



**EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**  
— SONOMA COUNTY —

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT**



# DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



## MISSION - VALUES - VISION

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Our MISSION is to support Sonoma County before, during, and after emergencies. Our team VALUES integrity, inclusivity, and innovation. Our VISION is an empowered and resilient community built through education, collaboration, and trust.

**County of Sonoma**

# MISSION

## VALUES VISION

In September 2024, the team members of the Department of Emergency Management gathered together with a goal to determine the Mission, Values, and Vision of the department. This workshop was initiated by our Director, Jeff DuVall, and was facilitated by Ric Giardina, who is a communications and Human Resources professional. Ric was able to guide our team through a series of exercises that led us to determine the qualities and goals that we as individuals, and our department, value most. The day was fun-filled with thought-provoking activities that led us to an almost-completed department statement.

There was a second meeting held in December that allowed the team to finalize the following statement:

**Our MISSION is to support Sonoma County before, during, and after emergencies. Our team VALUES integrity, inclusivity, and innovation. Our VISION is an empowered and resilient community built through education, collaboration, and trust.**

Many thanks to our entire team and Ric for a thoughtful process that culminated in exceptional work.



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# LETTER

## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Management coordinated efforts to contain the blaze, which burned 1,200 acres and three residences before it was fully extinguished on June 24.

A wet 2024-25 winter would arrive early as an atmospheric river hit Sonoma County hard in late November, dropping more than 13 inches of rain in Santa Rosa over three days and causing flooding on the Russian River. This opened the door to a winter of heavy storms leaving Sonoma County with about 25 percent higher-than-average rainfall for the season.

In between those events, we kept our skills sharp providing tabletop exercises, trainings and alert and warning drills. The Emergency Coordination team delivered 28 training sessions to County staff and partner agencies, enhancing readiness across multiple sectors. DEM participated in the annual Bay Area Golden Eagle exercise, which was focused this year on supply chain resiliency in the days following a simulated 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

It also was another year of knowledge sharing. I was honored to serve as Chair of the state Seismic Safety Commission, giving Sonoma County representation on this important body that improves our infrastructure's resilience to earthquakes. In October a contingent of emergency managers from the Philippines toured the EOC and heard presentations from DEM staff about the lessons we have

learned responding to disasters. Then in December, 300 elected officials from around the nation descended on Sonoma County for the National Association of Counties annual symposium. DEM organized a field tour of the Tubbs Fire burn scar for the delegates, demonstrating what we have done to improve resilience in our community.

Looking to the future, we know that it is not a matter of if, but when the next major disaster strikes our community. The impacts of climate change have repeatedly been felt in more intense wildfire seasons, stronger atmospheric rivers and more extreme heat and cold. It is important that we remain on alert, ready for whatever comes our way. I hope we can all commit—both individually and as a community—to staying prepared and working together to make Sonoma County a safer and more resilient place.



Supervisor David Rabbitt  
2024 Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Chair





# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

July of 2024 marked the 5th year that the department has been in existence. We started with a small staff of twelve that has now grown to twenty, each of whom are extremely important and fill a vital role in the Department. Not all staff members are full-time, but each and every one is integral to the team that has been formed and to the service we provide to the community. We have certainly come a long way from the beginning and are very proud of the growth that we have experienced, and the accomplishments that have been achieved.

In 2024, the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) recentered focus on where our county's Emergency Management program has been and the programs and capabilities we need to build for future emergencies and disasters.

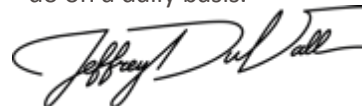
One of our force multipliers is our community members during any emergency. In 2024 we saw the initiation and continued expansion of our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT provides our community members with skill sets to be self-contained and support the community during any disaster, including basic medical treatment, light search and rescue, and light fire suppression. To date we have trained two classes of community members and will continue to host additional CERT training courses throughout the County in 2025.

2024 also brought some tests of our community preparedness efforts, along with the training and exercise program. We saw repeated activation of the County's extreme temperature annex during the summer and early fall, including back-to-back heat events. We experienced PG&E power safety shut offs, red flag warnings, and an activation of the County's Emergency Operations Center in response and support of the June Point Fire in the Lake Sonoma Area. As we transitioned into the fall and winter,

the county shifted gears, responding to cold weather events, atmospheric river response, river flooding, high wind events, and freezing conditions—requiring a different type of extreme temperature response.

Despite these events, department staff was able to take time to focus and work on many long-sought after planning and exercise efforts, including initial evaluation and improvements to our county disaster service worker training and exercise program. Overall, the DEM Family was kept busy administering millions in grants, community engagement/preparedness events, collaborating with partners, conducting community evacuation drills, developing additional plan annexes, and delivering county disaster service worker (DSW) training to our EOC staff.

To close 2024 out, the DEM family finished our department's mission, vision, and values statement with the assistance of Ric Giardina. The ask was simple; a Mission, Vision, and Values statement that every person in the department can look at to remember the importance of what they do on a daily basis.



