by subdivision (f) of Section 830.2, any officer or employee of the Department of Fish and Game designated a peace officer under subdivision (e) of Section 830.2, and any publicly employed full-time lifeguard or publicly employed full-time marine safety officer while acting in a supervisory position in the performance of his or her official duties, may close the area where the menace exists for the duration thereof by means of ropes, markers, or guards to any and all persons not authorized by the lifeguard or officer to enter or remain within the enclosed area. If the calamity creates an immediate menace to the public health, the local health officer may close the area where the menace exists pursuant to the conditions set forth in this section.

(b) Officers of the Department of the California Highway Patrol, police departments, marshal's office or sheriff's office, officers of the Department of Fish and Game designated as peace officers by subdivision (e) of Section 830.2, or officers of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection designated as peace officers by subdivision (g) of Section 830.2 may close the immediate area surrounding any emergency field command post or any other command post activated for the purpose of abating any calamity enumerated in this section or any riot or other civil disturbance to any and all unauthorized persons pursuant to the conditions set forth in this section whether or not the field command post or other command post is located near to the actual calamity or riot or other civil disturbance.

(c) Any unauthorized person who willfully and knowingly enters an area closed pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) and who willfully remains within the area after receiving notice to evacuate or leave shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(d)<sup>1</sup>(1) This section shall not prevent a duly authorized representative of a news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network from entering the areas closed pursuant to this section.

(2) This subdivision does not authorize a duly authorized representative of a news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network or to facilitate the entry of a person into, or facilitate the transport of a person within, an area closed, unless for the safety of the person, pursuant to this section if that person is not a duly authorized representative of a news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network.

(e) This section shall not prevent an individual who holds a valid livestock pass identification document, pursuant to Section 2350 of the Food and Agricultural Code, from entering the areas closed pursuant to this section, unless a peace officer identified in subdivision (a) finds that the disaster is of such a nature that it would be unsafe for the document holder to enter or that the presence of the document holder would interfere with disaster response.

## SECTION 142-181: CHAPTER 7. OTHER OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC JUSTICE [142 - 181]

148(a)(1) Every person who willfully resists, delays, or obstructs any public officer, peace officer, or an emergency medical technician, as defined in Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797) of the Health and Safety Code, in the discharge or attempt to discharge any duty of his or her office or employment, when no other punishment is prescribed, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

### 2.4.2 California Emergency Services Act

#### ARTICLE 19. Penalties and Severability [8665 - 8666]

A person who violates any [evacuation] orders or regulations stated in the Emergency Services Act can be found guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment for not to exceed six months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

### 2.4.3 Local Jurisdiction Plans

Every effort has been made through the planning process to ensure that this plan does not conflict with existing applicable local jurisdictional plans. These include, but are not limited to, the County's General Plan and Emergency Operations Plan, the Emergency Operations Plans of each of the 10 incorporated cities, Emergency Action Plans for the 14 dams that have potential to impact the Ventura County area, and various other local evacuation plans and hazard-specific plans including:

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<sup>1</sup> Amended by Stats 2023 ch 17 (AB 750), s 1, effective 1/1/2024. Provides expanded detail regarding media access provisions, and inclusion of a new subsection on access for Ag Pass holders.

- California State University Channel Islands, Main Campus and University Glen Evacuation Plan
- City of Santa Paula, Emergency Operations Plan, Annex A-1: City Evacuation Plan
- City of Ventura, Evacuation Route Maps
- Ventura Sheriff's Emergency Services, Operational Area Tsunami Incident Response Plan, (and associated California Tsunami Evacuation and Maritime Playbooks)
- Ventura County Transportation Commission and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan (TEPP)

## 2.5 PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

### 2.5.1 General Assumptions

- Principle responsibility for evacuation planning and response resides at the local level of government.
  - Cities within the Ventura County Operational Area retain primary responsibility for evacuating their residents and visitors, and for developing supporting EOPs and procedures that describe roles and responsibilities and designate organizations to lead, provide, and assist with emergency support functions.
  - The County has primary responsibility for emergency evacuation of residents and visitors in unincorporated areas and within the five cities that contract with the Ventura County Sheriff for law enforcement services:
    - City of Camarillo
    - City of Fillmore
    - City of Moorpark
    - City of Ojai
    - City of Thousand Oaks
- Most emergencies requiring evacuation only require movement of threatened populations from one area to another area within the Ventura County Operational Area (e.g. movement from Ojai to Ventura). However, the size and location of some emergencies may require sheltering operations outside of the county.
- Personal preparedness is essential to effective evacuation. This is particularly true for individuals with disabilities or other access and functional needs (AFN) who may require additional time or assistance to evacuate.
- Schools have the primary responsibility to evacuate student populations and are required by state law to coordinate evacuation efforts with corresponding local public safety agencies.

- Ventura County may have large numbers of non-residents (e.g., tourists and commuters) present during an emergency event.<sup>2</sup> The size of the impacted visitor population will be dependent upon the locale of the disaster, time of year, and the time of day, but may number in the tens of thousands<sup>3</sup>.
- A small percentage of the population requiring evacuation assistance may absorb much of the evacuation responders' time and resources.

### 2.5.2 Evacuee Behavior

- People generally evacuate for one of following reasons/motivations:
  - Imminent life-safety concerns, such as hazardous environments (e.g. gas leak, smoke, debris flow, flooding)
  - Their home sustains damage, or they have lack of adequate services to their home (e.g. water, electricity, road access)
  - Fear/psychological concerns about the threat or hazard.
- If given clear warning and direction, most people will heed evacuation orders. However, some individuals will not evacuate regardless of risk.
  - Most people will self-evacuate utilizing their own vehicles.
  - Most evacuees will find refuge with relatives, friends, or hotels and will not require sheltering assistance<sup>4</sup>.
- Some individuals may require assistance to evacuate, including:
  - Individuals who have access and functional (AFN) needs that prevent them from being able to self-evacuate, or that require assistance in evacuating themselves and their service animal.
  - Residents that need assistance in evacuating pets or livestock.
  - Commuters (both intra- and inter-county) who cannot return home or get to safety due to damage to transportation infrastructure or services.

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<sup>2</sup> A weekday average of 15,000 commuters travel from Ventura and Los Angeles counties to their employment locations in Santa Barbara County (from VCTC study with SBCAG, 2018).

<sup>3</sup>The Cal OES Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan (2022) estimates average daily tourism in Ventura County at 11,780 individuals.

<sup>4</sup> Wong, Broader and Shaheen. 2020. Review of California Wildfire Evacuations from 2017 to 2019 found that over 85% of individuals surveyed regarding the 2017 Southern California Wildfires found shelter with friends, relatives, or in hotels.

- Visitors/tourists who, as a result of the incident, lack transportation to leave the area and return home, and therefore may require evacuation assistance.

### 2.5.3 People with Access and/or Functional Needs (AFN)

In recent years, FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination has defined the term AFN to address those individuals within our community who may have additional needs before, during and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to communication, maintaining health, independence, support, and transportation (C-MIST). Individuals needing additional response assistance may include those with disabilities; individuals that live in congregate settings (e.g. nursing homes, prisons), the elderly ( $\geq 65$  years); children; those that have limited or no English language proficiency, individuals from diverse cultures, and those that are transportation disadvantaged<sup>5</sup>.

- People with AFN do not necessarily require evacuation assistance – most live independently, are fully self-sufficient, and will self-evacuate.
- Individuals with AFN may require additional time and resources to evacuate, so early evacuation triggers are essential to assure sufficient time to support these individuals.
- Often medical devices and/or assistive technology equipment (e.g. mobility aids or communication systems) allow people with disabilities to maintain their independence. To avoid unnecessary assistance needs when evacuated, such devices should be kept with individuals whenever possible.
  - At times, it may be impractical to transport certain types of medical equipment or devices with their owners due to the size or volume of the equipment. Responders should be prepared with additional vehicles specifically for the transport of such equipment.
- Many people who are ordinarily capable of evacuating themselves may have functional needs due to physical or emotional trauma from the incident triggering the evacuation need, or a temporary lack of resources or accommodations.

### 2.5.4 Emergency Notification and Warning

- Many hazards or threats will provide some warning time (i.e. dam failure, flooding, distant-source tsunami, wildfire) but in some cases little to no warning will be possible (i.e. terrorism events, earthquakes, fast-moving wildfire, near-source tsunami).
- Communications systems will generally be available – but systems may become overloaded or damaged in specific types of incidents (e.g. wildfire, earthquake).

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<sup>5</sup> Individuals who are unable to transport themselves or purchase needed transportation because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are considered transportation disadvantaged. These members of the community often depend on paratransit service for trips to work, school, health care, and social activities.

- 9-1-1 call centers may be overwhelmed.
- Alert and warning systems may not reach every intended evacuee.
  - Approximately 6% of households in Ventura County have individuals with limited English language skills or that are non-English speaking.<sup>6</sup>
  - Approximately 3% of households in Ventura County do not have wireless phone service and approximately 5% may have limited access to smartphones or the internet<sup>7</sup>.

### 2.5.5 Response Operations

- The decision to evacuate or shelter-in-place will be situation-specific, and made based on situational awareness, the type and severity of the disaster (including duration), health and safety concerns, the condition of roadways and other transportation resources, weather, and sheltering capacity.
- Evacuations should be initiated as soon as feasible once a threat has been identified.
- Evacuations may be slowed by bad weather or damaged infrastructure (i.e. roadways, bridges)
- Public safety agencies in the Operational Area may need to evacuate more residents rather than risk evacuating too few.
- Evacuation of institutional facilities (e.g. hospitals, schools, correctional facilities) is a complex process that can pose additional life-safety risks to patients/residents as existing health conditions may be exacerbated or degrade during the evacuation process. Often, sheltering in place may be the best option for such facilities, particularly where maintaining continuity of care for patients with heightened medical needs or specialized supervision/security considerations are concerns.
- Healthcare facilities are required by state law/regulation and/or accreditation standards to have their own evacuation plans for getting people out of their facility.
- Healthcare facility evacuations will require ambulances to evacuate some patients/clients.
- Mutual aid resources may be needed but may not be immediately available.

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<sup>6</sup> FEMA RAPT tool, Community Resilience Challenges Index (CRCI) data; accessed 10/11/2023

<sup>7</sup> Health Matters in Ventura County, Community Dashboard data; accessed 10/25/2023.

<https://www.healthmattersinvc.org/indicators/index>

- Local officials may require State and Federal support to ascertain evacuation requirements and provide support for resource allocations and decisions regarding routing for operations with regional and out-of-region impacts.
- Evacuations and transportation of first responders will take priority over debris removal activities, in terms of the allocation of transportation network pathways and resources allocation, except where debris removal is critical to opening evacuation routes for impacted residents.

### 2.5.6 Transportation Operations

- Transportation resources may be scarce – especially in the early stages of an event.
- Although there may be some limited water and air evacuations, most evacuations will be accomplished by ground transportation.
- Surface road/highway transportation routes will be the primary means of evacuation.
- Local public and private sector transportation resources will be overwhelmed. Out-of-region resources, including State and Federal resources and private sector resources, may be required to assist with transportation.

## 2.6 HAZARD ANALYSIS AND SCENARIOS

Table 2-2 summarizes projected and actual evacuation totals for a range of hazards the Ventura County Operational Area is subject to. Historically, wind-driven wildfires are the primary hazard that has necessitated large-scale evacuations within the Ventura County Operational Area. In the last decade, the County has experienced two such events: the Thomas Fire (2017) and the Hill-Woolsey (2019) Fires.

The Thomas and Woolsey fires spread rapidly and burned for extended periods of time, impacting hundreds of thousands of acres across Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles counties. The fires' proximity to populated areas resulted in threats to tens of thousands of homes, and impacts to infrastructure including highways, oil and gas facilities, water and utility systems. Smoke from the fires also caused air quality and visibility issues throughout the area, further complicating response efforts, including evacuations.

In total, approximately 90,000 Ventura County residents were impacted by evacuation orders issued during the Thomas Fire<sup>8</sup>. Similarly, the Hill-Woolsey Fire resulted in evacuation of more than 80,000 Ventura County residents, and more than 250,000 people within Ventura and Los Angeles counties combined<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> County of Ventura, The Thomas Fire After Action Review, 2018.

<sup>9</sup> County of Los Angeles, After Action Review of the Woolsey Fire Incident, 2019.

**Table 2-2. Evacuation Totals by Hazard Event**

Event	# of Evacuees
Dam Failure (i.e. Pyramid Dam, Castaic Dam)	~230,000
Catastrophic Earthquake	~variable
Thomas Fire (2017)	90,000
Hill/Woolsey Fires (2019)	80,000
FEMA 100-Year Flood Event	~33,000
Tsunami (maximum inundation area)	~28,000
2019 Winter Storm Event	<1000
2023 Winter Storm Event	<1000

## Sources:

County of Ventura, OES

County of Ventura, Thomas Fire After Action Review, 2018.

County of Los Angeles, After Action Review of the Woolsey Fire Incident, 2019.

State of California, 2009, Tsunami Inundation Map for Emergency Planning, Ventura County

County of Ventura Hazard Mapper. Accessed on 9/12/23:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/f3abbf7ed4624a81ab6238fee0caee26/page/Hazard-Mapper/>

Wildfires are year-round occurrence in southern California, and with nearly 200,000 of the County's more than 840,000 inhabitants having exposure to high or very high wildfire severity zones<sup>10</sup>, they are anticipated to remain the most frequent event necessitating potential large-scale evacuations in the OA.

Although a dam failure or catastrophic earthquake may trigger the evacuation or displacement of larger numbers of people, the likelihood of occurrence for these types of events is much lower. For the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake that occurred in 1994, estimates of the number of people temporarily or permanently displaced because of damage to their homes ranged from 80,000 to 125,000.<sup>11</sup>

A "worst-case" tsunami event is anticipated to impact approximately 28,000 people<sup>12</sup> while a 100-year flood event is projected to impact approximately 33,000 people. However, recent comparable flooding events, like the Winter Storms of 2019, 2023 and 2024, have necessitated evacuation levels that were

<sup>10</sup> County of Ventura, Hazard Mapper. Accessed on 9/12/23:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/f3abbf7ed4624a81ab6238fee0caee26/page/Wildfire/>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology. Accessed 12/1/23.

<https://www.nist.gov/el/earthquake-northridge-california-1994>

<sup>12</sup> State of California, 2009, Tsunami Inundation Map for Emergency Planning, Ventura County; produced by California Emergency Management Agency, California Geological Survey, and University of Southern California – Tsunami Research Center; dated February 2009, mapped at 1:24,000 scale. County of Ventura Hazard Mapper data. Accessed on 9/12/23:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/f3abbf7ed4624a81ab6238fee0caee26/page/Tsunami/>

far below this level. The 2019 Winter Storms resulted in post-fire debris and flood flows that triggered the evacuation of less than 1,000 people while the 2023 and 2024 Winter Storms also resulted in evacuations that remained well within the day-to-day capabilities of the OA's public safety agencies. These events involved evacuations that were orders of magnitude lower than those necessitated by the Thomas and Woolsey wildfires.

Other events, including but not limited to, civil unrest, terrorism events, and mass shootings also have the potential to trigger large-scale evacuations. However, these events are not common and historically have not exceeded the day-to-day capabilities of the OA's public safety agencies. Additional information on hazard risk levels and projected hazard event frequencies can be found in the Ventura County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### 3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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In all cases, the response to emergency events will be managed at the local level, with local governments maintaining the primary responsibility for evacuation preparedness, response and recovery within their jurisdiction.

Local governments plan their own evacuation strategies but can request support from the Ventura County OA if an event escalates beyond their capabilities. In such events, the Ventura County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OA EOC) may be activated to provide communication, coordination, and support resources as dictated by the Ventura County Operational Area EOP.

This section outlines roles and responsibilities specific to evacuations, in addition to roles already outlined in the County's EOP. The information presented here supplements and is compatible with the Ventura County EOP.

#### 3.1 LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

Local jurisdictions are responsible for emergency response within their political subdivisions within the county area (e.g., cities, special districts). In the event of an emergency, the affected jurisdiction will have the following evacuation-related responsibilities:

- Assess the situation and determine priorities for evacuation and any evacuee transportation needs.
- Establish local emergency shelters, as applicable.

- Transmit requests for emergency and basic transportation resources directly to local transportation operators. If local transportation agencies are unable to provide such resources, either directly or through established agreements, forward these requests to the OA EOC.
- Communicate directly with the Ventura County Operational Area EOC.
- Provide information and updates about the condition of their affected jurisdictions, including reports on status of the emergency, damaged areas and infrastructure, affected populations, and other pertinent information.
- Support evacuation orders issued by the cities or Ventura County, as applicable.

