

Evacuations

Plans and Procedures for San Luis Obispo County

Today's Topics

- Evacuation Terminology
- Evacuation Regulations
- Evacuation Authorization and Agency Roles
- County Pre-Plans & Incidents
- Public Notifications
- Special Facilities and Populations
- Shelters & Pets
- Repopulation

Terminology

Common terminology is essential to ensuring a safe, coordinated, and efficient evacuation.

The following terminology is utilized in San Luis Obispo County.



Evacuation Warning

- Alerting of community members in a defined area of a potential threat to life and property from an emergency incident.



Evacuation Order

- Movement of community members out of a defined area due to an immediate threat to life and property from an emergency incident.



Shelter In Place

- Directing community members to stay secured inside their current location.

Used if situation does not allow for evacuation or when evacuation could cause a higher potential for loss of life.

Safe Refuge Area

- A temporary safe location to hold evacuees until evacuation is possible.

Normally a safe refuge area is within the affected area / inundation zone.

Used primarily in wildland fires or tsunamis

Closure

- Prohibiting usage or occupancy of a defined area such as a park, beach, or road due to a potential or actual threat to public health and/or safety.

Used when an incident affects a defined area and evacuation is not necessary. For example: Tsunami Advisory that only affects the beach.

Also used when public officials want to limit recreating public in the case of a potential emergency.

Regulations

The Law

California law authorizes officers to restrict access to any area where a menace to public health or safety exists due to a calamity such as flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident or other disaster. (Penal Code 409.5)

Evacuation Regulations in CA

- In CA, residents can legally remain in their home following an *Evacuation Order*.
- Authorities can prohibit residents from entering an *Evacuated Area*, including their home.
- Authorities can enforce a closure of an area or road.
i.e. – Closure of a beach when general evacuations are not necessary.
- Media is exempt from these regulations



Evacuation Authorizations and Agency Roles

Who can authorize an evacuation and what are the roles of the primary agencies involved





Authorities and Coordination

- In CA, evacuation is a law enforcement responsibility.
- In large or fast moving incidents, fire and other agencies will assist.
- Large-scale and/or planned evacuations will be coordinated by the County EOC with input from ICP and field staff.
- Authorized to issue evacuations in SLO County:

[San Luis Obispo County Emergency Operations Plan-Section 3](#)

- Incident Commander or IC Staff
- Emergency Services Director
- County Health Officer or Designee
- Other Authorized personnel

Agency Roles in Evacuations

- CHP-
 - Develop and implement traffic control strategy and overall management.
 - Coordinate traffic control activities of Sheriff, Public Works, and city police departments.
- Caltrans
 - Provide resources and coordinate with CHP for perimeter and traffic control.
 - Assist with traffic diversions and restrictions.
- Sheriff-
 - Assist CHP with traffic control
 - Perimeter and access control
 - Direct county-wide law enforcement actions and mutual aid
 - Implement route alerting
 - Assist with carless collection

Agency Roles in Evacuations

- Public Works-

- Emergency road and infrastructure repair
- Coordinate transportation resources
- Provide resources and personnel to assist CHP with traffic flow
- Assist with identifying evacuation areas during relevant incidents

- County Fire

- Assist with route alerting and carless collection
- Implement special needs checks
- Identify evacuation areas during relevant incidents
- Assist with evacuations as able

- County Health

- Identify evacuation areas in public health emergencies
- Assist with safe evacuation of hospitals, special needs facilities