Jeff DuVall, CEM  
Director, Department of Emergency Management



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Emergency Council

The Department of Emergency Management held two meetings of the Emergency Council in 2024. The Council is composed of representatives from the nine cities/towns that make up Sonoma County, SRJC, SSU, and Directors from multiple Departments in the County. The first semi-annual meeting of 2024 was held in May at the City of Santa Rosa's Utilities Field Operations building. The second meeting was held in November at the Rohnert Park Community Center.

The May meeting discussed, in part, the new Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. There was discussion regarding Avian Flu (Proclamation of Emergency), The fishing vessel Aleutian Storm situation, and the impacts of winter storms. There were multiple updates from divisions of Emergency Management as well as individual Municipalities, educational partners, and departmental report-outs.

Members enjoyed a presentation from Mike Sena, Director of NCRIC (Northern California Regional Intelligence Center) at the November meeting. Mr. Sena gave an interesting, but disturbing, presentation on the current state of drug trafficking, gun possession and sale, and the affect of AI in the area of terrorism in the Bay Area. His time and knowledge were appreciated.

There were the regular departmental updates and very good participation by the municipalities, educational partners, and County departments reporting on what they are doing in their communities in the area of emergency preparation.

The next meeting of the Emergency Council will be held in May 2025.

## The Mission of the Council

1. Is to study, revise, and recommend to the Board of Supervisors for adoption, the County/Operational Area Emergency Plan.
2. Review and recommend action upon all proposed mutual aid agreements.
3. Review and recommend adoption of ordinances, resolutions, and rules/regulations as may be necessary to implement the plan or mutual aid agreements.
4. Annually review goals and objectives for the County/Operational Area.
5. May recommend calling and conducting test exercises.
6. Approve any of County/Operational Area funding distribution proposals (grants) as required by CalOES.
7. Serve as Operational Area Citizen Corps Council (grant requirement)



## YEAR IN REVIEW

### National Association of Counties

In December of 2024 the National Association of Counties (NACo) held their annual symposium in Sonoma County when over 300 elected officials and senior staff came to learn what we have done to improve resilience in our communities. Deputy Director Sam Wallis organized a field tour for the delegates, and staff from DEM acted as tour guides, taking our guests on a detailed and personal tour of the Tubbs Fire burn scar, sharing stories of both the tragedy of the fire and the process of rebuilding. In Coffey Park—one of the most devastated and extensively rebuilt neighborhoods—the delegates engaged with first responders and fire survivors, gaining firsthand perspectives on resilience and recovery. Our NACo guests also learned of the systems we now have in place to



mitigate future disasters. Highlights of their visit included following the path of the fire down Mark West, hearing a panel of experts sharing their experiences, and viewing a County-organized evacuation shelter. The tour concluded at the Luther Burbank Center, where participants viewed a county shelter setup and heard from key community partners, including Supervisor Gore, COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) members and Sonoma FBO (Faith Based Organizations) representatives, discussing their roles in disaster response and recovery.

### Warehouse Coordinators

The Warehouse Coordinators had a very busy 2024. The year started with the long-anticipated acquisition of a new flatbed truck with a lift-gate. This vehicle allows DEM to more readily move materials, haul trailers, and maximize efficiency in a wide variety of tasks. In concert with the Emergency Services Coordinators, the Warehouse Coordinators assembled and prepared one hundred Storm Assistance Kits (SAKs) for communities subject to flooding. Twenty-five of the kits were deployed during a rain/flood event in December. The kits are aimed to assist the community in clean-up following a storm.

The Warehouse Coordinators assisted the Department of Human Services in acquiring two Care and Shelter trailers from the American Red Cross. The trailers needed maintenance, additional supplies, and equipment. The trailers received the required maintenance and updates, with one trailer then being deployed to the Petaluma Veteran's Building and the other to the County Center location.

Warehouse Coordinators facilitated the preparation of ten Personal Equipment Resource Kits (PERKs). The kits are available for loan to



## YEAR IN REVIEW



Stanford Exercise

community partners during storms and other situations that result in long-term loss of power. Each kit includes a generator, fuel can, and power cords—essential features during power outages. A generator was also procured for the main DEM warehouse, for use in the event of power outage. A procedure document and instructions were developed for the use of all DEM personnel who may be called upon to set up and operate the equipment.

In addition to these projects, there are many other assignments that are regularly performed by the Warehouse Coordinators, and which make them such an essential part of the DEM Team.

### Stanford University's Polycrisis Exercise

DEM members participated in a groundbreaking Polycrisis Exercise hosted by Stanford University in August of 2024. This innovative exercise explored the complexities of managing multiple, simultaneous crises, providing DEM personnel with an opportunity to engage in dynamic

problem-solving and strategic response planning. The exercise reinforced the importance of cross-sector collaboration and enhanced preparedness for cascading emergency scenarios.

### Phillipine Delegation's EOC Visit

The Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management is recognized as a leader in the Emergency Management world and regularly hosts visiting groups who come to understand the disasters we faced and our methods for reacting to them. In October a contingent of Emergency Managers from the Philippines came as guests of the US Department of Agriculture's International Emergency Management program. They toured the EOC and heard presentations from DEM staff members and multiple Operational Area partners. The experience is not one-sided, our colleagues from across the Pacific brought with them interesting insights and methods that gave us a different perspective of the field. We appreciate their visit and participation in knowledge sharing.