### 3.1.1 Local Law Enforcement

Local law enforcement agencies are responsible for evacuation operations in the incorporated jurisdictions for which they have authority.

### 3.1.2 Fire Protection Districts and Fire Departments

Firefighting staff will conduct windshield surveys to support infrastructure assessments (e.g. schools, hospitals, utility transmission stations, known hazmat operators) as part of their response to support firefighting and HazMat responses. Additionally, local fire departments are the sponsoring agencies for CERT teams which may be utilized, in addition to other community volunteer organizations (e.g., DART), for development of neighborhood infrastructure situational awareness and providing ad hoc mass care services.

## 3.2 VENTURA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA

For events requiring more than just a local response, the Ventura County Operational Area is the jurisdiction responsible for overall coordination of emergency response within the county and all political subdivisions within the county area (e.g., cities, towns, special districts). In the event of an emergency, the Ventura County Operational Area will have the following evacuation-related responsibilities:

- Activation of the Ventura County Operational Area EOC
- Support evacuation orders issued by cities within the OA, as applicable.
- Support evacuation orders issued by the Incident Commander or Law Enforcement in unincorporated Ventura County, as applicable.
- Determine, per the agency ordering the evacuation, the appropriate areas requiring evacuation.
- Provide evacuation information to responding agencies and the involved public. Alert and Warning may be utilized to accomplish mass public notification, including information on identified Temporary Evacuation Points or evacuation routes.
- Transmit requests for emergency and basic transportation resources directly to local transportation operators. If local transportation agencies are unable to provide such resources, either directly or through mutual aid, forward these requests to CalOES.

- Communicate directly with the CalOES State Operations Center (SOC) in Sacramento, as applicable.

A detailed description of EOC operations is provided in the Ventura County EOP. The EOC functions that support evacuation operations are shown in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. Evacuation Functions by EOC Section	
Section	Branch/Unit
<b>EOC Management and General Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> <li>• Public Information Officer (PIO)/Joint Information Center (JIC)</li> </ul>
<b>Operations Section</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alert and Warning</li> <li>• Care and Shelter Branch</li> <li>• Fire Branch/Unit</li> <li>• Law Branch/Unit</li> <li>• Movement and Transportation Branch/Unit</li> <li>• Engineering/ Public Works Branch/Unit</li> <li>• Agriculture Operations Unit</li> <li>• Medical Health Branch/Unit</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Section</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situational Analysis Unit</li> <li>• Damage Assessment Unit</li> </ul>
<b>Logistics Section</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation Support Services Branch/Unit</li> <li>• Volunteer Resources Unit</li> </ul>
<b>Finance Section</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> </ul>

### 3.2.1 County Agencies with a Primary Role

#### VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

The Ventura County Sheriff’s Office is the lead agency for evacuation operations in the County’s unincorporated areas, encompassing approximately 528,000 acres (nearly 43 percent of the County’s total acreage) and over 97,000 people. It also has responsibility for evacuation operations in cities that have contracted with the Sheriff’s Office for their law enforcement services (e.g. City of Camarillo and City of Thousand Oaks).

During emergency conditions, the Sheriff’s Office has the responsibility to determine the need for evacuations and to carry out evacuation procedures across political subdivisions. This may be accomplished with input from appropriate fire agencies. Evacuation operations support will include:

- Issue evacuation orders for Sheriff’s jurisdictions, including contracted city areas.

- Provide situational information from patrol beats as well as from the public through the Sheriff's Communications Center (SCC).
- Provide security for the populations of the Sheriff's jurisdiction.
- Provide resources for security and traffic control along evacuation routes in the Sheriff's Office jurisdictions.

#### VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S EMERGENCY SERVICES

Sheriff's Emergency Services is responsible for coordinating organized planning efforts with all County departments, local cities and special districts prior to and during disasters as well as maintaining the Operational Area EOC. In support of evacuation operations, they will:

- Provide EOC and ICS expertise to EOC staff
- Provide information and updates to local, State, and Federal partners, including first responders and mutual aid resources involved in evacuation operations
- Provide timely and appropriate information to the public
- Determine priorities for clearing and opening Lifeline routes
- Coordinate assessments of the transportation system
- Provide updated route and traffic plans to first responders, vendors, and mutual aid responders

#### VENTURA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

The Ventura County Public Works Agency is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the County's roads and bridges. Public Works provides resources for roads maintenance, surveying, and construction operations. Public Works may support Logistics with requests for vehicles and equipment. During emergency conditions, Public Works is the lead agency for inspecting and coordinating both the rapid and detailed assessment of damaged roads and bridges to determine whether they are safe for continued use and occupancy.

#### VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (VCTC)

The Ventura County region's transportation network includes approximately 2,983 miles of maintained public roadways, 58.2 miles of bikeways, 9 public transit services, many private transportation services, two railroad operators, and three public-use airports. Additionally, the County is home to two recreational/commercial boating harbors (Ventura and Channel Islands Harbors) and one commercial deep-water port (Port Hueneme). During large-scale emergency events, field-level command and control of transportation resources will be conducted by the Ventura County Transportation Commission. VCTC is a regional transportation planning agency that is the lead agency for public transportation in Ventura County.

Transit representatives work closely with Ventura County Sheriff's Emergency Services and will provide a liaison to the Operational Area EOC as soon as possible. VCTC also operates their own EOC.

## AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE (AMR)

American Medical Response is the first-level EMS responder and paramedic ambulance transport provider in Ventura County. When not conducting patient transport in life-threatening emergencies, their special transportation capabilities may be used for facilitating transport of individuals with AFN to, from, and between shelters. AMR will provide the following support to the Operational Area:

- Coordinate with the Operational Area EOC Transportation or Medical Health Branch to provide emergency support for the movement of people with AFN, including their equipment and supplies.
- Provide detailed assessments of damages and the operational status of dispatch bases and equipment, and make temporary emergency repairs as needed.
- Provide personnel, communications, vehicles, and equipment to assist the Operational Area during recovery operations as resources for the movement of individuals with AFN.

## VENTURA HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Ventura County Human Services Agency is the lead agency for mass care and shelter operations during a disaster. This includes sheltering, mass care, and transportation support, including coordination with Ventura County Animal Services to support sheltering of pets.

## VENTURA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

The Ventura County Animal Services, in agreement with Ventura County Sheriff's Emergency Services, acts as the lead animal rescue agency during a disaster. This includes sheltering, mass care, and transportation support of pets (adjacent to human evacuation shelters during disaster), horse and barn pets, and livestock.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

The City of Thousand Oaks contracts with the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control for animal sheltering and related services. This agency will act as a supporting animal rescue agency during disasters affecting the City of Thousand Oaks. This includes sheltering, mass care, and transportation support of household pets, horse and barnyard pets, and livestock.

### 3.2.2 County Agencies with a Supporting Role

#### VENTURA COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY, BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION

The Ventura County Resource Management Agency's Building and Safety Division oversees building inspections and surveying and mapping. During emergency conditions, the Building and Safety Division is the lead for inspecting and coordinating both the rapid and detailed assessment of damaged structures.

## VENTURA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AIRPORTS

Both Oxnard and Camarillo airports are public airports that maintain their own EOCs to ensure that the airports retain the capability to function after a catastrophic disaster. The airports coordinate with the FAA and local, State and Federal agencies to provide service delivery for emergency response.

### 3.3 STATE AGENCIES

During an emergency or disaster, the Governor coordinates statewide emergency operations through the Cal OES and its mutual aid regions. The California Emergency Services Act states in part: “During a state of emergency the Governor shall, to the extent he deems necessary, have complete authority over all agencies of the state government and the right to exercise within the area designated all police power vested in the state.”

#### 3.3.1 California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Cal OES is delegated authority by the Governor to implement the Emergency Services Act and perform executive functions assigned by the Governor to support and enhance all phases of emergency management. This includes the promulgation of guidelines and assignments to State government and its political subdivisions to support the development of California’s emergency management system.

#### 3.3.2 California Highway Patrol

CHP is responsible for law enforcement, security, and safety on California highways and bridges and will have a significant role in managing traffic on State roads and highways during any disaster. CHP is the source of information for highway conditions, capacity, and delays in conjunction with the 511 Traveler Information System and Caltrans. CHP’s Coastal Division operates two offices in the Ventura County area, located in Moorpark and Ventura. The Ventura location also hosts one of the Coastal Division’s three communications and dispatch centers. During an event, CHP’s Emergency Resource Centers supply resources to CHP Incident Commanders.

#### 3.3.3 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Caltrans is responsible for operation and maintenance of the State’s highway system. Its emergency response priorities include damage assessment and route recovery on State highways. Caltrans’ District 7 office is responsible for State roadways and bridges in Ventura County. During an emergency, Caltrans activates its EOCs, which collect information and define priorities for responding to the emergency and will communicate with the OA EOC.

#### 3.3.4 California Department of Parks and Recreation

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, more commonly known as California State Parks, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of more than 14,000 acres of land designated as being of natural, historical, or cultural significance and over 70 miles of trails dedicated to recreational uses within Ventura County, including nearly 20 of Ventura County’s 42 miles of coastline. Facilities include Emma Wood State Beach, San Buenaventura State Beach, McGrath State Beach, and Mandalay State Beach, as well as Pt. Mugu State Park (including Sycamore Canyon campground,

Thornhill Broome campground, La Jolla Group campground, and the Boney Mountains State Wilderness Area), and portions of Leo Carrillo State Park (i.e. County Line Beach). The campgrounds at Emma Wood State Beach and McGrath State Beach have more than 100 campsites each, and the capacity for more than 1,000 visitors/day. State Parks' emergency response priorities include damage assessment of State Parks' resources and communication with the OA EOC. Federal Agencies

Numerous Federal agencies may have a role in large-scale evacuee transportation/evacuation operations. They include:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Federal Aviation Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Park Service

Within the framework of this Plan, Federal agencies in the region may respond by:

- Taking immediate action to protect their own facilities and personnel, or to respond to emergencies on lands for which they are responsible (e.g., Federal law enforcement personnel taking action to secure Federal buildings)
- Taking immediate action to save lives, protect public safety, and protect property
- Acting where such agencies may have agreements with local jurisdictions to provide emergency services or resources in an emergency event or disaster
- Acting under their emergency response authority.

### 3.4 MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Area military commands are responsible for evacuations affecting their facilities and will coordinate with the Ventura County EOC for any evacuation situations impacting the following installations:

- Naval Base Ventura County
- United States Coast Guard, Station Channel Islands
- United States Coast Guard, Air Station Ventura
- Channel Islands Air National Guard

Additionally, these installations may be able to provide resources to be utilized in an evacuation. For example, the National Guard may participate in support of statewide law enforcement, security, and evacuation activities through coordination with the Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch, CHP, California Department of Justice, California Department of Corrections, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE/VCFD). Naval Base Ventura County is also the largest single employer in the County, supporting more than 17,000 armed forces, civilian and contractor jobs.

### **3.5 PRIVATE SECTOR AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO)**

Some private-sector organizations, such as privately-owned utilities (e.g. Southern California Edison and the Southern California Gas Company) and transportation service providers (e.g. ambulance companies, shuttle bus services), may play a direct response role. Others will assist in providing response and recovery resources to help their communities (e.g. schools that act as shelter sites) in general or their customers specifically.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play specific emergency response roles under the National Response Framework and through agreements with local emergency management agencies. Private sector organizations and NGO responsibilities include transporting animals and goods, providing equipment, removing debris, and performing other response and recovery functions under contracts with local and State governments.

#### **3.5.1 211 Ventura County**

211 Ventura County is an information and referral service for Ventura County that provides incident-specific evacuation information in coordination with local emergency services, including information regarding road closures and shelters, both locally and nationwide.

#### **3.5.2 American Red Cross Central California Region, Pacific Coast Chapter**

The American Red Cross has a legal status of a “federal chartered instrumentality” that includes serving as the co-lead of the National Response Framework’s ESF#6 for mass care, emergency assistance, temporary housing, and human services, and provides support for several other ESFs.

#### **3.5.3 Humane Society Ventura County**

The Humane Society Ventura County (HSVC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and adoption of animals in need, including the operation of an animal shelter in the city of Ojai. They maintain an Emergency Response Team and an Animal Rescue Team comprised of individuals trained to assist in emergency sheltering and animal evacuations. In agreement with Ventura County Animal Services, the HSVC may act as a supporting animal rescue agency during disasters, particularly for events affecting western Ventura County. This includes sheltering, care, and transportation support of household pets, horses and barnyard pets, and livestock.

#### **3.5.4 Utility Providers**

Natural gas (Southern California Gas Company) and electrical service providers (e.g., Southern California Edison) are responsible for developing their own emergency plans and for the stabilization, restoration, and reestablishment of normal operations at their facilities following a disruption.

#### **3.5.5 Water and Wastewater Management Companies**

Local water and wastewater utility providers manage and coordinate the utility’s emergency response and recovery activities within their service boundaries, including conducting damage assessments, repairing damaged infrastructure, coordinating with the local health department on water quality, and coordinating with local government to procure and distribute alternate emergency drinking water. When

the local water utility's capacity to maintain responsibility for alternate drinking water supplies is exceeded, a Joint Water Task Force may be established to manage the delivery of emergency water. Water and wastewater utilities may send agency representatives to the OA EOC, as needed, to promote information sharing and coordination of water and wastewater system restoration priorities.

### **3.5.6 Schools**

Most school campuses are designed with gathering spaces that can accommodate large numbers of people, such as cafeterias and gymnasiums, as well as access to resources like restrooms, water, and electricity. The availability of both space and resources can make schools ideal for use as evacuation centers or community shelter operations during large-scale disaster events. There are currently over 200 public and charter school campuses throughout Ventura County, and approximately 70 private schools. The determination of the capability of a school for use as a shelter will be coordinated by the appropriate school officials and the Care and Shelter Branch of the Operations Section in the County EOC. Many of these sites are already identified in the County's Mass Care and Shelter Annex to the EOP.

### **3.5.7 Oil and Gas Production Companies**

There are over 3,800 active oil and gas production wells and hundreds of miles of transmission, distribution, and gathering pipelines, as well as associated storage and processing facilities located throughout Ventura County. Some area facilities even feed directly into local distribution pipelines for SoCal Gas. Oil and Gas Production companies, including Aera Energy, Carbon California, Cal-NRG, and Termo, are responsible for developing their own emergency plans and for the stabilization, restoration, and reestablishment of normal operations at their facilities following a disruption. This includes conducting damage assessments, repairing damaged infrastructure, and coordinating with the local environmental health department and OA EOC, as needed, regarding hazardous materials leaks or spills.

### **3.5.8 Amgen**

Amgen Inc., a biotech firm, is the largest private employer in Ventura County, with over 5,500 employees based at their headquarters campus in Thousand Oaks. They are responsible for developing their own emergency plans and for the stabilization, restoration, and re-establishment of normal operations at their facilities following a disruption. This includes conducting damage assessments, repairing damaged infrastructure, and coordinating with the local environmental health department and OA EOC, as needed, regarding hazardous materials leaks or spills.

## 4. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

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This chapter describes the processes for how an evacuation will take place in Ventura County. It includes details on associated priorities and objectives, resources to support transportation/evacuation operations, long-term recovery planning, and a response timeline that details tasks to be completed by the operational area and local government.

For information on general incident management, EOC activation and operations related to other functional areas, see the Ventura County Operational Area EOP.

### 4.1 EVACUATION TERMINOLOGY

Ventura County utilizes the California Standard Statewide Evacuation Terminology:

#### 4.1.1 Evacuation Order

An Evacuation Order is issued when conditions exist that seriously imperil or endanger the lives of those within the identified areas and the danger is imminent. Individuals should leave immediately and relocate to a safer location.

Access to an affected area can be denied and all public services will be suspended during an evacuation. In some cases, a curfew may also be implemented when an Evacuation Order is issued. Unauthorized individuals who willfully and knowingly enter an evacuated area, or who remain in the area after receiving an Evacuation Order are guilty of a misdemeanor, pursuant to Penal Code section 409.5.

#### 4.1.2 Evacuation Warning

An Evacuation Warning is issued when there is a threat to lives or property within the area that is not yet imminent. Due to the potential for conditions to change rapidly and develop into a serious threat, residents receiving an Evacuation Warning are advised to remain alert and prepare for the possibility of an Evacuation Order. Individuals are encouraged to use this time to mobilize evacuation kits and confirm exit routes.

Issuance of an Evacuation Warning, when feasible, also provides an opportunity for individuals that may require more time or resources to evacuate to mobilize early. This includes individuals with AFN or those with large animals or livestock.

