



SACRAMENTO REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STRATEGY



The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is developing a Sacramento Regional Emergency Preparedness Strategy (Strategy) that integrates the transportation system and transit agencies into emergency preparedness and response efforts across the six-county SACOG region, covering El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties. This work is important to develop a vision for how transit assets and operators are deployed in evacuation situations and strengthen relationships between transit and emergency management personnel.

SACOG collected input for the Strategy through meetings with a stakeholder working group made up of regional transit agencies and county Offices of Emergency Services (OES). Stakeholder engagement was important to understanding existing emergency preparedness activities and plans in the SACOG region, as well as gaps and challenges in emergency communications and evacuation. The Strategy will complement existing plans and not replace or duplicate existing plans in the SACOG area.



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The Strategy compiles existing emergency management practices in the SACOG region, identifies gaps and challenges, and provides recommendations for how to effectively integrate transit agencies and transportation strategies into regional emergency preparedness activities. This information is organized into the following sections:

EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITMENT

There are elevated risks posed to certain diverse groups in an emergency, like those with disabilities, access, and functions needs (DAFN). SACOG is committed to supporting the needs of these groups and others to improve equity in disaster resilience, response, and recovery. This commitment aligns with SACOG’s internal goals and policies defined in its Racial Equity Action Plan.



that regional OES staff can get a sense of available resources. It also provides recommendations for how transit agencies can consider the effect that transitioning to Zero Emissions Vehicles may have on their evacuation support capabilities and provides recommendations for using storage and microgrid systems for backup power.

SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

There are six county OES departments, municipal emergency managers from across SACOG’s 22 member cities, twelve transit agencies, four federally recognized Tribes, and other stakeholders who are responsible for planning for and responding to emergencies in the SACOG region. This section summarizes each of these players and their existing plans and procedures. It also provides information about hazards that threaten the SACOG region, including droughts, dam/levee failures, flooding, wildfire, and earthquakes.



EVACUATION

This section summarizes evacuation order and warning types, how evacuation zones and routes are selected, and evacuation protocols. It also discusses the importance of equitable evacuation assistance and assesses populations who may need evacuation assistance, including those without a private vehicle at home and those who rely on transit, walking, or biking as primary modes of transportation.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

This section explains the emergency management structure and processes at the federal and state levels, including the National Incident Management System and the California Standardized Emergency Management System.



COMMUNICATIONS

A goal of the Strategy is to improve interagency and interjurisdictional communications before, during, and after an emergency. This section summarizes how to improve communications through use of common radio frequencies, real-time information centers, and regular training and coordination. It also identifies strategies for improving emergency public communications and ensuring messaging is available to all, like providing information in multiple languages, using multiple different communications platforms, using sounds and flashing lights, etc.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The section summarizes existing interagency coordination and practices, including radio frequencies and emergency alert systems used. It provides recommendations for how to improve interagency communications, especially between transit agencies and emergency response personnel, such as establishing Memorandums of Understanding amongst working agencies in the SACOG region and developing a regional Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan.



IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

The Strategy will be useful to many regional stakeholders, including transit operators and emergency management agencies, and SACOG will continue to work with these groups to implement the Strategy. SACOG intends to periodically update the Strategy as new information becomes available, at most every two years. SACOG also plans to update the transit vehicle data and contact information it collected through this project, for reference by regional stakeholders.

TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

Transit operators are responsible for moving large numbers of people efficiently and can be critical resources in an emergency evacuation. This section summarizes a database of transit agency vehicle data so



Finally, a Summary of Key Recommendations provides a list of recommendations and guidance provided throughout the sections above. The Appendix notes various resources such as funding opportunities, maps of regional hazards (like earthquakes), and an assessment of populations in the SACOG region that may need assistance evacuating (those without access to a private car).



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