Phillipine Delegation



# ALERT

## & WARNING PROGRAM

The Department of Emergency Management's (DEM) Community Alert and Warning Division remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering timely, accurate, and proactive alerts during critical incidents. Throughout 2024, the division focused on maintaining operational readiness while integrating new staff members and expanding training programs for duty officers. Although the year was largely dedicated to refinement and preparedness, significant incidents provided opportunities to apply and evaluate these ongoing efforts.

### 2024 Incident Responses

**Point Fire (June 16, 2024)** The DEM successfully issued multiple SoCo Alert messages and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to support evacuations during the Point Fire. Evacuation orders were issued for one zone, and evacuation warnings were given for another. This event demonstrated the efficiency of Sonoma County's alerting systems in a wildfire scenario. This incident provided some lessons learned and insight to best practices for better alerting response in future incidents.

**December 5, 2024, Earthquake and Tsunami Warnings** Following an earthquake off the coast of Humboldt, California, DEM effectively executed the alert and warning procedures to send internal and community alert messages. One provided an evacuation order for the coastal region, while the other notified internal tsunami stakeholders.

Pre-made alert templates proved beneficial to issue the alert, allowing for swift response times. Areas identified for improvement include exploring remote launch capabilities and ensuring rapid staff mobilization.

### Alert and Warning on the Road

DEM Alert and Warning Coordinator Manny Albano and Alert and Warning Program Manager Jorge Rodriguez visited the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Technical Support Services Facility (TSSF) in Oxon Hill, Maryland. During their visit, they met with FEMA staff to discuss the current status of Sonoma County's alert and warning program and received a briefing on upcoming changes in the alert and warning landscape. Additionally, both had the opportunity to send test alerts within the facility, activating internal devices as they would in a real-world scenario.



# ALERT & WARNING PROGRAM

In November, Program Manager Jorge Rodriguez delivered a presentation at the 2024 International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Conference to a full audience. His session highlighted Sonoma County's best practices in alert and warning, with a focus on addressing systemic barriers to effective messaging.

## Program Highlights

### Enhancements in Flood Warning Procedures

Sonoma County did experience storm incidents in early 2024, however they did not meet the level for alert and warning needs. Yet, the Alert and Warning Division developed enhanced procedures for potential Russian River flooding. These procedures aim to provide faster and more precise alerting for the upper and lower parts of the Russian River, ensuring residents have adequate time to prepare and evacuate if necessary.

### School Alerting and Reunification Proof of Concept

In response to the October evacuation of Penngrove School, in partnership with the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), the division began working on a concept project that would include notification to parents of students in the event of an incident or evacuation of school.

This project is currently undergoing a proof of concept to demonstrate how emergency alerts can efficiently communicate with school administrators and parents during a crisis.

## Training and Exercises

**2024 Alert and Warning Exercise – Town of Windsor** DEM collaborated with the Town of Windsor to conduct a full-scale exercise testing alert systems in a controlled environment. Lessons learned from this exercise will be incorporated into future training and protocols, including educating the community of designated evacuation zones.

## Looking Ahead to 2025

As Sonoma County continues to enhance its alert and warning capabilities, key areas for improvement include expanding public outreach on alert registration, refining training for duty officers, and integrating new technologies, such as satellite communications, to improve alerting coverage and reach. The DEM Community Alert and Warning Division remains committed to keeping the community informed and prepared for emergencies.







## COMMUNITY

# PREPAREDNESS

### BY THE NUMBERS

Advertising and  
Social Media Impressions

**4.42M**

Public  
Engagement

**91**  
OPPORTUNITIES

**6500**  
PEOPLE REACHED

Partner  
Engagement

**92**  
OPPORTUNITIES

**980**  
PEOPLE CONNECTED

In 2024, Community Preparedness took significant strides toward making Sonoma County a safer, more resilient place to live. From educational seminars to groundbreaking programs, the efforts spanned diverse communities, addressing unique needs and building local capacity for emergencies.

### Sonoma Ready Program

#### Empowering Through Education

This year, preparedness education reached new heights. The Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition (AAPIC) and the Parkinson's Foundation partnered with us for their first-ever seminars, introducing effective strategies to strengthen their communities. Meanwhile,

Windsor Communities Organized to Prepare for Emergencies (COPE) joined forces with DEM to offer tailored preparedness education. Educational preparedness talks were given at service clubs, senior centers, and community meetings. Community Preparedness also supported Emergency Prep Help (EPH) in their efforts to educate low-income seniors all over the county in preparedness practices.

#### Community Tabletop Exercises

Recognizing the value of practice, we expanded our efforts to include tabletop exercises for local neighborhoods. With templates available in English and Spanish, we guided communities through Train-the-Trainer sessions and refined the exercises to suit various scenarios. These templates are available at [SoCoEmergency.org](https://SoCoEmergency.org). The events, held in areas like Creekside, West County, and Guerneville, provided participants valuable insights into risks and gaps, equipping residents to respond effectively to emergencies.



## COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

### Tabling Events

Our presence at community events also made a lasting impact. At the Fire and Earthquake Safety Expo, attendees left not only with “Go Bags” but also with personalized evacuation zone lookups and alert sign-ups. Similar services were offered at events in Sonoma Valley at the Sonoma County ShakeOut, Back to School, and Preparedness events. Free Go Bags with basic supplies were available to attendees in Guerneville and Sonoma Valley. Tabling and on-the-spot education was also offered at the Farmworkers Resource Fair, Sheriff’s Town Halls, West County Public Safety Events, Bodega Bay preparedness events, Petaluma Preparedness Fair, Indian Health Fair, Aging and Disability Fair, and more.

### Neighborhood Resilience Building Activity Program

**GET READY TOGETHER** This program is designed to help support small neighborhood groups who are engaging in preparedness and resilience building activities. The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) is working to support these efforts and help grow the number of participants in hyper-local networking. Neighbors helping each other is a key way to reach everyone in a disaster, especially those in the community with fewer resources and who are not digitally connected to information. This program allows for funding of specific activities to support groups in their efforts to educate and grow participation in the community while building each group’s capacity to be effective in an emergency.

Neighborhoods across the county embraced opportunities for hands-on learning, with seven communities hosting First Aid/CPR classes in English and Spanish. These workshops enhanced local resilience by equipping residents with lifesaving skills.



### ShakeOut

The April ShakeOut made waves, thanks to Lupe Alvarez, an intern with specialized communications training. Her efforts significantly increased awareness and participation, making the event a resounding success.



## COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

### CERT Conference in Washington DC, July 2024



Four members of DEM attended the National CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Conference in Washington DC in July 2024. Team members learned about the latest best practices and areas of training for the upcoming Sonoma County CERT program.

Two members of Bodega Bay CERT and a member of the local Sonoma County Red Cross also attended the conference. Some team members completed their Train the Trainer qualifications. One team member attended the Hybrid CERT Training course. The Team also participated in Advocacy Day and spoke to congressional aids about the importance of CERT in our community. This pre-conference event provided an amazing opportunity to communicate the importance of CERT to our political officials in an effort to ensure all possible funding opportunities are made available to local CERT programs. The conference helped to establish communications with CERT Teams from all over the nation and the chance to hear about their program's best practices. The team learned about team building, communications, Psychological First Aid, how to fund CERT, CERT Insurance and liability considerations, ways to create a disaster-resilient community, engagement best practices, CERT team structures, and more.

### Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

The SoCo CERT Program officially launched in fall 2024 with two Basic CERT Training Classes: one held in English in Petaluma and another in Spanish at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Santa Rosa. A total of 28 participants successfully graduated from these inaugural classes.

Building on this momentum, advanced training opportunities began with a Stop the Bleed session exclusively for CERT graduates, marking the start of a robust ongoing training program designed to enhance their skills and preparedness.

Community Preparedness partnered with Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI) to provide an opportunity for a number of community members and DEM staff to attend the CERT National Convention in Washington DC and Advocate for CERT programs in Washington. Both the educational opportunity and the opportunity to lobby for CERT were special opportunities.





## COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

### Nationally Recognized Achievement: The Model EOC Program

One of the most exciting achievements of the year was the launch of the Model Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Program. Sixteen high school students from across the county participated in a week-long, hands-on experience that brought emergency management to life. Our intern Gizela Carranza worked on this project as the focus of her internship.

Students had the unique opportunity to observe the EOC in action during the Point Fire, which activated the center to Level 3. They also attended a Board of Supervisors meeting where the incident was declared a disaster. The week concluded with a dynamic simulation



in which students took on EOC roles and managed disaster scenarios. This innovative program, the first of its kind in the nation, earned the 2024 International Association of Emergency Managers USA Preparedness Award.

Left: Nancy Brown, PhD, accepting National IAEM USA Preparedness Award for Model EOC with IAEM Oceania President Jane Rovins.

## COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS



### Community Partnerships

Active engagement and educational opportunities with a number of Sonoma County coalitions including Sonoma FBO (Faith Based Organizations), COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) and SCTA (Sonoma County Tourism Assoc). Sonoma FBO, in partnership with Community Preparedness, held listening sessions and educational opportunities throughout the county with local houses of worship.

This included four Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) sessions for FBOs, a Tabletop Exercise, and mapping of FBO assets that may be available in times of disaster for response, and a Tabletop exercise. COAD, in partnership with Community Preparedness, held an in-depth COOP workshop for nonprofit partners as well as a tabletop exercise for the

Operations Team, and one for the Food Access Committee. COAD members including 4Cs (Community Childcare Council of Sonoma County) sponsored educational opportunities for their staff to learn about preparedness in an effort to expand their learnings from COOP and tabletop exercises.