#### 4.1.3 Shelter-In-Place

Sometimes, the nature of the threat to the community may be greater to those that are outdoors or in transit (e.g. hazmat spills and suspected terrorism events), and evacuation may not be the safest or best option to preserve life safety. Additionally, the very act of moving some people from their familiar

surroundings and support systems can be potentially life-threatening and must be weighed against the risk of having them stay where they are and “Shelter-In-Place”.

Shelter-In-Place requires that people remain indoors until the threat is reduced or eliminated. For wildfires or hazardous materials incidents, it typically includes instructions to close windows and doors, and to turn off HVAC systems (heating and air-conditioning). For other hazards, such as tornadoes or radiological events, people may also be advised to move to structurally sound or internal areas of a structure such as hallways, or doorways. For example, during extreme heat or cold events, or public safety power shut-off events, sheltering in place is often a more appropriate protective measure than evacuation.

The advantages of sheltering-in-place include reductions in congestion on roadways and strain on transportation systems. Shelter-In-Place is also often the best course when facilities (e.g., hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, retirement homes, prisons) hold large numbers of individuals with limited mobility.

## **4.2 EVACUEE POPULATION TYPES**

### **4.2.1 General Population Evacuees**

Most of the population expected to evacuate are general population evacuees. General population evacuees may possess the means to evacuate (i.e., self-evacuees) or may require accessible transportation and/or other assistance to evacuate (i.e., critical transportation needs evacuees).

### **4.2.2 Self-Evacuees**

Individuals who possess the capability or can obtain the resources to evacuate from a potentially dangerous area prior to, during, or after an incident.

### **4.2.3 Critical Transportation Needs Evacuees (CTN)**

Individuals who are unable to drive themselves and require accessible transportation (e.g., those with a ramp/lift, paratransit or gurney vans or ambulances) and/or other assistance to leave a potentially dangerous or disaster-affected area.

### **4.2.4 Individuals with Access and Functional Needs (AFN)**

The evacuation of people with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) is an important component of any evacuation. The term AFN encompasses populations or individuals who have developmental or intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic conditions, injuries, limited English proficiency or who are non-English speaking, older adults, children, people living in institutionalized settings, or those who are low income, homeless, or transportation disadvantaged, including, but not limited to, those who are dependent on public transit or those who are pregnant.

Although most individuals with AFN will be able to self-evacuate, some individuals will require assistance (i.e., critical transportation needs evacuee). To the extent possible, early identification and notification of these individuals should take place. These populations may be identified (often through

available databases), however, privacy concerns and other limitations can complicate identification and location information for AFN populations.

## HOMELESS EVACUEES

Individuals experiencing homelessness include both 'sheltered' individuals living in supervised, publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (e.g., congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by government programs for low-income individuals), and 'unsheltered' individuals whose primary night-time residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or campground. The County's annual point-in-time count conducted in January 2024 recorded a total 2,358 homeless individuals (927 sheltered individuals and 1,431 unsheltered individuals) residing throughout the County.

Although most individuals experiencing homelessness will self-evacuate in the event of an emergency, unsheltered populations are typically dispersed, living in rough terrain (e.g. riverbeds), and distrustful of government representatives, making communication and notification of evacuation orders difficult. Many of these individuals may need transportation assistance and additional supportive assistance and resources in addition to sheltering. Additionally, unsheltered individuals often congregate at the edges of jurisdictional boundaries, requiring effective collaboration between local government entities to conduct successful evacuations of these populations.

## PATIENT EVACUEES

This category of evacuees includes individuals under the care of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system (e.g., prehospital emergency care, community paramedicine/mobile integrated healthcare), inpatient healthcare facilities (e.g., hospital, skilled nursing facility/nursing home, psychiatric facility) and outpatient homes and community-based healthcare services (e.g., home healthcare, dialysis, ambulatory surgery support).

The evacuation of a healthcare facility such as a hospital or care home is both a resource-intensive process and involves inherent risks to the residents themselves. The mass movement of persons who are often frail or may have disabilities that impede their ability to assist in their evacuation, including critical transportation needs residents that are bed-ridden, comatose, cognitively impaired, and/or dependent upon ventilators or intravenous feeding or hydration equipment has considerable health implications.

Residents must be safely moved to an alternate facility that can maintain the appropriate level of care required. Hospitals may move patients to other facilities within their network – or may move patients to hospitals in unaffected parts of the county or other, neighboring jurisdictions. Evacuating a facility may involve transfer coordination between the hospital(s), EMS, the Medical/Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC), and the Region I Regional Disaster Medical/Health Specialist (for movement outside of the Operational Area (OA)). Many staff and transportation resources are needed, including mutual aid resources (e.g. ambulance strike teams).

### 4.2.5 Animal Evacuees

Animal evacuees may include household pets<sup>13</sup>, service animals, agricultural animals/livestock, wildlife, and exotic animals. Congregations of animals may be encountered at shelters, rescue organizations, breeding or research facilities, and zoos or sanctuaries.

The Operational Area EOC Care/Shelter Branch Animals Unit coordinates both large animal evacuations and companion animal support during shelter operations. Ventura County Animal Services Agency field operations are responsible for locating, rescuing, and sheltering animals. Temporary animal shelters in Ventura County provide an intake section and medical screening and are often co-located with human shelters.

Addressing pet and livestock evacuation and sheltering procedures guarantees maximum protection of both human and animal health and safety. However, it is important to remember that emergency resources cannot be expected to perform animal evacuations and transport. That work must be accomplished by animal service agencies – both public and private.

#### HOUSEHOLD PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS

The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that, in 2020, approximately 46 percent of all U.S. households owned a dog, while nearly 26 percent owned a cat (Table 4-1). Based on this data, for every 100 households evacuated, approximately 65 dogs and 46 cats will be impacted.

Table 4-1. Pet Ownership in 2020 by Household		
	Dogs	Cats
Percentage of households owning pets	44.6	26
Average number owned per household	1.46	1.78

Source: American Veterinary Medical Association. 2022. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook

Studies from previous disasters indicate that up to 25 percent of pet owners (or ten percent of all evacuees) will ultimately refuse to evacuate because of issues or concerns related to their pets.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP) 9523.19 defines a “household pet” as a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects, arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes.

<sup>14</sup> Heath et al. 2001. Human and Pet-related Risk Factors for Household Evacuation Failure During a Natural Disaster. American Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 153, Issue 7, 1 April 2001, Pages 659-665, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/153.7.659>

Approximately 30 – 50% of residents will leave animals behind during an event, and approximately 50 – 70% will attempt to re-enter an evacuation area to retrieve their pets.

Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, raised national awareness of these behaviors and their impacts. During this disaster, it was found that many residents would not evacuate without their pets, while lack of adequate planning for animals in transportation and sheltering considerations resulted in additional separations and abandonment of many pets. In total, between 100,000 and 250,000 pets were stranded, and between 70,000 and 150,000 pets died.<sup>15</sup> The following year, the Stafford Act was amended to require inclusion of household pets and service animals in emergency response planning.<sup>16</sup>

Additional information and assumptions related to small animal/service animal evacuations are:

- Individuals that self-evacuate are expected to take their pets with them.
- Most individuals who have their own means of transportation will evacuate with their small household pets.
- Service animals (e.g. seeing eye dogs) evacuate with their owners.
- Individuals who do not have access to vehicles will need to secure their pets in cages or carriers prior to their arrival at any evacuation pickup points.
- Animal Control Officers will work with animal services agencies and volunteers to develop an animal tracking methodology.
- In some cases, pets or animals may need to be secured in homes or on-site if they cannot be transported.

## LARGE ANIMALS / LIVESTOCK

According to the USDA's 2022 census of area farms (Table 4.2) Ventura County is home to several thousand head of cattle and horses, but also produces a substantial number of poultry (e.g., chickens and turkeys), goats, and sheep for market. Additionally, there are estimated to be several thousand additional horses and other large animals housed at private residences, as well as boarding, riding and training facilities that are not included in the USDA's reporting figures<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> Animal Welfare Institute, Katrina Lessons Learned: Animals No Longer Excluded from Storm Evacuations (Winter 2017), <https://awionline.org/awi-quarterly/winter-2017/katrinas-lesson-learned-animals-no-longer-excluded-storm-evacuations> .

<sup>16</sup> Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act. 2006 (PL 109-308).

<sup>17</sup> The USDA farm census data requires reporting by farms producing and selling \$1,000 or more in agricultural products, but excludes boarding, training and riding facilities income.

Farming and equestrian facilities are located throughout the County, but are concentrated in rural (e.g. Lockwood Valley) areas as well as many semi-rural areas (e.g. Ojai Valley, Tierra Rejada, Somis, Santa Rosa Valley, Hidden Valley, and Bell Canyon).

<b>Table 4-2. Ventura County Livestock Inventory in 2022</b>	
	<b># of Animals</b>
Layers	5,416
Cattle and calves	3,453
Horses and ponies	2,289 <sup>a</sup>
Goats	714
Sheep and lambs	497
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	287
Pullets	213
Turkeys	176
Hogs and pigs	127

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 2022.

<sup>a</sup> This number does not include horses kept by individuals or those kept at most boarding, training and riding facilities.

Moving large numbers of horses or other livestock in the event of an emergency is challenging. A considerable number of large animals/livestock may need either to be evacuated or sheltered in place. Information and assumptions related to large animal/livestock evacuations are:

- Livestock owners have a responsibility to have a plan for moving their livestock if necessary – but they may not have their own trailers.
- Various public and private groups may have trailers available.
- Animals may need to be secured in barns or fields on-site if they cannot be transported.
- Poultry will generally not be evacuated and will be sheltered in place.
- Animal herds will generally not be evacuated and will be sheltered in place.
- Large animals requiring support (rescue, evacuation, transportation, and sheltering) will be identified by the Ventura County Animal Services Agency.
- Alternative travel routes may need to be considered for animal movement due to the size of vehicles and trailers.

#### 4.2.6 Correctional Facility and Inmate Populations

The custody and care of detainees and inmates falls under the corrections department of the local, state, or federal jurisdiction that oversees the facility.

Detention facilities located within Ventura County and operated by the Ventura County Sheriff include:

- Todd Road Jail (Santa Paula)
- Ventura Main Jail and Pre-trial Detention Facility (Ventura)
- East County Jail (Thousand Oaks), and
- Juvenile Justice Center (El Rio)

The evacuation of these secure correctional facilities requires a coordinated effort between local and state law enforcement and corrections officials, publicly run and privately-operated institutions, and Federal agencies, (e.g., Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Homeland Security [DHS], Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Marshals Service). Jail evacuation plans account for the need to evacuate and transport the entire inmate population due to a catastrophe.

#### 4.2.7 Maritime Evacuees

Ventura County has two recreational/commercial boating harbors (Ventura and Channel Islands Harbors) and one commercial deep-water port (Port Hueneme). Both local boating harbors and the Port of Hueneme maintain emergency preparation, response, and evacuation procedures and plans to manage evacuations within their facilities and or jurisdictions.

Evacuee populations at these locations, and within the over 10 miles of adjoining public waterways that extend into the cities of Oxnard (Mandalay Bay) and Ventura (Ventura Keys), may include substantial numbers of visitors, tourists, and commercial fishermen as well as resident/liveaboard populations. In particular, the liveaboard population in Ventura Harbor (>500 individuals) is one of the largest and most robust of its kind on the west coast. Although most individuals in these areas will be able to self-evacuate, some individuals may require transportation and sheltering assistance. Limited ingress and egress routes from the harbors make early notice of evacuations to these areas essential. Communication between the harbor master or port captain, the cities, and with the OA EOC will be necessary to ensure that evacuation orders impacting these areas are effectively coordinated.

Depending on the type and timing of the disaster event, recreational and commercial vessels may be damaged, or require relocation to alternate harbors or even offshore, although this is rare. The harbor master or port captain will communicate to boaters if and when harbor ingress and egress is safe.

## 4.2.8 Students

### KINDERGARTEN - 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Ventura County is home to more than 200 public and charter schools, encompassing approximately 140,000 kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, there are approximately 70 private schools in the area, with an overall enrollment of nearly 14,000 students.<sup>19</sup> When an incident happens on a weekday, during normal school hours, the schools will activate their individual evacuation plans. If parents are unable to pick up their children from the school, reunification centers will need to be activated to allow children to be safely re-connected with their families. Students may be transported to designated reunification centers where parents can pick them up.

### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

In 2023, there were an additional approximately 50,000 students attending area post-secondary schools in the County, including California State University Channel Islands, three community colleges (Moorpark, Oxnard and Ventura) and several private institutions (e.g., California Lutheran University and Thomas Aquinas College). The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA, Public Law 110-315) mandates that all colleges and universities have crisis management and evacuation plans that are reviewed/updated on an annual basis. Although this age group of students can self-evacuate more easily than kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, these institutions may still need transportation resources as not all students may have vehicles. Additionally, as many students may not be long-term residents of the area, they may not be as familiar with area evacuation routes and alert and warning programs.

## 4.3 EVACUATION PHASES

Efforts typically follow eight generally accepted phases of evacuation response. This section provides an overview of the evacuation phases, along with operational priorities for evacuation operations and the objectives that support those priorities.

### 4.3.1 Phase 1: Initial Incident and On-Scene Response

During this phase, the on-scene Incident Commander will evaluate the situation and identify the requirement for an evacuation. This initial size-up of the incident will include evaluating:

- the threat type and location;
- event source/cause;
- magnitude;
- terrain (slope, aspect, elevation);
- environment;

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<sup>18</sup> Ventura County Office of Education, <https://www.vcoe.org/Schools>, accessed July 12, 2024

<sup>19</sup> California Department of Education, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/si/ps/psastatcountsbycnty.asp>, accessed July 12, 2024.

- infrastructure and populations at risk;
- available resources; and
- anticipated control timeline and event duration.

**PHASE 1****Initial Incident and On-Scene Response****Objective: Develop situational awareness**

- Conduct initial size-up of the incident.
- Establish an Incident Command System structure that will coordinate evacuations and any applicable mass transit operation needs.
- Begin the notification of potential evacuations to public safety agencies.
- Establish interoperable emergency communications among public- and private- sector transportation entities involved in mass transportation operations, as applicable.

**4.3.2 Phase 2: Situation Analysis**

Efforts during this phase of the evacuation response focus on developing a more robust situational awareness of the impacts of the event, supporting evacuation decision-making by senior leaders, and allowing initial planning for developing large-scale evacuation operations. Situational analysis is a process that will continue to occur throughout the incident to monitor any changing conditions.

Rapid or unpredicted changes can result in mobilization to evacuate if the threat or hazard could, or is, currently threatening health and safety.

**PHASE 2****Situation Analysis and Evaluation****Objectives:**

- **Assess and evaluate the need for evacuations**
  - **Establish a priority for movement of affected populations based on life safety concerns**
- Determine impacts to population.
  - Determine impacts to critical infrastructure.
  - Identify the locations and sizes of affected populations that are threatened.
  - Identify the locations and number of affected animals (e.g. companion and service animals, large animals, livestock) that will require evacuation, including those that may accompany evacuees.
  - Review the population of the areas at risk and identify facilities that may require specialized assistance or additional time to evacuate (hospitals, nursing homes, schools, jails etc.).
  - To the best extent possible, identify individuals with medical needs who may require assistance in evacuating and maintain contact information for those individuals.
  - Monitor for any changes, or predicted changes, in the hazard condition or environment.

The analysis should continue to build off the components of the initial incident size-up conducted as part of Phase I, bringing additional focus, where possible, to:

- Weather and environmental conditions
- Geography and terrain
- Infrastructure at risk: roads, buildings, water/sewage facilities, utilities
- Populations at risk: numbers, demographics, and transportation requirements

As part of the analysis, the following factors have direct bearing on emergency evacuations:

- Time of day, day of the week, season/time of year
- Total number of people to be evacuated
- Population density of area to be evacuated
- Demographic considerations (AFN populations, schools, care facilities)
- Time available to conduct and complete an evacuation
- Travel distance necessary for evacuees to reach safety
- Availability of resources to support evacuation
- Availability and capacity of evacuation routes
- Impediments or vulnerabilities of evacuation routes (e.g. downed power lines, wildfire smoke)
- Potential risks to personnel (e.g. law enforcement, fire, transportation personnel, etc.) supporting the evacuation

## EVACUATION TRIGGERS

The following scenarios are likely to result in the evacuation of communities within the Ventura County OA for the purpose of protecting health and safety.