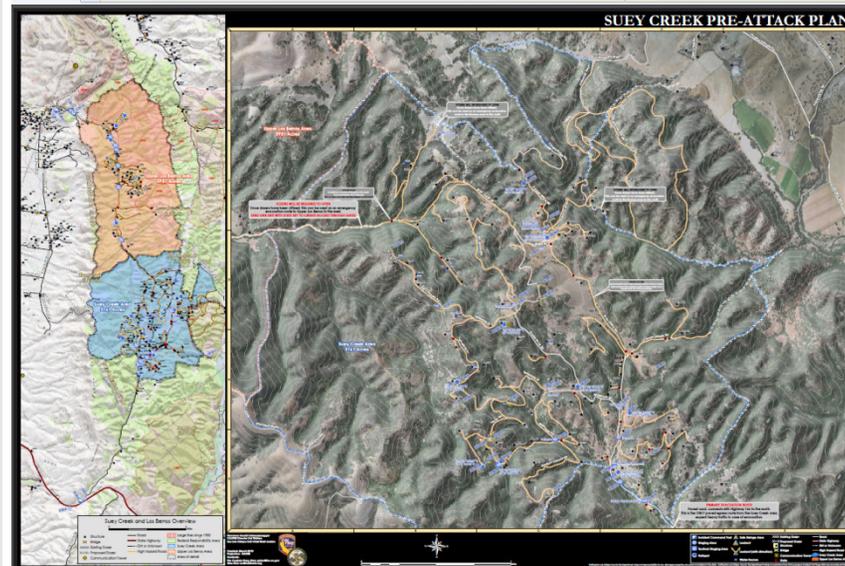
Implementation of Evacuation

- Impediments- Tow trucks mobilized in advance. Caltrans, PW, CHP can utilize push bumpers, heavy equipment
- Incoming Traffic Restrictions*:
 - Northbound Traffic at SR 126, SR 246, SR 154, & SR 166
 - Southbound Traffic at SR 152, SR 198 and SR 46 and Highway 1 will be closed at Monterey.
- Contra Flow lane reversal – A plan that alters normal flow of traffic. To be used as last resort for a county-wide emergency evacuation.

*(NPP SOP III.20-CHP is located at the County/Cities Library)

Pre-Plans and Incidents

Certain types of emergencies lend themselves to pre-plans such as a tsunami, emergency at DCPP, or dam failure.





Tsunami Evacuation Planning

- Tsunami inundation zones identified by USC, USGS, CalEMA geologists.
- Tsunami Plan Includes:
 - Potential Inundation Areas
 - Evacuation Areas and Routes
 - Traffic Control Points
 - Scripted Public Information
- Evacuation areas are for a max wave height—scaled down for smaller waves.
- Pre-Plans produced for Op Area field staff to aid in response and evacuations.



Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Planning

- Plans produced by CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire with assistance from Homeland Security Grant funds.
- Plans address:
 - Potential evacuation areas and routes
 - Pre-designated areas of safe refuge
 - Special considerations including building construction, fuels and hazards.
- Plans are exercised, trained on, and updated as necessary
- Some plans include community preparedness pamphlets



Major WUI Planned Areas

- Parkhill & vicinity
- Avila Beach & vicinity See, Perfumo, Barron, & Squire Canyons & vicinity
- West Atascadero (Santa Rita Ck, Toro Creek and Hwy 41 Corridor)
- Cambria
- Suey Creek & Los Berros Canyon (East Nipomo)
- NE Arroyo Grande - In Progress
- Oak Shores – In Progress
- Montano De Oro and Irish Hills – In Progress

Areas are identified for future planning





Nuclear Power Plant Planning

- Protective Action Zones assist in protective action implementation.
- Evacuation Times Assessment aids decision makers.
- Public information campaign informs the public on protective actions and evacuation information.
- Exercises evaluate capabilities including evacuation decision making, implementation, resources, and shelters.
- Traffic control plans establish coordination, evacuation routes, staffing, and traffic control points.