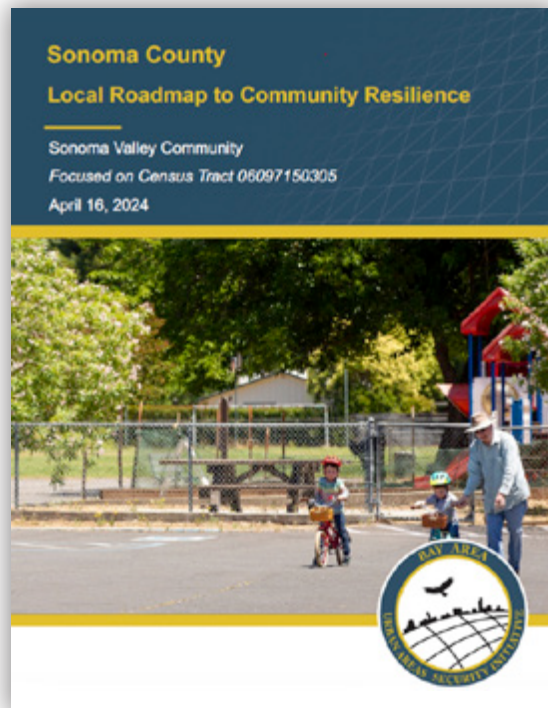
SCTA has continued to support vacation rental properties with the “Just in Case” package of emergency information developed in partnership with Community Preparedness. SCTA has added a preparedness module to their Ambassador training and provides EVAC Packs for all participants to help them get ready. Northern Sonoma County COPE and other COPE groups such as Map Your Neighborhood, Fire Safe, and Meet Your Neighbors groups partnered with Community Preparedness for education, materials, and support to continue to grow this vast network of community preparedness efforts. Community Preparedness also partnered with Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI) to bring Stop the Bleed education to Sonoma County Office of Education, Sonoma FBO, and SoCo CERT and ACS (Auxiliary Communications Service).



### Social Media and Advertising Campaign

We extended our reach this year through strategic advertising in local media like Press Democrat, La Prensa, and KBBF; while also leveraging Facebook and Nextdoor to engage with residents. These efforts ensured that emergency preparedness

## COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS



messages reached as many people as possible. We also continue to develop relationships with local media to help promote preparedness.

### Local Roadmaps to Resilience

Community Preparedness partnered with Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI) to develop a working group to map risks in Sonoma Valley

and develop a list of priority projects to work toward improving community resilience. The group met a number of times throughout the year and concluded the year with a list of priority projects to work on for 2025. These projects include a robust Wi-Fi system, developing a GMRS radio group to improve alternative communications capacities, and to investigate earthquake resilience of public community buildings in the area and identify pathways to seismic strengthening for facilities that are in need.

### Internships

The internship program continues to bear fruit, both in excellent work and in opportunities to engage students in Emergency Management. This year we had Gizela Carranza (University of Maine, Fort Kent), who worked on Model EOC and Lupe Alvarez (UC Santa Barbara), who worked on the Sonoma County ShakeOut in Community Preparedness. Bryan Ward (Sonoma State) worked with Alert and Warning looking at data, Molly Crayne Gardner (Sonoma State) worked with Emergency Coordination on Exercises and Trainings, and Charlie Stark (University of Alaska, Fairbanks), also working with Emergency Coordination on a variety of projects. Both Gizela and Lupe have been hired on part time with the county. Gizela in Community Preparedness and Lupe working for District 1.







## EMERGENCY

# COORDINATION

In 2024, the Emergency Coordination Division of the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) played a critical role in responding to a wide range of incidents, demonstrating flexibility, resilience, and a strong commitment to public safety. The division managed 16 “micro emergencies”, which are incidents requiring a significant commitment of staff time and resources but do not meet the threshold for full Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation. These included extreme heat and cold events, small-scale Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), major storms, minor flooding, and Red Flag Readiness operations.

In addition to these micro emergencies, DEM responded to the June Point Fire, which escalated to the level of requiring formal evacuation orders to ensure public safety. The team’s ability to rapidly coordinate resources, issue timely public warnings, and collaborate with response agencies was instrumental in mitigating the impact of these incidents on the community.

### A Year of Training, Exercises, and Planning

Despite the high operational tempo, the Emergency Coordination Division had an incredibly productive year, prioritizing training, preparedness, and response improvement. The team delivered 28 training sessions to county staff and partner agencies, enhancing readiness across multiple sectors.

In addition, DEM led six major exercises aimed at testing and strengthening the county’s emergency response capabilities:

- An election security tabletop to safeguard critical infrastructure and democratic processes.
- A full-scale EOC activation exercise, ensuring operational effectiveness in large-scale disasters.
- A tsunami communications drill to test early warning and public messaging systems.
- An emergency transportation tabletop to address evacuations and logistics under emergency conditions.
- A community evacuation exercise in Cloverdale, coinciding with the 2024 Cloverdale Fire and Earthquake Safety Expo, engaging high-risk neighborhoods in hands-on evacuation practice.
- A coastal community evacuation drill in Sea Ranch, which included the deployment of emergency alerts and a preparedness fair for local residents.