### *DAM FAILURE*

- Any scenario resulting in the Potential Failure Emergency Level or Imminent Failure Emergency Level as identified in the respective Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the dam.
  - An extreme flood exceeding the capacity of the spillway and outlet works, leading to overtopping and breaching of the dam.
  - A blockage of the spillway due to landslides or debris, leading to overtopping and breaching of the dam.
  - A major earthquake causing cracking within the dam and/or slumping of the dam crest or damage to the spillway and/or outlet works. Excessive seepage through cracks could lead to piping (washing out) of embankment materials.
  - Undisclosed defects in embankment or foundation materials or in construction of the dam or other structures, leading to excessive leakage, piping or slides. Defects may lie undetected for many years, until triggered by a particularly unfavorable combination of events.

**LEEVE FAILURE**

- Levee Spillover (overtopping): A levee is "topped" when water levels on one side of a levee rise to a point where they spill over. When a levee is topped, water enters the protected area.
- Levee Rupture/Breach: A levee breach is effectively a complete collapse of the system, and it cannot be immediately remedied.

**EARTHQUAKE**

- Any earthquake resulting in compromised or imminent failure of structures and critical infrastructure, such as apartment complexes, overpasses, bridges, etc.

**FLOODING (Including POST-FIRE DEBRIS FLOWS AND FLASH FLOODS)**

- Waterways (e.g. Ventura River, Santa Clara River and their tributaries) expected to exceed established Flood Stage criteria resulting in an immediate threat to public health and safety.
- Observed or anticipated precipitation meeting rain rate thresholds identified for burn scars by the National Weather Service may result in issuance of evacuation warnings or orders.
- Rain events often occur overnight, making it difficult or impossible for first responders to issue evacuation orders.
- When possible, evacuation orders should be conducted during daylight.
- Post-fire debris flows and flash floods are generally triggered during high-intensity, short-duration storm events; they develop quickly and progress downslope rapidly, often with little to no lead time to prepare.
- Once land starts to move, it is nearly impossible for first responders to provide life-safety services.

**Table 4-3. Flash Flooding Response Triggers for Ventura County**

<b>Weather Statement</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>ETA to Impact</b>	<b>Recommended Action</b>
Weather Advisory	The first indication of weather that may develop into watch or warning levels.	72 - 48 Hours	Monitor conditions
Flash Flood Watch	A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur but is possible.	0 - 36 hours	Evacuation Warning
Flash Flood Warning	Flash flooding is occurring or imminent that poses a threat to life/property, OR USGS* debris flow flash flood guidance has been reached, OR dam or levee failure	≤ 2 hours	Evacuation Order

\*USGS = U.S. Geological Survey

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASES

- Level I Incidents:
  - Involve minor leaks or spills that would not produce conditions immediately dangerous to life or health.
  - Can be readily controlled and stabilized by properly trained and equipped first responders.
  - *Would not require large-scale evacuations and implementation of this Evacuation Plan.*
- Level II Incidents:
  - Involve hazardous materials that can only be identified, tested, sampled, contained, and mitigated utilizing the expertise and resources of a designated hazardous materials incident response team, which is beyond the scope of resources of the emergency first response agencies.
  - *These incidents pose a significant risk to public health and the environment, requiring possible evacuations and implementation of protective measures.*
- Level III Incidents:
  - Involve the release of substantial quantities of hazardous materials, posing significant risk to public health and the environment, requiring major response involving specialized public and private resources and technical assistance.
  - Incident requires extended response and logistical support operations.
  - *Large-scale precautionary evacuations and establishment of temporary shelter sites may be required.*

## TARGETED VIOLENCE

- Targeted violence, incendiary or explosive device identification, credible threat, or act of terrorism occurring where there is a mass congregation of individuals, such as at schools, churches or concerts, may result in implementation of evacuations or shelter-in-place orders.

## TSUNAMI

- The National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) issues a tsunami watch, advisory, and/or warning for Ventura County.

**Table 4-4. Tsunami Response Triggers for Ventura County**

Earthquake Magnitude	Location	Tsunami Statement	ETA to Impact	Recommended Action
9.0 and above	Chile	Warning	13 Hrs	Evacuation Order
7.6 - 7.8	Japan	Warning	10 Hrs	Evacuation Order
8.8 and above	Kuril Islands and Kamchatka Peninsula	Watch	9 Hrs	Evacuation Warning
8.9 and above	The Aleutian Islands	Watch	5 Hrs	Evacuation Warning
9.2 and above	Alaska	Warning	5 Hrs	Evacuation Order
9.0 and above	Cascadia fault, full rupture of Goleta Landslide; Underwater	No Notice	1 Hr	Evacuation Order
7.1 and above	Within Santa Barbara Channel (local faults)	No Notice	10-30 Minutes	Evacuation Order
undetermined	Goleta Landslide; Underwater landslide in the Santa Barbara Channel	No Notice	10-30 Minutes	Evacuation Order

### WILDFIRE

- Generally, any wildfire threatening life and/or property.
- Due to the unpredictability of fire behavior and the variety of possible scenarios (e.g. Santa Ana conditions, seasonality, existing fuel moisture levels), individual triggers are difficult to identify.
- Decision points are based on the fire's current location, rate and direction of spread, and the reflex time required to implement an action.
  - In a planned need evacuation, decision points such as when the fire reaches a critical drainage, ridge or highway will be identified by the Incident Commander. A triggering event may be a wind shift or other weather anomaly, a significant increase in fire spread or intensity, a critical resource diversion, or a large spot fire or new incident.
  - During an immediate need evacuation, decision points may not be identified for the affected area.

### 4.3.3 Phase 3: Decision to Evacuate

The decision to evacuate or shelter-in-place is based on an analysis of the situation by public safety and emergency management officials. Officials may include fire department personnel, law enforcement officers, weather experts, and emergency management professionals. Public safety and emergency management professionals must use the best information available, their training and knowledge, and a sound decision-making process to determine when an evacuation is necessary.

During Phase 3, the situational awareness developed previously is used to determine the location of populations who need to be evacuated and the priority for conducting those evacuations. An evacuation is necessary if the risk to the population is greater if they remain in place than if they are relocated away from the threat.

Ultimately, law enforcement and fire officials have the authority to determine the extent and implementation of evacuations; they often work together in a unified command structure. The decision to evacuate is determined at the field level and should be coordinated at every appropriate level (i.e. local and county).

#### PHASE 3

#### Decision to Evacuate

**Objective: Initiate the orderly movement of affected populations away from the threat**

- Determine extent and level of evacuations necessary
- Determine the priority of evacuation
- Determine time of evacuation implementation

#### ESTABLISHING THE EVACUATION AREA

The first step in a managed evacuation is for public safety personnel to assess the situation and determine the precise area and level of evacuation (e.g. Shelter-in-Place, Evacuation Warning, or Evacuation Order) necessary

The official(s) recommending the evacuation will seek to establish an evacuation zone that is clearly understandable to the public, determine the location of potential evacuee reception center(s) such as TEPs and shelters, and designate any applicable ingress and egress routes. Depending on the event, an outer perimeter that prevents access to the affected area may also be established. The official(s) recommending the evacuation may contact the local Emergency Manager or Sheriff's Emergency Services Duty Officer to obtain assistance in GIS mapping of the proposed zones. The Sheriff's Emergency Services Duty Officer is available 24/7, and is trained to prepare customized, incident-specific GIS mapping responses to support hazard event responses in the Ventura OA.

Many of the events that trigger large-scale evacuations in the Ventura OA are highly dynamic, no-notice events. For example, wildfire events are influenced by winds, topography, fuel loads, and atmospheric conditions (e.g., temperature and relative humidity), making the speed, spread, and overall direction of each event unique. The resulting evacuation decisions may be additionally complicated by issues of resource availability and transportation route conditions (e.g., low visibility, smoke). Additionally, timing

to evacuate schools or other institutional facilities, and large animals or livestock, should be considered when an Evacuation Warning is issued as these may take longer to evacuate.

The zones that Sheriff's Emergency Services staff create are instantly available to responders, providing responding public safety agencies, mutual aid resources, and cooperators with a shared reference point. For assisting agencies that may be responding from out of the area, these zones provide them with a common operating platform and a clear understanding of the geographic areas that are under evacuation orders. Information will be disseminated to the public by the Sheriff's Emergency Services Duty Officer or the Ventura County EOC via the County's Alert and Warning System.

### *PRE-DESIGNATED EVACUATION ZONES*

Pre-designated evacuation zones are utilized by many jurisdictions, as they can enable initial attack incident commanders to quickly determine boundaries for evacuation orders/warnings, particularly where qualified, GIS-trained staff are not available. However, it is difficult to model appropriate zones that are sufficiently applicable to all hazards. Additionally, modifications to pre-designated zones are often necessary to limit over- or under-evacuation of individuals, as conditions between events (e.g. tsunami versus an earthquake) or even within a single event (e.g. a wind-driven wildfire) may be highly variable.

#### *Tsunami-specific evacuation zones*

Sheriff's Emergency Services maintains tsunami-specific evacuation zone maps for the County's at-risk coastal areas that were developed in consultation with USGS and are published on the [www.readyventuracounty.org](http://www.readyventuracounty.org) website.

#### *Wildfire-specific evacuation zones*

Sheriff's Emergency Services is currently (2023-2024) conducting an analysis of high fire severity zones in Ventura County and devising pre-configured evacuation zones for potential use by emergency personnel to expedite evacuation decision making and execution during a wildfire response. Funding for this project is being provided by a grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (22 CalFire 380245) as part of the California Climate Investments Program, through the California Fire Safe Council. The zones will be included in an appendix to this Plan once they are completed.

### EVACUATION DURATION

The duration of an evacuation can vary substantially, depending on the type, size, and scope of the hazard prompting the evacuation. For example, a wildfire burning through light flash fuels (grass) may require the evacuation of a nearby residential subdivision for only a very short period (hours). However, the same size fire burning through chaparral or timber may require a much longer evacuation period (days or weeks). In general, the heavier the damage to property and infrastructure, the longer the evacuation period. Both the Thomas Fire and Hill-Woolsey Fire events resulted in evacuations that spanned multiple days, with damage to some areas and homes being so severe that re-population did not occur for weeks.

### 4.3.4 Phase 4: Resource Mobilization

Mobilization is the process of notifying agencies, people, systems, and resources to establish and conduct the evacuation, including incident command and management structures, public works, transportation, care and shelter, etc. Mobilization to support the evacuation begins after the identification of a threat or hazard and the decision by the IC or Unified Command to evacuate or shelter-in-place has been made.

#### PHASE 4

#### Mobilization

##### Objectives:

- **Conduct initial movement of response resources and evacuees.**
- **Coordinate the local needs for mass transportation resources and management.**

- Coordinate with mass care service providers and the Operational Area to identify the destinations for evacuees
- Identify staging areas for evacuation-related resources.
- Identify and deploy law enforcement staff to conduct field warning operations (Hi-Lo sirens, door-to-door, public address systems, etc.)
- Identify and deploy law enforcement and public works staff to establish road closures.
- Identify and deploy law enforcement and public works staff to coordinate and manage transportation corridors.
- Support initial road restoration activities of the transportation network.
- Identify status of and acquire mass transit resources, including resources to transport people with AFN.
- Confirm availability of routes and coordinate the list of priority transportation routes.
- Identify evacuation pickup points and coordinate with local jurisdictions to support the operation of the pickup points.
- Identify priorities for the use of available transportation resources to assist in mass transportation and evacuation efforts.
- Identify the number of, and destinations for, responders to be brought into affected areas; Determine priority transportation routes for emergency services workers.
- Coordinate evacuation routes that result in movement through another Operational Areas.
- Coordination of public safety and security resources will be required to support the evacuation.
- Establish and support a Joint Information Center to coordinate evacuation information and notifications.

Mobilization will likely happen concurrently with other phases for no-notice events and short-notice events. Emergency management officials make coordinated decisions for protective actions and priorities, disseminating clear evacuation messages to the public. Several communication means may initiate notification. For a fast-moving incident, the most likely notification is a page from the IC to the OES Duty Officer (DO). IC will request resources and EOC activation.

The OES DO will request the Human Services Agency (HSA) to activate a shelter coordination call. On this call, the OES DO will provide a situational status report on the event (for a fire this will include fire size, location, proposed evacuations, and other potential implications such as road closures/school closures, infrastructure and AFN considerations) to EMS, Animal Services, City Emergency Coordinators, and impacted stakeholders (e.g. school districts, special districts, parks). The locations of TEPs and shelters will be determined and conveyed to the DO for dissemination via the County's Alert and Warning System.

Should a rapidly unfolding event lead local authorities to consider mobilization of law enforcement evacuation support, on-duty staff may be overwhelmed. In the event mutual aid is requested, resource requests will flow through the OA Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Coordinator.

#### 4.3.5 Phase 5: Public Notification

Early, effective notification to the public is critical to successful evacuation operations. After a decision has been made to evacuate populations, notification messages are developed, coordinated, and delivered. These messages include initial evacuation operations as well as repopulation operations.

#### PHASE 5

#### Public Notification

**Objective: Provide notification of imminent threats and evacuation information to the public.**

- Provide notification to the public of critical Evacuation Warnings and Orders
- Provide evacuation guidance for those under and Evacuation Warnings or Orders
- Identify a preliminary list of destinations for evacuees
- Provide additional, critical event-specific information, as applicable

The County maintains robust Alert and Warning capabilities to issue emergency alerts for county unincorporated areas and contracted cities. Direct notification through the County's alert and warning system may be done by authorized local and/or county-level agencies. If requested, the County can also issue alerts on behalf of local jurisdictions whose own warning capacity has been exceeded.

If a local jurisdiction decides an evacuation is necessary, the VC OES Duty Officer should be notified immediately to help with coordination, and will activate the Ventura County EOC at the appropriate level. If multiple levels of SEMS are activated, messaging must be coordinated carefully between each level (i.e. city and county). During an incident in which the Ventura County EOC is activated, the EOC is the coordination point for all alerting and warning. All involved entities should consider participation in the Joint Information System established by the EOC.

**For more guidance on Ventura County Operational Area Alert and Warning protocols, please see the Alert and Warning Annex of the Ventura County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan.**

## NOTIFICATION METHODS

The following methods of warning the public of an evacuation may be used, according to the scope and speed of the incident:

- VC Alert (Everbridge)
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
- Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- Siren Alerts (e.g. Hi-Low vehicle siren and Dam failure siren)
- In-person (Door-to-Door) notifications
- OES Website (VCEmergency.com)
- Nixle
- Social Media
- TV and Radio Media
- CALTRANS message signs

Multiple notification methods may be used to attempt to reach as many people as quickly and efficiently as possible. The methods used to notify the public of an evacuation will vary depending on the timing, location, and type of emergency. Key criteria that will impact the notification methods utilized include:

- Potential impacts of the threat
- Time of day
- Required public actions
- Time available for the public to react
- Environmental conditions magnifying the incident's effects

Special consideration shall be taken when conducting door-to-door notifications. Many AFN individuals utilize assistive technology such as doorbell signalers, bedshakers and other alerting devices to facilitate their awareness of emergency conditions. As conditions permit, a range of methods should be used by public safety personnel to ensure notifications can be received by individuals who may have limited English language skills or other AFN considerations that may limit their ability to process audio or visual stimuli (e.g. deaf or hard of hearing, blind, or having limited sight). Efforts should include a combination of light, sound, and vibration such as:

- Knocking firmly,
- Ringing the doorbell (for individuals that may utilize a doorbell signaler),
- Aiming a high intensity, strobing flashlight at windows,
- Being patient, as it may take a longer time for individuals with AFN to respond, and
- Relaying any instructions slowly and clearly.

### *VC ALERT*

VC Alert is a GIS-targetable mass notification system that allows authorized local government officials (e.g. County Sheriff and local police) to send emergency alerts to Ventura County residents that have opted-in to the system. Residents can register to receive notifications for up to five separate addresses/locations (e.g. home, business, school).

The VC Alert notification method is fast, extremely precise (i.e. it can be scaled to target areas as small as a single property), and the messaging is highly customizable. This system will broadcast to virtually any communication device and channel, including audio, text, and mobile, and is capable of reaching 100,000 contacts per hour. However, because this system is optional and messaging is sent only to the phones registered to the target locations, it may not reach all individuals in an affected area. This is particularly true for non-residential areas, and areas people visit occasionally or only transit through (e.g. public spaces, malls, parks, event venues, supermarkets, businesses, and fairgrounds).

#### *WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS (WEA)*

The Wireless Emergency Alert system is a nationwide system launched in 2012 that allows authorized government officials (e.g. National Weather Service, state and local government agencies) to send various types of geographically-targeted emergency alerts, including:

- "National Alerts" issued by the President of the United States or the Administrator of FEMA;
- "Imminent Threat" alerts involving imminent threats to safety or life (e.g. natural or human-caused disasters, extreme weather events, active shooters);
- "AMBER Alerts" issued for abducted children;
- "Ebony Alerts" issued for missing, at-risk black youth;
- "Yellow Alerts" issued for missing, at-risk indigenous individuals
- Silver Alerts" issued for missing, elderly at-risk individuals
- "Feather Alerts" issued for missing at-risk indigenous individuals
- "Public Safety Messages" conveying recommendations for saving lives and property.

In contrast to VC Alert, the WEA system sends messaging from the cell towers of participating wireless providers to all WEA-compatible mobile devices located within a specified geographic area. Consumers will receive brief, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to life and safety in the immediate area of wherever their mobile phone is located

Although enhancements in effect since 2019 have improved targeting, the WEA notification system is not as precise as VC Alert. This can result in emergency messaging being sent to areas outside of an intended evacuation area. The WEA system also has restrictions on message character length, so this form of notification is typically implemented in conjunction with other emergency notification methods such as posting information on VCemergency.com.

#### *EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)*

The Emergency Alert System is a national warning system designed to allow authorized officials to interrupt television and radio broadcasting signals to relay emergency messaging via cable, satellite, or broadcast television, as well as AM/FM and satellite radio. The effectiveness of this method is limited to those who are watching television or listening to the radio at the time of messaging. This notification method is also vulnerable to security breaches/hacking. Today, this notification method is used primarily at the local level to put out weather warnings and local "Civil Emergency Messages."

### *IN-PERSON (DOOR-TO-DOOR) NOTIFICATIONS*

“Door-to-Door” notifications can be highly effective, especially when reaching people who are asleep or are not reached by other warning media. Personnel conducting these notifications should be trained in assisting individuals with AFN, including those for whom English is not their primary language and those that may be deaf or hard of hearing. This form of notification is typically implemented in conjunction with other notification methods during large-scale evacuations as it is both labor intensive and time consuming.

### *PUBLIC SIRENS*

Sirens, such as the VC Sheriff’s use of the Hi-Low siren and the Piru Dam Siren, can be very effective for alerting people outdoors in parks or other public spaces of an emergency, but their effectiveness in penetrating well-insulated homes and buildings can be limited. Associating individual siren sounds with specific meanings can require intensive public education efforts. Likewise, visitors from other areas may not recognize the meaning of a siren alert. Sirens also have limited effectiveness in alerting individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing.

### *PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS AND LOUDSPEAKERS*

Built-in audio announcement systems exist in many buildings and outdoor venues. These can be valuable provided a) the warning message is effectively written, and b) the amplified audio is intelligible. Constructing systems to provide intelligible sound in complex acoustic environments can be technically demanding and expensive. Loudspeakers systems can be very effective, but reverberation amongst buildings or sound absorption by foliage can limit the intelligible range of the messaging. As with sirens, this form of notification also has limited effectiveness in alerting individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing.

### NOTIFICATION CONTENT

Messages must be clear, consistent, and concise to facilitate an orderly evacuation. Public information in Evacuation Orders and Warnings should emphasize the reasoning behind the decision to evacuate and the actions residents are expected to take. The public should also be warned that Evacuation Warnings may become Evacuation Orders if incident conditions change.

Critical components of evacuation messaging include:

- Identifying the Alerting Authority (e.g. Ventura County Sheriff, Ventura County Fire etc.)
- Describing the threat (e.g. Fire, Flood, Tsunami, Hazardous Material)
- Providing guidance for protective action (Evacuation Warning or Order/Shelter-in-Place)
- Providing the hazard/shelter-in-place locations or evacuation areas
- Giving the time available to act (IMMEDIATE/NOW or timeframe if available)
- Sharing future information sources (always include [www.vcemergency.com](http://www.vcemergency.com) or other link).

The amount of content included in an alert and warning message may be constrained by both the pace of events and the messaging platform. For example, many mechanisms to alert the public have limitations on message content (i.e. 120 characters for text messages). Social and news media, as well

as the VCemergency.com website will be used to deliver more detailed information. As soon as possible, the following should be released on agency websites and to the media:

- Precise boundaries of the affected area.
- Hazard information, including type and estimated duration.
- Locations of temporary evacuation points, or shelters
- Evacuation routes and key road closure information (as applicable).
- Instructions for individuals who need assistance to evacuate.
- Guidance for those with livestock, pets and service animals.
- Encouragement to assist friends and neighbors, if possible, especially anyone likely to need assistance.
- Special instructions for schools, care facilities, and hospitals.
- What to take when evacuating
- What to do if a loved one may be in the evacuation area.
- Encouragement to take the shortest evacuation route (rather than a familiar, longer route).
- Family reunification process.
- Adverse health effects to monitor for, if any.
- Implications of not following recommended actions.
- Time and delivery method for the next available information.
- Instructions for those near, but outside of, the affected area.

**NON-COMPLIANCE WITH EVACUATION ORDERS**

Although, pursuant to CA law (Penal Code Section 409.5), it is a misdemeanor for unauthorized individuals to willfully remain in an area after receiving an Evacuation Order, some individuals will choose not to comply. Research conducted following the large-scale Southern California wildfire events in 2017 found that approximately 13% of individuals sampled indicated that they did not comply with an issued Evacuation Order. Some of the most common reasons residents cited for non-compliance are shown in Table 4-5.

<b>Table 4-5. Reasons for Non-compliance with Evacuation Orders</b>	
<b>Non-compliance reason</b>	<b>% Responders</b>
Individuals did not receive any Evacuation Order	47.1
Wanting to protect their home, property, possessions, or business	29.4
Employment demands (i.e., needing to still go in to work) during the event	23.5
Misjudging the severity of event	21.6
Not wanting to go to a public shelter	15.7
No family or friends to shelter with	9.8
Being unsure where they can take a pet	7.8
Not wanting to sit in traffic	7.8

Ensuring that adequate information exists to inform the public regarding the risks of the event, the evacuation process, and resources available to evacuees, can help reduce non-compliance.

If time allows, it should be explained to individuals that failure to evacuate may result in injury or death – and that future opportunities to evacuate may not exist (resources may not be available later). Regardless, a person who refuses to comply with an Evacuation Order shall not be forcibly removed from their home or property.

Depending on the type of disaster event, additional information may be requested from individuals choosing to ignore an Evacuation Order in order to document and facilitate any further response or recovery efforts.

#### 4.3.6 Phase 6: Evacuation

This phase includes the movement of evacuees both within and outside the affected area. This phase also encompasses the re-establishment of the transportation system to facilitate both movement of individuals out of affected areas and the movement of resources into affected areas.

Operations address the provision of transportation services to those requiring mass transit, targeted transportation services for people with AFN, traffic management on priority transportation routes, and the provision of support services (e.g., fuel, food, water) along designated evacuation routes.

#### PHASE 6

#### Evacuation

##### Objectives:

- **Implement Evacuation Warnings or Orders.**
  - **Ensure a safe and effective evacuation of the affected populations during life-threatening emergencies.**
- Law enforcement staff to conduct door-to-door notifications, as applicable.
  - Law enforcement staff to man road closures.
  - Law Enforcement staff to coordinate and manage transportation corridors.
  - Track, and to the extent possible, support ad hoc evacuations out of affected areas.
  - Track inbound movement of response resources.
  - Identify additional resources required to support applicable mass transportation efforts.
  - Deploy mass transportation resources, including vehicles to move people with AFN, as needed.
  - Conduct advance planning for foreseeable/anticipated evacuations.

#### EVACUEE DESTINATIONS

In most scenarios, evacuees will seek destinations such as temporary evacuation points, shelters, hotels, or friends and family within Ventura County. In catastrophic scenarios, however, many evacuees may need to seek safe haven further afield; it may be necessary to evacuate residents into adjoining

jurisdictions. This will involve working with the appropriate leadership in those other counties both during the incident and in planning efforts.

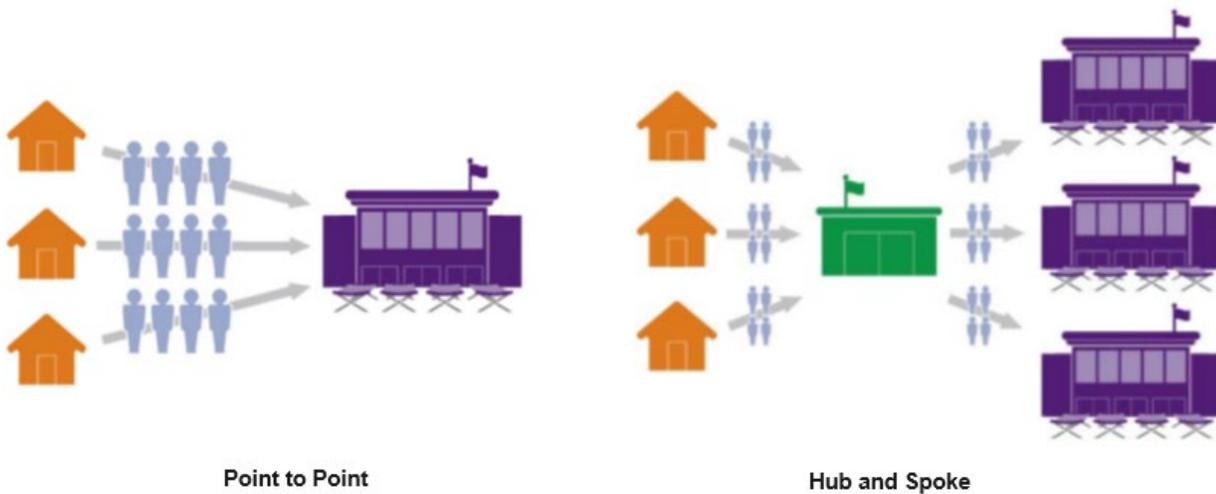
The following adjoining counties have been identified as potentially impacted by large-scale evacuations occurring in Ventura:

- Santa Barbara County
- Los Angeles County
- Kern County

## TRANSPORTATION MODELS

There are two primary transportation models utilized in evacuation operations: 1) Point-to-Point, and 2) Hub and Spoke. A point-to-point network directly connects a set of locations (e.g. pick up or drop offs) even if the route between them may not be direct. Conversely, a (pure) hub-and-spoke network is like a bicycle wheel that connects every location on the wheel through a single, centralized intermediary location known as a hub.

**Figure 4-1. Comparison of Evacuation Transportation Models**



### *POINT TO POINT*

This method moves evacuees directly from the point of embarkation to a host jurisdiction or shelter. Point-to-point is the fastest, most direct and streamlined, and least resource-intensive evacuation action in the immediate operational period. This model is not ideal, however, if the host location has not been determined, such as in the instance of no-notice events that have a wide and unpredictable pattern.

### *HUB AND SPOKE*

This method is utilized by many passenger and freight companies (e.g. UPS, FedEx, most major airlines). It relies on moving and aggregating evacuees utilizing short trips from numerous pickup

locations to centralized evacuation centers (hubs), which in turn provide evacuation to mass care centers. The hub and spoke method maximizes routes and provides immediate movement of people from dangerous locations to a safer location, temporarily.

This transportation model allows jurisdictions to triage the needs of individuals, including those which may only require access to temporary shelter or access to personnel to facilitate the rental of a vehicle or other means to evacuate and provide care for themselves and their family directly. As a network structure, hub-and-spoke maximizes flexibility within the transport system through a concentration of flows, and requires fewer overall routes than the point-to-point model.

## EVACUATION ROUTES

Once an Evacuation Order or Evacuation Warning has been communicated to the public, it is expected that most of the affected individuals will evacuate the affected area using their personal vehicles (e.g. private cars and trucks).

For the purposes of this plan, evacuation routes are divided into primary and secondary routes. U.S. highway (US 101) is the main transportation link between the east and west areas of the County. The highway enters Ventura County from Los Angeles County in the southeast and Santa Barbara County in the west, traversing the county for a total of 43.6 miles. Additionally, several state routes (all or parts of SR1, SR23, SR33, SR34, SR118, SR126, SR150 and SR232) traverse the county.

Maps of the County's primary and secondary routes are found in Appendix D. Several of the cities within the county have, or are in the process of developing, local evacuation plans. Some of these plans include mapped evacuation routes, which can be accessed from the cities' websites.

Like evacuation zone planning, there is no "one size fits all" approach that can be applied universally to evacuation routes for all hazards, and routes often vary depending on the type and conditions particular to each hazard event.

Important roadway characteristics and factors to consider when identifying additional priority routes for local transportation include:

- Location of affected populations
- Shortest route to the destination areas (e.g., TEPs and/or shelter locations)
- Roadways that are not expected to become disabled while an evacuation is in progress
- Maximum number of lanes that provide continuous flow through the evacuation area
- Availability of infrastructure to disseminate real-time conditions and messages to evacuees that are enroute (e.g., changeable message signs, WEAs).
- Minimal number of potentially hazardous points and bottlenecks, such as bridges, tunnels, and lane reductions
- Ability to increase traffic capacity and flow using traffic control strategies (e.g. timed lights, contraflow)

Evacuees requiring transportation assistance may be directed to a pick-up point (like a bus stop) to await transportation. Pick-up points are locations where individuals can gather to await mass transit.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Managing traffic flow is key to efficient evacuation. Effective traffic management allows a jurisdiction to evacuate more people from a community in an efficient manner, which reduces the burden on jurisdiction personnel and resources. Failure to organize efficient traffic management efforts increases resource burdens, and could lead to increased congestion and potential accidents, resulting in longer evacuation times. This can leave evacuating residents in vulnerable conditions during an incident.

A Traffic Control Plan should be developed by the Command and General Staff in conjunction with the Ventura County Public Works Agency during an incident, time permitting.

The Plan will contain the following:

- Traffic control points and the responsible agency for providing staffing and operational control
- Barricade plans including locations and staffing
- Potential flow pattern changes (e.g., one way/reverse lane operations)

## ROAD CLOSURES

Soft and hard road closures are utilized by law enforcement to limit access to the evacuation zone. Hard Closures are roads that are closed to all traffic except fire and law enforcement personnel and emergency vehicles. A hard road closure will prevent individuals who were outside the affected area when an evacuation was issued or that leave the area after an Evacuation Order has been issued, from returning to or entering the affected area.

Soft Closures are roads closed to all traffic except fire, law enforcement and critical incident resources (i.e. Caltrans, city/county roads etc. or those needed to repair or restore infrastructure). Soft road closures may be used to facilitate security of areas placed under an Evacuation Warning, where residents may be asked to prove residency in order to gain access to a threatened area.

## CONTRAFLOW

In some cases, it may be necessary to alter the normal flow of traffic (contraflow) to aid in an emergency evacuation. In an emergency evacuation, contraflow lane reversal roughly doubles the number of lanes available for evacuation traffic. Crossover sections are used to move outgoing traffic to these lanes. All incoming traffic is blocked until the end of the evacuation.

Contraflow lane reversal is not commonly utilized in California because most area highways have non-controlled access, which allows drivers to enter and leave the highway from any point. A significant number of law enforcement are needed to manually direct traffic during a lane reversal, especially at interchanges, where ramp traffic in the wrong direction must intersect with other roadways that are operating normally. Contraflow lanes (and any associated ramps at interchanges) lack proper signage, signals, and other traffic control devices needed to orderly conduct traffic in the opposite direction.

If it does become necessary to implement contraflow traffic during an event, it is important to identify well-known “inception” and “termination” points for contraflow traffic; congestion at these points can impact the flow of traffic significantly. If contraflow or one-way traffic is implemented, it should only be done during daylight hours (if possible) and should be in effect for as short a time as possible.

## ACCESS AND CONTROL OF EVACUATED AREAS

Once an area is evacuated, incident commanders will direct that a security plan be developed to prevent looting and to establish control points to limit entry into evacuated areas. When possible, periodic patrols should be conducted to deter theft by those on foot. To the extent possible, the security plan should include measures to ensure continued structure protection, if applicable.

Law enforcement has the responsibility to prevent anyone from entering an area under evacuation orders. Access control may be monitored and maintained using check points, mobile patrols, roadblocks and/or closures. There may be numerous ingress/egress routes into the affected area, making it difficult to limit access. It may be necessary to contract with private security providers to facilitate area security.

### *ROADBLOCKS*

The strategic utilization and placement of roadblocks is an important part of the evacuation process. Roadblocks can be utilized to seal entry points into devastated areas for two main reasons:

- To prevent uncontrolled re-entry of the civilian population, which can clog rescue routes for people in the impacted areas who may require medical attention.
- To help curtail acts of unlawfulness such as looting and vandalism.

### *CURFEWS*

Curfews may be initiated as a crime prevention measure depending on the intensity of the disaster and the level of damage sustained. The decision to implement a curfew and its duration rests with the local governing body but curfews should be coordinated between appropriate law enforcement agencies and governing bodies to ensure continuity among jurisdictions. Curfews may be implemented countywide, regionally or within a municipality depending on the level of impact of the emergency.

## MOVEMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKERS / MUTUAL AID

Emergency service workers from outside the region will initially be deployed into logistical staging areas in the vicinity of the region. These staging areas are temporary and have the ability to handle commodities, equipment and inbound responders. The deployment of inbound emergency service workers will occur daily, based on an Incident Action Plan, and transportation will need to be provided from the various base camps to the work sites. The Ventura County EOC Logistics Section will identify locations for staging of outside resources to support transportation. The Incident Command/Unified Command will identify locations for staging mutual aid evacuation operations.

### *AIRPORTS*

There are three airports located in Ventura County. All airports are required under the Code of Federal Regulations to have and maintain an evacuation plan. Both Oxnard and Camarillo airports are public airports while Santa Paula airport is a privately-owned, public use airport operated by the Santa Paula Airport Association. Airport runways' fuel, maintenance and FAA air traffic services often provide a

critical base for regional disaster responses by supporting aircraft operations, as well as personnel and equipment<sup>20</sup>.

#### MASS TRANSIT EVACUATION ASSISTANCE

If the need for a large-scale evacuation occurs, it is expected that VCTC, in coordination with the county transit agencies, will have an important role to play in the movement of large numbers of people in a timely manner. Mass transit may be used to facilitate movement of individuals to “Temporary Evacuation Points” where minimal services are available, or to shelters. It is the goal of mass transit to move people to the closest area outside of the area of Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH). In some cases, additional VCTC resources may be deployed to areas of the county where they do not usually have a presence to facilitate evacuations. VCTC can send “strike teams” of buses when necessary. In addition, VCTC staff may have a presence in the County and/or local EOCs. VCTC also has their own EOC which will communicate with the OA EOC.

#### ONGOING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Local and County officials will decide whether any existing transportation services (e.g. public buses) will continue in the evacuated area. This may range from no services to limited services. If transportation resources are available, they may only be used for responders in the affected area.

#### 4.3.7 Phase 7: Mass Care and Shelter

A large-scale incident requires moving people out of their residences and away from the threat. This may involve moving individuals across large areas or multiple jurisdictions. The Op Area EOC will obtain situational information for the highest areas of impact to establish appropriate care and shelter services. These locations may also be used as points of distribution for emergency support commodities. The Op Area EOC will determine the type, level of service, location, and logistics:

- Temporary Evacuation Points
- Shelters
- Evacuation Pick Up Points

Ventura County Operational Area emergency managers will work with local law enforcement agencies, transportation services, and mass care and shelter providers to establish and support any necessary evacuation pick up locations.

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<sup>20</sup> In 2018, Santa Paula Airport was awarded FAA Western Pacific Region’s Outstanding Airport Award for its “exemplary support for the efforts to fight the Thomas Fire” by closing down normal operations for nearly a month in order to support firefighting aircraft operations, equipment and firefighting personnel.

**PHASE 7** | **Mass Care and Shelter**

**Objectives:**

- **Support movement of evacuees out of threat areas.**
- **Provide for the immediate needs and temporary care of evacuees.**
- Establish level, location, hours of operation, and staffing of care and shelter services.
- Mobilize and operate Temporary Evacuation Points and Shelters, as applicable.
- Develop and execute a transportation service plan to support consolidation of shelters, including shelters supporting AFN populations that will need specialized transportation support.
- Identify temporary alternative transportation solutions that can be implemented by others when systems or infrastructure are damaged, unavailable, or overwhelmed.

**TEMPORARY EVACUATION POINTS (TEPs)**

A Temporary Evacuation Point provides a safe staging area for evacuees to park and remain in their vehicle while displaced by the emergency. These areas serve as an intermediary step in moving away from a potentially dangerous situation and will be located near an affected area. TEPs may have minimal services such as basic food or snacks, hydration, basic medical care, sanitation, and disaster-related information. TEPs are not designed for long-term use but are rather a safe place to go quickly to get away from a pressing danger until evacuees are permitted to return home or are referred to another location.

**Table 4-6. Comparison of Sheltering Services at TEPs and Shelters**

Service	Duration	Transportation	Charging Station	Bathroom	Water	Feeding	Sleeping / Overnight Stay	Showers
Temporary Evacuation Points	0-48 Hrs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Shelter	24 Hrs – 2 Weeks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**SHELTERS**

A Shelter provides a safe location for evacuees to remain overnight or for an extended period of time when displaced during an emergency. Shelters will have food and snacks, hydration, basic medical

care, sanitation services, and disaster-related information. Language and assistive services may be available or can be requested at these locations. Shelters typically take one of two forms:

- Congregate Shelters: traditional, temporary overnight sheltering in facilities with large open spaces in which many bunks, cots, or mats are placed for sleeping.
- Non-congregate Shelters: emergency shelters that provide accommodations in a way that provides private space for guests. These may include hotels, motels or dormitories.

#### TEMPORARY REFUGE AREAS (TRAs)

A Temporary Refuge Area (TRA) is a specific type of pre-identified area where first responders or trained fire personnel can take refuge for temporary shelter and short-term relief without deploying a fire shelter in the event that their egress is compromised during their response activities.

Temporary Refuge Areas may not provide continuous, adequate safety and protection because of changing fire conditions or extreme fire behavior; therefore, a TRA always requires personnel to have another planned tactical action.

**TEMPORARY REFUGE AREAS ARE AN ABSOLUTE LAST OPTION TO SAVE PROFESSIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONDER'S LIVES. THEY ARE NOT A FEASIBLE OPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

#### ADDITIONAL EVACUEE SUPPORTIVE NEEDS

After initial evacuation, some evacuee populations will have follow-on supportive needs. These will consist primarily of tourists who require transportation assistance to return home (e.g. airport shuttle services), and individuals with AFN that require transportation assistance to obtain supportive services (e.g. a diabetic shelter patient needing transportation to their dialysis treatment appointment). Evacuees at shelters that rely on public transportation to commute to their jobs may also require follow-on transportation assistance. Evacuees that may not be able to return to their residences may need follow-on transportation to move to interim housing.

#### 4.3.8 Phase 8: Re-entry and Repopulation

Every effort will be made to allow evacuees to return to their homes and businesses as quickly and safely as feasible once the threat has passed. This is done through a gradual, controlled, and coordinated process known as "re-entry". Re-entry for short duration evacuations (less than 8 hours) involving little or no damage or loss of power to an area may be initiated by the Incident Commander without activation of this Plan.

**PHASE 8****Re-Entry and Repopulation**

**Objectives: Provide a systematic return of human and material resources that will prevent loss of life and stabilize infrastructure so as to start an emergency assessment/recovery process.**

- Deploy Damage Assessment Teams.
- Re-establishment of emergency services (police, fire, rescue, and medical facilities).
- Mitigate any hazards that threaten public health and safety, such as road and utility hazards.
- Restore critical infrastructure and lifelines.
- Conduct Re-Entry Planning Meetings.
- Demobilize road closures upon lifting of evacuation orders.
- Announce changes and releases of Evacuation Orders/Warnings to the public.

**RE-ENTRY CONSIDERATIONS**

Although a threat may no longer pose an immediate danger to life safety; multiple factors may delay re-entry by the public to an evacuated area, or place limitations on re-entry for the area:

- Food, water, and shelter are not immediately available.
- Debris will restrict movement along primary road systems.
- Electrical power will not be available.
- Local emergency and public communications will not be available or remain significantly reduced.
- Health services, medical facilities, and medical transport will not be available.
- Law enforcement, fire, and rescue service availability may be greatly hampered.

**Emergency response and damage assessment operations must be completed before the public can be allowed back into an evacuated area after a disaster event.**

**RE-ENTRY PROCESS**

Re-entry into evacuated areas will be conducted utilizing a phased approach. Safety with regard to public health, travel accessibility, hazardous materials mitigation, security concerns, and the operational requirements for ongoing search and rescue operations will be paramount and of crucial importance in determining who is allowed re-entry and when. Each agency having jurisdiction is responsible for conducting its own assessment to determine re-entry restrictions. This determination must be made in concert with the Incident Commander. County officials, in conjunction with public safety personnel, will work together to determine when it is safe to initiate the re-entry process.

The re-entry phases are:

### *PHASE I – LIFE SAFETY AND RESCUE PERSONNEL ACCESS ONLY*

The goal of this phase is the restoration of community lifelines (e.g., immediate repair/replacement of infrastructure for oil, gas, electric, telecommunications, drinking water, wastewater, and transportation services). Sufficient lifeline services are required to safely support continued and expanded recovery activities prior to allowing the general populace to return to the area. For example, establishing restoration of road infrastructure, including providing access by clearing debris from primary roadways, and ensuring access to critical facilities before allowing a displaced population to return is essential.

#### **PHASE 1**

**Closed**

#### **Life Safety and Rescue Personnel Access ONLY**

- Public Works teams, including:
  - Heavy Equipment teams (wheel loader, backhoe, etc.)
  - Chain Saw crews
- Limited utility personnel to eliminate hazardous conditions for rescue personnel, including:
  - Power crews to identify and remove downed electrical lines
  - SoCal Gas crews to identify and resolve natural gas leaks
- Emergency Medical Service teams to provide medical support to victims that are located while opening roads.
- Fire Service Agencies to provide incident, evacuation, and re-entry support
- Search and Rescue teams
- Federal, State, and local damage assessment teams
- Law enforcement to provide security for work crews
- Other limited personnel at the discretion of the IC

### *PHASE II – RESTRICTED ACCESS*

During this phase of re-entry, officials will continue to prioritize restoration of critical infrastructure/key resources and establish continuity of government. There is an absolute need to re-establish emergency police, fire, rescue, and medical services, establish a minimum of utility capabilities, and continue to assess damages in order to manage an effective response prior to repopulation by residents and the general public. Additionally, many outside services will be needed and outside interests will desire access to the affected area.

**PHASE 2****Restricted Access****Damage Assessment and Initial Restoration Activities**

- Critical infrastructure damage assessment teams (e.g., public works, solid waste, utilities, etc.)
- Federal, State, and local damage assessment teams
- Key businesses, including, but not limited to grocery stores, fuel providers, pharmacies, financial institutions, and other “big box” providers.
- Essential personnel for hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and dialysis centers.
- Relief workers providing food and other supplies.
- Other personnel or individuals with a priority need to enter the area to perform essential services (e.g. Ag Pass holders), at the discretion of the IC.

**PHASE III – LIMITED REPOPULATION**

This phase expands access to facilitate re-opening of key business operations as well as the return of most residents to the evacuated area. Access is also given to effectuate recovery efforts (e.g. insurance agents and contractors).

**PHASE 3****Limited Repopulation****Restoration Actions and Limited Repopulation**

- Healthcare agency support personnel including non-essential personnel for hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and dialysis centers.
- Key business operations that are essential to the recovery of the community may bring in necessary personnel who possess proper and valid identification in order to operate at full capacity.
- Insurance agents and adjusters that possess proper and valid identification.
- Contractors and workers that possess proper licenses and valid identification.
- This phase allows for the re-entry of residents and business operators that live and/or work within the affected area.
- Returning residents should be advised to remain alert to:
  - Be aware and stay clear of disaster recovery operations.
  - Avoid downed power lines, flooded or damaged roads and potentially unsafe buildings.
  - Be aware of the potential for encountering wildlife such as snakes and other animals looking for refuge during the event that may have taken up residence in homes

*PHASE IV – FULL REPOPULATION*

The final re-entry phase expands access to affected area to the remainder of the general public.

**PHASE 4****Full Repopulation****Full Repopulation (Open Access)**

- All others not mentioned above (e.g., non-residents, tourists/visitors)

Once the determination to initiate re-entry has been made, the public will be made aware by a variety of different platforms, including but not limited to press releases, press conferences, VCAAlert, and/or social media.

Events that occur within the specific jurisdiction and/or geographically defined evacuation area will dictate, based on local needs and variable factors, what individuals will potentially need access to the affected area as it is being re-opened.

- Upon cancellation of all-weather/hazard warnings and watches and when no major damage has been experienced, the county agencies will jointly authorize re-entry to evacuated areas.
- The EOC Director will receive the status of lifelines and assessments from their respective agency officials to determine extent of damage.
- Public Works officials will ensure that primary roads are open, and bridges are without damage.
- If no significant damage is sustained in the event, then unrestricted re-entry will be allowed.
- Restricted re-entry to a damaged area will be at the discretion of the controlling authority.
- Upon the determination that a threat is under control, no longer significant or present, and when significant damage to more than one municipality has occurred, decisions on re-entry will be made by all of the affected governing bodies in the County.
- Damage to more than one municipality may greatly affect re-entry into surrounding municipalities.
- Collective decisions by the Ventura County governing bodies may be necessary to control/assist needs of affected area.
- Re-entry will be jointly controlled/enforced by Law Enforcement Agencies and Fire/Rescue agencies.
- Re-entry may be determined by phases listed above or at the direction of the controlling authority.

- Public Information announcements will be made:
  - Through the Joint Information Center (JIC), or applicable Public Information Officer
  - To keep recovery crews, residents and the public informed as to the progress of debris clearance and projected times for re-entry
  - Utilizing multiple media channels (e.g. internet, phone/text, print, in-person)

## RE-ENTRY PLANNING MEETINGS

Lifting of an Evacuation Order should only occur once areas have been secured, and sufficient lifeline services have been re-established.

Once damage assessments have been completed, first responder agencies, emergency management agencies, and utilities from each municipality as well as the governing bodies will decide which areas may be repopulated. The decision to establish general re-entry to a previously evacuated area will be evaluated through coordination among the various municipalities, county and state agencies, and municipal law enforcement at Re-Entry Planning Meetings.

Re-entry Planning Meetings are held regularly, as needed, until all evacuation zones have been opened to the public. These meetings will be conducted by the Planning Section of Incident Command or the EOC. These meetings are for official use only. All information discussed is for planning and collaboration purposes only.

Official notification to the public of the lifting of Evacuation Orders will be issued by the Public Information Officer or Joint Information Center and through a VCAAlert notification. Notification of re-entry information will be disseminated to news media, including radio stations, and may also include posting of automated signs at key routes visitors may transit.

## RE-ENTRY CONTROL

Initially, only Emergency Services personnel with proper identification will be allowed through control points. Disaster and utility service personnel with proper identification may also be allowed re-entry.

Property owners will only be allowed access to their property if it has been determined safe by local officials. A residence must have electrical power, potable water, and approved sewage disposal to be judged habitable.

Property owners must assess damage and secure their property only. They will not be allowed to assess damage and secure the property of others.

## CHECKPOINTS AND ROUTES

- Evacuees will return to the area following primary and secondary evacuation routes, as applicable (Appendix D).
- Law enforcement may limit the flow of returning traffic to better manage the checkpoints.

- Local law enforcement officers should be primarily responsible for establishing and staffing checkpoints for re-entry in their locality. Local check points may be supplemented by county, state, and mutual aid assistance. Secondary check points may be established by local jurisdictions where required.
- Pre-established traffic control points may be used to verify if residents or workers have a need to re-enter a restricted area, or serve as a roadblock to deny entry for those with undesirable intent, such as those looking to sightsee.
- In order to expedite the re-entry process, an Identification Verification Area (IVA) may be established close to each checkpoint for people with questionable identification.

### *IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES*

- Identification procedures are intended to provide guidance for law enforcement personnel who may be directing access to disaster-impacted localities.
- Residents should have proper identification that proves residence within the disaster area, such as a driver's license, voter's registration, utility bills, property tax receipts, etc.
- Relief workers and business owners should have a company ID card, and/or Dash Pass with agency information to enter an impacted area.

## **5. INFORMATION COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND DISSEMINATION**

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Information is collected throughout an incident to obtain and maintain situational awareness. Information may come from first responders, other agencies, facilities, and other levels of government – and may be received in many ways (e.g., radio, phone, text, internet, media/news). Information may be scarce in the early stages of a no-warning event. As an event progresses, more information will become available. Information must be vetted to the extent possible, analyzed, and turned into intelligence which will drive decision-making.

Once situational awareness is deemed actionable, situation status reports are completed and communicated as appropriate. As an incident progresses, damage assessments may be utilized to determine if routes, facilities, equipment, and vehicles are safe and operational.

## 5.1 IMPACT ANALYSIS AND USE OF GIS DATA

Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) data are used to identify critical assets and locational features, including waterways, roads/routes, addresses in areas affected by the disaster event. This data is then utilized to craft customized evacuation zones specific to each disaster event. Evacuation Zones are mapped and communicated through GIS in printed form and online.

For example, estimated impacts and evacuation needs can be assessed based on the number of address points in the evacuated areas multiplied by the average number of persons per household. Table 5-1, below, shows data on the number of residents per household from the US Census ACS 2017-2021 for each of the 10 cities and several Census Designated Places within Ventura County. Countywide, there is an average of just over three persons per household.