### Advancing Emergency Planning and Community Resilience

The Emergency Coordination team also made significant strides in emergency planning, policy development, and community resilience efforts:

- Authored a Dam Response Annex, outlining protocols for potential dam-related emergencies.
- Developed a new emergency planning guide, improving preparedness at all levels of government.

## EMERGENCY COORDINATION

- Updated the Integrated Preparedness Plan, ensuring alignment with evolving risks and best practices.
- Created a Coastal Incident Response Plan, addressing the unique challenges of emergencies along Sonoma County's coastline.
- Led a restructuring of the County's emergency planning and review process, improving efficiency and coordination across agencies.

Following each emergency event, DEM conducted thorough after-action reviews, capturing key lessons learned and refining future response strategies.

### Innovative Community Support Initiatives

To further enhance resilience, the Emergency Coordination Division launched community support programs designed to help residents better withstand and recover from emergencies. This included the distribution of storm assistance kits, equipping vulnerable communities with essential supplies to endure severe weather events. Additionally, DEM provided energy resiliency kits to communities impacted by disasters, helping mitigate the effects of power outages and increasing self-sufficiency during emergencies.

Through its response efforts, training initiatives, planning advancements, and community engagement, the Emergency Coordination Division had an exceptionally impactful year in 2024, reinforcing Sonoma County's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

### Cooling/Warming Centers

Sonoma County had multiple extreme heat events this past year, in both June and October. Due to the long duration of temperatures in the high 90's to low 100's, the DEM Emergency Coordination team coordinated the set-up of multiple cooling centers across the County, utilizing County library locations and contracted support. The centers ran for multiple days and provided relief to individuals looking to escape the heat during the hottest points of the day.

As the weather shifted later in the year, Sonoma County experienced a series of cold weather snaps, bringing overnight temperatures into the low 30's for multiple days in a row in both November and December, requiring the Emergency Coordination Team to activate warming center locations to support those without adequate shelter or heating sources. These centers provided a warm location to charge devices, have a snack, and have a temporary respite from the cold weather.



## EMERGENCY COORDINATION

### 2024 Point Fire

2024 Point Fire began on the 16th of June and continued through the end of the day on the 24th. A Red Flag Warning was issued early in the day by the National Weather Service on June 16th, indicating that the mix of extremely hot temperatures, breezy wind conditions, and low relative humidity in the area created a high probability for a fire to break out. This information was shared across the Sonoma County Operational Area by the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Duty Officer via an Operational Area call and Situation Status Report. The notification proved to be prophetic as the fire broke out later that same day. The Sonoma County EOC was activated at 2:30 PM with the arrival of the County EM Director and 2nd Duty Officer and would remain open until June 19th. County DEM Staff managed the EOC operations and conducted multiple Operational Area calls to provide situational awareness to partners throughout the event, while pushing daily situational status reports and coordinating meetings between response partners. DEM, in conjunction with Human Services, quickly established a Temporary Evacuation Point (TEP) in Forestville to provide an information and resource location for people who were evacuated. The Point Fire grew to over 1200 acres, forcing the evacuation of Zone 2E2 and a Warning for Zone 2E3. The fire destroyed 3 residences and damaged 7-8 other structures, mainly unoccupied sheds and outbuildings. The fire was fully extinguished by the end of the day on June 24th.

Point Fire



### Strengthening Preparedness: Golden Eagle 2024

In late June the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) participated in the annual Bay Area regional exercise known as Golden Eagle. Conducted by the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (BAUASI), Golden Eagle brings together representatives from Operational Areas across the Bay Area to participate in a multi-jurisdictional, full-scale exercise. The 2024 exercise focused on supply chain resiliency in the days following a simulated 7.0 magnitude earthquake on the Hayward Fault that would impact the entire Bay Area, including Sonoma County.



## EMERGENCY COORDINATION

This year, DEM lead the Sonoma County / Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) participation alongside the City of Cotati and the Town of Windsor as well as eleven other Bay Area jurisdictions.

Exercise play involved inject-driven scenarios managed by EOC staff sections from Cotati, Windsor, and Sonoma County with field-based Auxiliary Communications Service radio transmissions facilitated by volunteer radio operators. Over 100 participants from county departments, agencies, and special districts took part, ensuring a comprehensive and collaborative approach to enhancing regional earthquake response and resilience capabilities. Exercises like this help ensure our EOC personnel are better prepared to respond to a variety of hazards in the future and increase our ability to coordinate with other jurisdictions within and outside of our Operational Area.



### Exercise Highlights

The EOC exercise simulated operations starting on Day 4 post-earthquake. EOC staff continued emergency response protocols, assessed damages, and coordinated a multi-agency response.