Table 5-1. Average Persons Per Household by Community	
City or Community	Average Persons Per Household
Ventura County (overall)	3.03
City of Camarillo	2.70
City of Fillmore	3.37
City of Moorpark	3.15
City of Ojai	2.40
City of Oxnard	4.00
City of Port Hueneme	3.06
City of San Buenaventura	2.56
City of Santa Paula	3.41
City of Simi Valley	2.87
City of Thousand Oaks	2.71
El Rio	3.73
Meiners Oaks	2.60
Mira Monte	2.49
Oak View	2.85
Oak Park	2.70
Piru	3.50

### 5.1.1 Diversity and Equity Considerations

The OES Duty Officer will further leverage GIS data to conduct a demographic assessment of the community impacted by an evacuation. Utilizing information pulled from the most recent Census or American Community Service data for the mapped evacuation area (e.g., race/ethnicity, age, income, language) to estimate shelter demand, evaluate critical transportation and resource needs, and support

the provision of culturally responsive emergency notification and sheltering operations. They also coordinate with community-based organizations and trusted partners to provide input during the design, planning, and execution phases of the response. This information is also relevant in longer term recovery planning and service delivery efforts.

Culturally responsive notification efforts are achieved, for example, by ensuring evacuation notifications are developed and shared in relevant languages in all notification formats, as well as in emergency communications with the media. Culturally responsive sheltering efforts include emphasizing that immigration status has no bearing on the receipt of services, and staffing shelters with bi- or multi-lingual employees and volunteers as applicable.

## 5.2 SITUATION STATUS REPORTING

Once situational awareness is obtained and is actionable, situation status is reported as appropriate to local, county, and state stakeholders. The County EOC serves as a link between the regional/state level and local governments.

## 5.3 DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

A Damage Assessment is a data collection process performed immediately after a disaster event to gauge the impacts to a community and to determine if the disaster event is beyond the capacity of state and local resources. The Damage Assessment Branch in the Planning Section is responsible for coordinating this function.

The damage assessment process starts at the local level where damage details are initially collected, shared, and validated. Initial damage assessments will be performed by building inspectors, environmental health personnel, and private- sector owners/operators of critical transportation and infrastructure facilities. These assessments may be dependent on the staff and resources available.

Additional damage assessments may be carried out by individuals or teams of personnel from local, county, state and federal agencies/departments, and will often require visual verification of damages.

Damage assessments provide situational awareness and critical information on:

- Type, scope and severity of the event
- Impact on individuals and communities
- Additional resource needs
- Justification for disaster declaration
- Emergency public information
- Future hazard mitigation planning and projects

Table 5-2 summarizes building counts for the unincorporated County and each incorporated city by occupancy class. Structural damages to buildings will be evaluated and may be categorized as follows:

- Affected: no structural damage, habitable without repairs
- Minor: uninhabitable, repairs can be completed in less than 30 days
- Major: uninhabitable, extensive repairs required that will take more than 30 days to complete
- Destroyed: total loss, permanently uninhabitable

**Table 5-2. Planning Area Building Counts by Occupancy Class**

	Number of Buildings							Total
	Ag	Commercial	Education	Govt.	Industrial	Religion	Residential	
<b>Camarillo</b>	24	736	215	280	832	85	19,657	<b>21,829</b>
<b>Fillmore</b>	7	328	85	69	39	17	4,310	<b>4,855</b>
<b>Moorpark</b>	101	410	183	63	153	18	9,769	<b>10,697</b>
<b>Ojai</b>	23	345	56	48	54	87	2,918	<b>3,531</b>
<b>Oxnard</b>	92	3,117	654	429	961	150	40,471	<b>45,874</b>
<b>Port Hueneme</b>	0	299	57	430	26	18	5,583	<b>6,413</b>
<b>San Buena Ventura</b>	72	2,933	381	250	788	192	30,694	<b>35,310</b>
<b>Santa Paula</b>	55	833	119	50	190	69	7,211	<b>8,527</b>
<b>Simi Valley</b>	56	1,210	434	53	301	108	35,640	<b>37,802</b>
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	7	1,442	325	171	286	218	36,348	<b>38,797</b>
<b>Unincorporated</b>	11,027	3,172	494	745	523	493	32,568	<b>49,022</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,464</b>	<b>14,825</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>4,153</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>225,169</b>	<b>262,657</b>

The data collected by damage assessment teams is coordinated by EOC staff and reported to the IC/UC and other entities as directed by the EOC Director.

Damage assessments are utilized to help determine if a locality is safe to permit re-entry of residents and property/business owners. When there is known damage to areas accessed by the public, damage assessments are required prior to lifting evacuation orders. Within the first 72 or once the threat has passed, re-entry may be based upon one of three (3) scenarios:

- Incident has passed and there is little or no damage that affects the communities;
- Affects are isolated to a localized area, operational area, or region of the county with minimal or isolated significant damages; or
- Total devastation with significant infrastructure damage over a widespread area.

## 6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

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### 6.1 PLAN DEVELOPMENT

This document was prepared over the course of 2022-2024 by a task force of Operational Area Partners and Stakeholders in accordance with FEMA's 2021 Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101 (version 3.0): Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans.

Two large, interactive meetings with stakeholders were held on December 7, 2022 and December 13, 2023. Additionally, numerous small meetings, email, and telephone exchanges with stakeholders occurred throughout the planning process. A complete list of agencies contacted through written, face-to-face and/or telephone communications for consultation during the planning process, or represented at meetings is contained in Appendix C.

### 6.2 PLAN MAINTENANCE

The Evacuation Plan is considered a working document that will be reviewed at least once every three years and revised as necessary to enhance the conduct of evacuation operations, evolving in response to identified deficiencies experienced in exercises, actual disaster event occurrences, updates to agency practices and changes in technology and best practices.

During all phases of disaster response, the County will make reasonable modifications to policies, practices and procedures, if necessary, to ensure programmatic and architectural access to all.

The Sheriff's Emergency Services is responsible for revisions to this Evacuation Plan and will lead the responsible departments in reviewing and updating their portions of the Plan. Sheriff's Emergency Services will prepare, coordinate, publish and distribute any necessary changes to the Plan to all entities.

### 6.3 TRAINING AND EXERCISES

A well-developed training and exercise program is vital to ensuring overall disaster readiness and preparedness. Training ensures personnel are prepared for their roles and responsibilities. A critical element to ensuring the success of the Evacuation Plan is hands-on exercise experience to supplement classroom training.

The Sheriff's Emergency Services may coordinate evacuation exercises in unincorporated areas to familiarize communities with alert and warning processes, evacuation routes, and TEPs. County and city staff may benefit from awareness training on the policies and procedures in their respective jurisdiction's evacuation plans and complementary plans (e.g. Mass Care and Shelter Plans). Emergency exercises test the capabilities, resources, and working relationships of and between responding agencies.

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## APPENDICES

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## APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

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**ADA**—Americans with Disabilities Act

**AFN**—Access and Functional Needs; Encompasses populations or individuals who have developmental or intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic conditions, injuries, limited English proficiency or who are non-English speaking, older adults, children, people living in institutionalized settings, or those who are low income, homeless, or transportation disadvantaged, including, but not limited to, those who are dependent on public transit or those who are pregnant.

**all-hazards approach**—integrated approach to emergency preparedness planning that focuses on capacities and capabilities that are critical to preparedness, regardless of the specific type of threat or hazard being faced.

**asset**—people, buildings, transportation, and other valued community resources. Examples include infrastructure, such as bridges, roads, sewers, and water systems; electricity and communication resources; and environmental, cultural, or recreational features such as parks, wetlands, and landmarks.

**CAL FIRE**—California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Cal OES**—California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services

**CCR**—California Code of Regulations

**CERT**—Community Emergency Response Team

**CFR**—Code of Federal Regulations

**continuity of care**— the process by which the patient and his/her physician-led care team are cooperatively involved in ongoing health care management; it means the comprehensive, integrated, and interconnected coordination of patient care across multiple healthcare providers, environments, and stages (e.g. transcending the simple transfer of medical information). It aims to ensure a consistent and smooth trajectory of care for patients, addressing their health needs efficiently and coherently.

**CMIST**—a framework/approach used by emergency managers and public health practitioners that provides a flexible, crosscutting approach for planning to address a broad set of common AFN without having to define a specific diagnosis, status, or label. The CMIST Framework is a mnemonic device consisting of five categories: communication, maintaining health, independence, support, and transportation.

**critical facilities**—facilities and infrastructure that are critical to the health and welfare of a population (e.g. roads, utility lines, water systems)

**dam failure**—an uncontrolled release of impounded water due to a partial or complete breach in a dam (or levee) that impacts its integrity.

**dam**—any artificial barrier or controlling mechanism that can or does impound or divert water.

**DART**—Disaster Assistance Response Team

**debris flow**—dense mixtures of water-saturated debris formed when loose masses of unconsolidated material are saturated, become unstable, and move down-slope.

**DWR**—Department of Water Resources

**EAP**—Emergency Action Plan

**elderly**—having a chronological age of 65 or older,

**EOP**—Emergency Operations Plan

**earthquake**—the shaking of the ground caused by an abrupt shift of rock along a fracture in the earth or a contact zone between tectonic plates.

**equity**—the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, racially, or geographically.

**extreme cold**—a period of low temperatures, from winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow or strong winds that may cause hypothermia or frostbite.

**extreme heat**—a period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two to three days.

**evacuation**—organized, phased and supervised withdrawal, dispersal or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

**federal disaster declaration**—declarations for events that cause more damage than state and local governments and resources can handle without federal government assistance. A federal disaster declaration puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are matched by state programs, to help disaster victims, businesses, and public entities.

**FEMA**—Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FHSZ**—Fire Hazard Severity Zone

**flash flood**—flooding that occurs with little or no warning when water levels rise at an extremely fast rate

**flood**—the inundation of normally dry land resulting from the rising and overflowing of a body of water.

**frequency**—how often a hazard of specific magnitude, duration, and/or extent is expected to occur on average. Statistically, a hazard with a 100-year frequency is expected to occur about once every 100 years and has a 1 percent chance of occurring any given year. Frequency reliability varies depending on the type of hazard considered.

**geographic information system (GIS)**—a computer software application that relates data regarding physical and other features on the earth to a database for mapping and analysis.

**ground shaking**—the result of rapid ground acceleration caused by seismic waves passing beneath buildings, roads, and other structures.

**hazard**—a source of potential danger or adverse condition that could harm people and/or cause property damage.

**hazardous material**—a substance or combination of substances (biological, chemical, radiological, and/or physical) that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment, either by itself or through interaction with other factors.

**high-hazard dam**—a federal classification for a dam that can cause loss of human life or significant property destruction in the event of a failure

**IDLH**—immediately dangerous to life or health; refers to concentration values developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as exposure guidelines

**life safety**— any incident where the safety of a resident is at risk. Examples include loss of utilities, non-functioning lights, non-functioning heat in winter, and imminent wildfire.

**lifeline routes**—predefined, publicly maintained routes that receive first priority response in the event of a disaster. These routes typically lead to and from critical infrastructure and/or facilities, or are strategically important for allowing the immediate movement of emergency equipment and supplies into or through the area.

**liveaboard**—a boat that is not transient, is capable of being used for active self-propelled navigation, and that is occupied as a residence; also, someone who makes a boat, typically a small yacht (sailboat or powerboat) in a marina, their primary residence. Within Ventura County, persons intending to reside in vessels within the Channel Islands Harbor for more than ten (10) days within any 30-day period are required to obtain a boat residence permit from the Harbor Director.

**local government**—any county, municipality, city, town, township, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, regional or interstate government entity, agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.

**mitigation**—a preventive action (generally) taken in advance of an event to reduce or eliminate risk to life or property.

**mph**—miles per hour

**N/A**—not applicable

**NOAA**—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**NWS**—National Weather Service

**OES**—Office of Emergency Services (Ventura County Sheriff's)

**preparedness**—actions that strengthen the capability of government, people, and communities to respond to disasters.

**probability of occurrence**—a statistical measure or estimate of the likelihood that a hazard will occur. This probability is generally based on past hazard events in the area and a forecast of events that could occur in the future. A probability factor based on yearly values of occurrence is used to estimate probability of occurrence.

**repatriation**—the process of returning Ventura County residents that have been displaced to locations outside of the Ventura County Operational Area as a result of an emergency.

**risk**—the estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities, and structures in a community. Risk measures the likelihood of a hazard occurring and resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury or damage.

**Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 100-107)**—the statutory authority for most federal disaster response activities, especially as they pertain to FEMA and its programs. Signed into law November 23, 1988; amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-288).

**SEMS**—Standardized Emergency Management System

**Shelter-in-place**—the use of a structure to temporarily separate individuals from a hazard or threat.

**situational awareness**—the ability to identify, process, and comprehend the information coming in about what is happening during an event

**stakeholder**—a person with an interest or concern in something. For this plan, this includes business leaders, civic groups, academia, non-profit organizations, major employers, managers of critical facilities, farmers, developers, special purpose districts, and others whose actions could impact evacuation processes

**TEP (temporary evacuation point)**—a centralized location used as a gathering point for individuals required to leave their residence during a disaster

**TEPP** –Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan (for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties)

**tornado**—a violently rotating column of air extending between and in contact with a cloud and the surface of the earth. Tornadoes are often (but not always) visible as funnel clouds.

**TransMAC** – California Statewide Transit Mutual Aid Compact. A mutual aid agreement developed to support transit agency capabilities during an emergency.

**transportation disadvantaged** – Individuals who have difficulty in obtaining or affording needed transportation because of their age, income, physical or mental disability.

**USGS**—U.S. Geological Survey

**vulnerability**—an assessment of how susceptible an asset is to damage, based on its construction, contents, and the economic value of its functions

**whole community approach**—a means by which residents, emergency management practitioners, organizational and community leaders, and government officials can collectively understand and assess the needs of their respective communities and determine the best ways to organize and strengthen their assets, capacities, and interests.

**zoning ordinance**—ordinance that designates allowable land use and intensities for a local jurisdiction.

## APPENDIX B: RECORD OF PLAN CHANGES

This document has been reviewed by the County departments/agencies assigned a primary (lead) function in the County’s Evacuation Annex and approved by the Director of Sheriff’s Emergency Services. The Annex gives both the authority and the responsibility to these organizations to perform their tasks; finalizes their responsibilities regarding preparing and maintaining their own procedures/guidelines; and commits them to carrying out training, exercises, and plan maintenance.

The most current copy of this annex, including any changed pages, is available for viewing or downloading from the [www.readyventuracounty.org](http://www.readyventuracounty.org) webpage. A printed copy (hardcopy) will be available for viewing at the Ventura County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 800 S. Victoria Ave. Ventura, CA 93009 upon request.

Any approved additions or modifications to this plan will be documented and noted in this section of the plan, including the date of the change, the title of the person making the change, and a summary and reason for the modifications.

After any modification to this plan, Sheriff’s Emergency Services will ensure that notification of the updated version is made to all previously listed departments and agencies, and uploaded to any share centers and/or webpages where this plan resides.

If any significant changes to this plan need to be made, the revised plan will be considered an update, and the cover page and this record of plan change page will be updated to reflect that it is a new plan.

**Table B-1. Record of Plan Changes**

Change #	Date	Summary of Change	Change Made By (Title or Name)
0	9/30/2024	Initial publication	Bonnie Luke Program Manager
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			



## APPENDIX C: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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This plan was developed by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services through a series of stakeholder meetings and focused outreach conducted with local emergency managers and public safety personnel representing each of the ten cities. Additional engagement was solicited from neighboring jurisdictions and other local, state, and federal organizations having primary or supporting roles in evacuations. A listing of the stakeholders and a summary of key engagement events (Table C-1) is provided below.