Key exercise objectives included:

- **Public Information and Warning:** Evaluated public information operations and participation in the regional Joint Information System (JIS) to deliver key messages to the affected population and community.
- **Mass Care Operations:** Assessed the ability to activate and coordinate mass care and shelter operations and facilitate the novel Universal Disaster Intake Process.
- **Operational Coordination:** Evaluated Sonoma County's ability to activate and operate EOCs to coordinate operations between state and local governments. Initiated the action planning process to develop an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the Operational Area.
- **Operational Communications:** Established, tested, and utilized alternate communication systems to relay response information effectively.
- **Situational Assessment:** Assessed Sonoma County's ability to gather, analyze, store, and share response information, contributing to a regional common operating picture (COP).
- **Logistics and Supply Chain Management:** Evaluated the county's ability to restore supply chain operations through resource request workflows across multiple government levels and provide life-sustaining commodities to impacted populations via CPOD or other logistical methods following the catastrophic earthquake.

## EMERGENCY COORDINATION

### The Sea Ranch Community Evacuation Exercise

The Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) hosted two neighborhood evacuation exercises in 2024—one in Cloverdale and one in Sea Ranch, providing residents with valuable hands-on experience in emergency preparedness and evacuation procedures.

In July, the Department of Emergency Management facilitated an emergency evacuation exercise for The Sea Ranch community. The Sea Ranch is an isolated community with limited escape routes during an emergency making it a top priority for DEM. The goal was to support the community in practice evacuations. The exercise brought together The Sea Ranch Association, North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, CalFire, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Sonoma County Human Services Department, the American Red Cross, and others. DEM sent live alerts by phone to the community, instructing residents and asking them to evacuate for the exercise. These live alerts were accompanied by hi/lo sirens with The Sea Ranch Association emergency volunteers amplifying the test alert. Evacuees were directed to the Knipp and Stengel Ranch Barn where they were met with food, beverages, raffles, and displays related to evacuations.

### Cloverdale Community Evacuation Exercise

In Cloverdale, the evacuation exercise was an exciting and engaging experience, particularly for the high-risk communities in the area. The drill coincided with the 2024 Cloverdale Fire and Earthquake Safety Expo, enhancing the event with a dynamic, real-world preparedness component. Attendees had access to valuable emergency preparedness resources and information while engaging directly with first responders and emergency management professionals.

These exercises play a crucial role in building community resilience, improving response coordination, and ensuring that residents are familiar with evacuation procedures before an actual emergency occurs. DEM remains committed to hosting these events and looks forward to continuing to work with communities across Sonoma County to enhance preparedness and safety.

### Fire Meeting

The Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) recently hosted a comprehensive pre-fire season coordination meeting, bringing together key stakeholders to enhance preparedness for the upcoming wildfire season. Representatives from the National Weather Service (NWS), local and regional fire agencies, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), law enforcement, and care and shelter organizations participated in the discussion, sharing critical insights and strategies to improve response and mitigation efforts.

## EMERGENCY COORDINATION

A key highlight of the meeting was an in-depth presentation by DEM's Alert and Warning team, which provided attendees with the latest updates on emergency notification processes. The team demonstrated the practical application of SoCoAlert by sending a real-time alert during the discussion, reinforcing the system's capabilities.

The event was well attended by a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from law enforcement, fire agencies, emergency management, and other response partners across Sonoma County. The meeting served as a valuable forum for collaboration, information sharing, and strengthening interagency coordination ahead of what is anticipated to be another challenging fire season.

### Flood Meeting

The Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) recently hosted a pre-flood season coordination meeting, bringing together key agencies and stakeholders to enhance preparedness and response efforts ahead of the rainy season. Representatives from the National Weather Service (NWS), local and regional fire agencies, law enforcement, public works, utilities, care and shelter organizations, and community-based partners participated in the event, ensuring a comprehensive approach to flood preparedness.

The meeting was structured into two key sessions. The morning session focused on operational readiness, providing an overview of forecasted weather conditions, emergency response protocols, resource coordination, and interagency collaboration. Agencies had

the opportunity to discuss response strategies, identify potential challenges, and refine their coordinated approach to flood events.

The afternoon session emphasized a whole-community approach, highlighting the importance of inclusive preparedness and response efforts that consider vulnerable populations, community resources, and long-term resilience. Additionally, the discussion included an in-depth look at the recovery process, addressing key considerations such as disaster assistance programs, debris management, infrastructure repairs, and community support initiatives.

With participation from a broad range of stakeholders across Sonoma County, the pre-flood season meeting served as a critical opportunity to strengthen partnerships, improve communication, and ensure a well-coordinated response to potential flood events in the region.







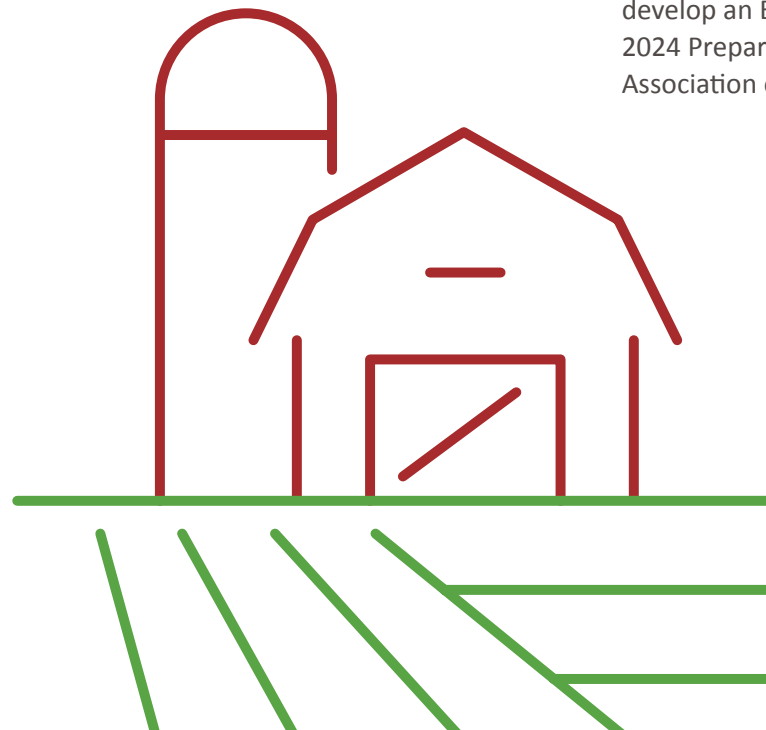
# ADMINISTRATIVE

## SERVICES

Administrative Services Division is responsible for the management and coordination of internal administrative functions for the department, including developing and administering the annual budget, human resources and payroll, accounting, records management, department operations and ISD logistics, oversees Grant Administration, and acts as administrative support to department staff and the Operational Area Emergency Council.

### 2024 Highlight

- In June 2024, the Department of Emergency Management's Community Preparedness division hosted our inaugural Model EOC program, funded by the FY23 State Homeland Security Grant. Patterned after Model UN, this program allows local High School Students to be introduced to the Sonoma County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Learn About Preparedness Objectives, Disaster Science, EOC Innerworkings. Students also learn how to maintain situational awareness, challenges in alerting and warning, value of a prepared community, shelter operations, and how to develop an EOC Action Plan. This innovative program has won the 2024 Preparedness Award from the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA).



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### Grant Administration

Grant Administration is responsible for applying for and administering multiple grants, including Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grants and California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Community Block Development (CDBG) grants on behalf of the county and Operational Area.

In 2024, the Grant Administration team partnered with our funding partners, County staff, Operational Area partners and suppliers to achieve great results. The following projects were completed this year:

- City of Petaluma Mobile Camera Surveillance System.
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training materials and travel/registration cost reimbursements.
- County of Sonoma HazMat Mass Spectrometer.
- DEM's Inaugural Model EOC Program for local high-school-aged students.
- Rancho Adobe Fire Department Mobile Radio Upgrades.
- Rancho Adobe Fire Department Weapons of Mass Destruction Safety Equipment.
- RedCom Radio Communications Upgrades Project.
- Santa Rosa Junior College Stop the Bleed First Aid Kits.
- Santa Rosa Police Department Mobile Radio Upgrades.
- Sonoma County Fire Swiftwater Rescue Equipment.
- Sonoma County Sheriffs Office Communications Testing Equipment.
- Sonoma Valley Fire District Tablets with Incident Software.
- Type 3 Incident Management Training for Sonoma County Public Safety and Emergency Management staff.



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### Active Grants Administered During 2024 Include:

#### American Rescue Plan Act Community Resilience Program (ARPA)

- Culturally Responsive Disaster Response and Long-Term Recovery - \$1,925,470

#### Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

- FY22 Sheriffs' Rapid Response Vehicle – \$245,497
- FY22 Community Emergency Response Team Trainings Subgrant – \$26,000
- FY23 Cyber Incident Management Annex – \$136,668
- FY23 Fire and EMS Emergency Radio Equipment Upgrade and Stabilization – \$210,727
- FY24 Critical Public-Safety Communication System Replacement –\$38,000

#### Community Development Building Grant Mitigation (CDBG) – Mitigation-Planning & Public Services Program (MIT-PPS)

- Community Emergency Response Team Training – \$500,000
- Sonoma Ready Community Education Plan – \$500,000
- Disaster Recovery Plan Capabilities Gap Analysis – \$374,000

#### Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

- FY24 – \$208,062

#### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- DR4683 Sonoma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – \$419,998

#### State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)

- FY21 – \$701,838, 17 Projects
- FY22 – \$671,457, 19 Projects
- FY23 – \$535,157, 18 Projects
- FY24 – \$477,966, 14 Projects



## RESOURCES



**SoCo Emergency.** A single point of contact for residents seeking information during disasters, as well as preparedness and recovery information. [SoCoEmergency.org](http://SoCoEmergency.org).



**SoCoAlert.** The Sonoma County alert and warning program used to send out alerts such as flood warnings, evacuations, and shelter-in-place orders. Call (707) 565-1369 or sign up at [SoCoAlert.com](http://SoCoAlert.com).



**Nixle.** Text your zip code to 888777 or sign up at [Nixle.com](http://Nixle.com) to receive alerts and advisories from local law enforcement.

### KNOW YOUR ZONE

**Know Your Zone.** The County of Sonoma worked with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office to establish evacuation zones to more efficiently evacuate our communities. [SoCoEmergency.org/evacuation-map](http://SoCoEmergency.org/evacuation-map)



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