### COUNTY OF VENTURA

- Ventura County Sheriff's Office
- Ventura County Fire Protection District
- Ventura County Animal Services Agency
- Ventura County Executive Office
- Ventura County Human Services Agency
- Ventura County Parks
- Ventura County Public Works
- Ventura County Transportation Commission

### LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

- City of Fillmore Fire Department
- City of Oxnard Fire Department
- City of Oxnard Police Department
- City of Port Hueneme Police Department
- City of Santa Paula Police Department
- City of Simi Valley Police Department
- City of Ventura Fire Department
- City of Ventura Police Department

### COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES

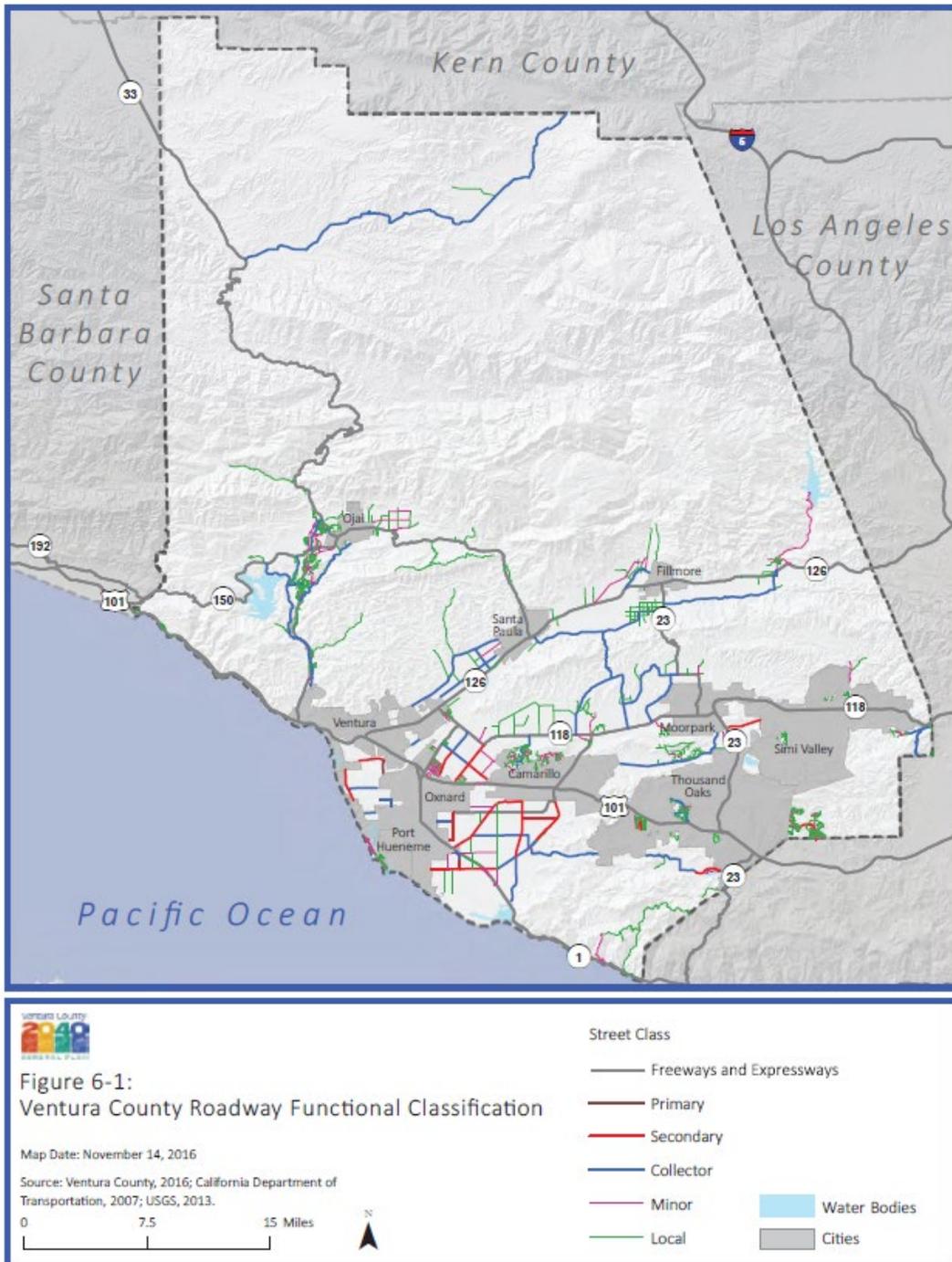
- CalFIRE
- CalOES
- California Department of Transportation
- California State Highway Patrol (CHP)
- California State Parks
- California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI)

National Park Service  
 Los Angeles City Emergency Management Department  
 Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management  
 Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management  
 U.S. Forest Service  
 U.S. Navy

<b>Table C-1. Stakeholder Engagement Summary</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>12/07/22</b>	Kickoff /Stakeholder Meeting
<b>11/14/22</b>	County CEO_AFN working group lead call
<b>12/14/22</b>	County CEO_AFN working group lead call
<b>1/31/23</b>	County Human Services Agency meeting
<b>1/31/23</b>	City of Ventura EM call
<b>1/31/23</b>	Emails to neighboring jurisdictions / add. stakeholders
<b>2/0X/23</b>	L.A. County OEM call
<b>2/0X/23</b>	L.A. City OEM call
<b>3/27/23</b>	County Animal services call
<b>10/29/23</b>	VC OES working group presentaton
<b>12/7/23</b>	Follow-up emails to neighboring jurisdictions and stakeholders
<b>12/13/23</b>	Stakeholder update meeting / Circulation of draft plan for comment
<b>12/31/23</b>	Comment period concluded
<b>5/17/24</b>	Comment integration / Final internal review
<b>9/30/24</b>	Document finalization / publication

# APPENDIX D: EVACUATION ROUTES

Figure D-1. Ventura County Primary and Secondary Roads



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# APPENDIX E: TSUNAMI EVACUATION ROUTES

Figure E-1. Ventura County Tsunami Evacuation Route Map



Figure E-2. Tsunami Evacuation Route Map\_North Coast



Figure E-3. Tsunami Evacuation Route Map\_South Coast

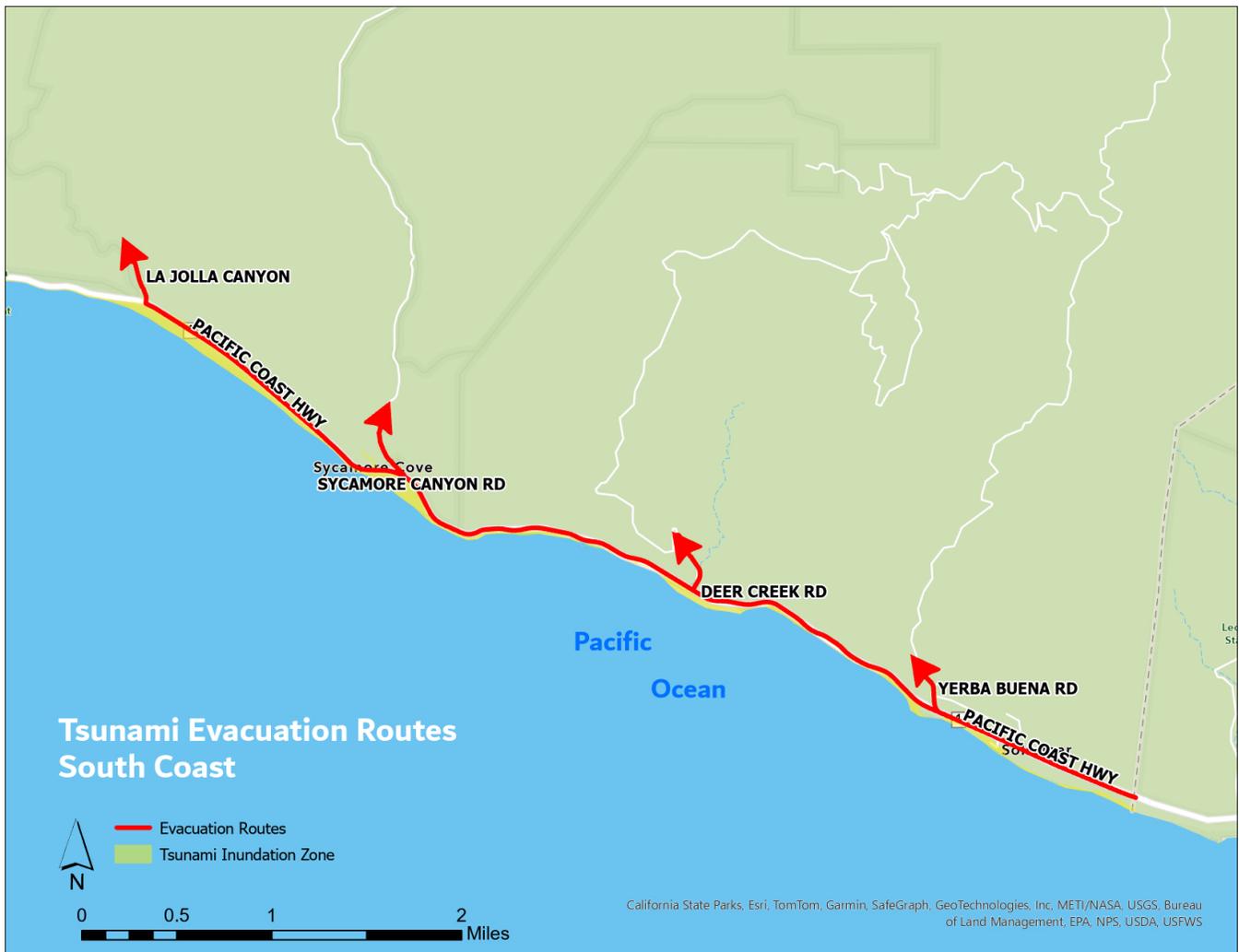


Figure E-4. Tsunami Evacuation Route Map\_Ventura



Figure E-5. Tsunami Evacuation Route Map\_Oxnard



Figure E-6. Mugu Tsunami Evacuation Route Map



## APPENDIX F: WILDFIRE EVACUATION ZONES

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Evacuation zone maps created under CalFIRE 380245 grant will be inserted into this appendix when completed.

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# ATTACHMENTS

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## ATTACHMENT I: RE-ENTRY / REPOPULATION TOOLKIT

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The Field Incident Command Team will oversee movement of persons back to their neighborhoods. The Operations Section Law Enforcement Branch, in coordination with the Care and Shelter Branch Director, the Public Information Manager, the AFN Group, and the Logistics Section Transportation Unit Leader will support the Field Incident Commander and their team.

### Site Safety Assessments

- The impacted areas must be thoroughly inspected to ensure essential infrastructure services have been restored and it is safe for residents to return to their homes.
- When the Incident Commander determines the incident risk has passed, he or she will coordinate with affected jurisdictions and the OA EOC to conduct a safety assessment of the evacuated area including:
  - Structural integrity of buildings, roads and trees
  - Integrity of gas lines, water lines, and sewer lines
  - Assessment of debris and contaminant hazards
  - Assessment of drinking water quality
  - Assessment of accessibility of travel paths for people with disabilities, including residents and recovery personnel

### Phased Re-entry

Re-entry may be phased to manage the number of people entering the disaster area and prioritized for public safety purposes.

#### Phase I

Allows the re-entry of personnel playing key roles in restoring normal services and ensuring public safety in the impacted area following a disaster. Phase I agencies and groups may include:

- Law Enforcement and security agencies (including private security for facilities and residential communities)
- Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Search and Rescue Teams
- Animal Care Officers
- Official damage assessment teams
- Infrastructure and utilities repair personnel
- Facility/industry emergency response teams
- Debris clearing and removal crews
- Non-profit partners with a direct service responsibility
- Other personnel at the direction of the EOC (Ag Pass holders)

## Phase II

Allows for the re-entry of residents and business owners who can prove they live, own, rent, lease, or otherwise need access to the restricted areas. In some cases, re-entry during this phase may be temporary as safety and security issues warrant. These groups may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ag Pass holders

With approximately 294,000 acres of cropland and rangeland, agriculture is a long-standing cornerstone of Ventura County's economy. Croplands are concentrated within the Oxnard Plain and along the Santa Clara Valley. Rangelands extend into the foothills throughout the County. Continued access to ag and ranch lands during a disaster is necessary for many agriculture and livestock operators to maintain the health and viability of their operations. The County's Ag Pass program allows qualified individuals to access restricted areas during or following a disaster to perform essential activities, such as:

- To evacuate or care for livestock
- To provide feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to large-scale commercial livestock operations
- To perform irrigation of crops or turn on water systems
- To provide access to property or facilities used as part of a commercial agricultural operation
- To transport/deliver necessary equipment needed to re-establish water supplies or irrigation systems

## Phase III

Allows for the re-entry of additional groups critical to long term recovery. These groups may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Relief workers
- Health and human services
- Insurance agents
- Retail store management and staff
- Hotel/motel staff (to prepare for receiving of State and Federal relief agencies)

Allows for the resuming of normal access for residents and the demobilization of checkpoints and emergency personnel.

The public will be notified of the re-entry status through emergency broadcast radio, television, press releases, VC Alert, Internet, informational phone lines such as 211, community briefings, and informational updates at shelters.

## **Checkpoints and Routes**

Law enforcement will establish/maintain Traffic Control Points along access routes to facilitate re-entry and maintain the security of evacuated areas.

Transportation resources will have to be coordinated to return evacuees requiring transportation assistance from evacuation points or shelters back to their communities

Identification will be required of anyone wishing to re-enter evacuation zones. If possible, a mobile credentialing system for all evacuees and emergency workers will be implemented. To expedite the identification process while maintaining security, credentials should identify the individual, agency (if applicable), specific level of access, and the timeframe of allowed access.

Displaced individuals should have proper identification, such as a driver's license, voter's registration, utility bills, property tax receipts, or another official document that proves they reside within the affected area.

Relief workers should have an identification card from their organization and be able to prove they are fulfilling an assigned role or mission.

#### Phase IV

Allows for the re-entry of general populace, including tourists and other visitors.

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## ATTACHMENT II: AGRICULTURAL PASS PROGRAM TOOLKIT

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Section 2350 of California Food and Agricultural Code authorizes local governments to establish a program for providing eligible, vetted commercial<sup>21</sup> agriculture and livestock operators access to the qualifying operator's property in order to conduct certain essential activities during or following a disaster. In Ventura County, the local Agricultural Pass (Ag Pass) program is overseen by the Ventura County Agriculture Commissioner's Office, in partnership with local public safety agencies and the Human Services Agency.

Individuals eligible to obtain a pass include the qualifying agricultural producer and managerial employees of the qualifying agricultural producer.

During the initial phases of a disaster event, evacuations will be in effect, and access will likely be restricted to all individuals, including Ag Pass holders. Once an emergency situation stabilizes (which may take >24 hours), the decision to provide emergency access to Ag Pass holders will take place at the discretion of Incident Commander, the law enforcement personnel having jurisdiction for the scene, or their designee.

The granting of access will be dependent on the safety conditions at the time. For example, the presence of downed power lines, thick smoke, or other life-safety hazards on site or along an access road may preclude or delay access to an area until it has been deemed safe by public safety personnel.

Eligible Ag Pass holder activities include:

- To evacuate or care for livestock,
- To provide feed, water, medical treatment or other care to large-scale commercial livestock operations,
- To provide access (to public safety personnel) to properties or facilities used as part of a commercial agricultural operation,
- To perform irrigation of crops, or to turn on water systems,
- To transport/deliver equipment necessary to re-establish water supplies or irrigation systems

Ineligible activities:

- To conduct firefighting operations, including fire suppression or fire mop-up
- Removal of property, other than livestock
- To harvest crops

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<sup>21</sup> Proof of operation of a commercial agricultural or livestock operation must be provided (e.g., tax documentation, brand registration, documentation from USDA, or a county permit / leasing document).

Additional Ag Pass Information and Restrictions

- Access for livestock care shall only be made during daylight hours
- Persons shall enter and exit the restricted area by the same route
- A public safety personnel escort may be required for any entry

Table AG-1. Summary of Allowable Ag Pass Holder Activities	
Activity	Allowed?
Evacuate livestock	✓
Livestock care (e.g., feeding, watering, medical care)	✓
Crop irrigation / Turn on a water system	✓
Deliver equipment for water supplies/irrigation systems	✓
Provide access to commercial ag operation or facilities	✓
Removal of property or goods, other than livestock	✗
Harvest crops	✗
Fire suppression/firefighting	✗

Commercial Agriculture Operators in Ventura County may apply for one of two pass types:

Pre-Incident Pass

Pre-Incident passes are issued at the discretion of the Ventura County Agriculture Commissioner’s Office. Prior to issuance of this pass, individuals must:

- complete the online application (available at [www.readyventuracounty.org](http://www.readyventuracounty.org))
- submit the required documentation verifying their status as an eligible commercial livestock/agriculture operator and
- complete the online training course: *Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior (S-190)*
- Sign a release of liability waiver

One-time Pass

Issued to qualifying individuals during an incident, these are temporary, one-time passes that may be obtained by qualifying commercial livestock/agriculture operators from the Ventura County Human Services Agency personnel at an operational Temporary Evacuation Point (TEP).

The passes are designed to be hung from the rearview mirror of the vehicle for easy viewing / recognition in the field by public safety personnel. An example of the Ventura County Ag Pass is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure AG-1. Ventura County Ag Pass**