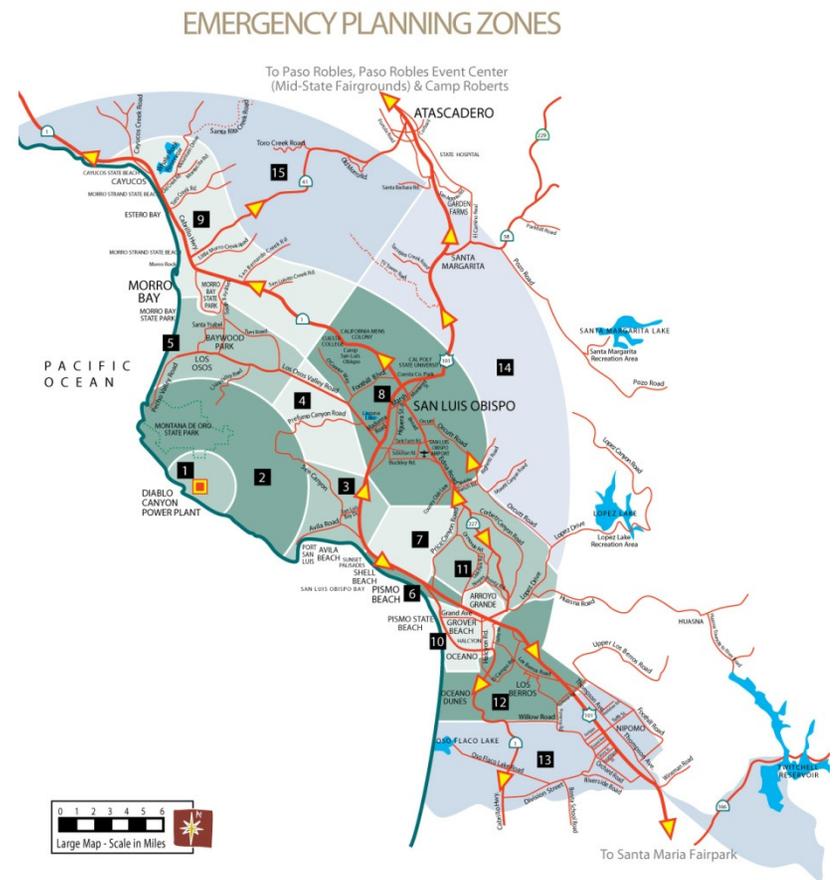
NPP Admin can be found on OES's website under Plans and Revisions



Nuclear Power Plant Evacuations

- Special NPP Evacuation Planning Efforts Include:

- Traffic Management Plan
- Low Population Zone (LPZ)
- Carless Collection
- Special Needs Individuals
- Route Alerting
- School Relocations
- Congregate Care Centers





Dam and Levee Evacuations

- 8 dams, 2 levees addressed in the Dam and Levee Failure Plan
- Public Works also utilizes a Arroyo Grande Creek Levee Failure Plan for pre-storm and initial actions.
- Inundation and evacuation areas identified for each dam and levee with predetermined evacuation routes.
- Public notification methods are identified with pre-scripted messages.





Hazardous Materials Evacuations

- Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan created in 2001
- Plan Includes:
 - Shelter in place vs. evacuation guidelines and implementation
 - Transportation coordination for evacuations
 - Public notification procedures and messages
 - Evacuation shelter coordination
 - Considerations for repopulation



Public Notifications in Evacuation

Public awareness of hazards and of public alerting methods directly contribute to an efficient evacuation.

NRC 2005



Public Notification Systems

- Emergency Alert System (EAS)- A system of radio, TV, and cable networks that disseminate emergency information to the public.
- Early Warning System (EWS) sirens – 131 sirens in Emergency Planning Zone utilized if protective actions are necessary.

To be used in conjunction with the EAS



Public Notifications Continued

- Reverse 911 - A telephonic notification system that alerts selected areas of necessary action on landline or self-registered phone.
- Route Alerting- Street by street or house by house alerting using bullhorns or PA systems.

Used if other methods fail, if time does not allow for other methods, or if affected area is small and evacuations are urgent.

Special Facilities & Populations

As evacuations of special facilities and populations may take an extended time, precautionary protective actions or evacuation orders may be issued ahead of the general population.





Special Facilities and Populations

- **Schools-** EOC representative and Phone Team allow for close coordination.
- **Institutionalized Individuals-** Shelter in Place is preferred course of action.
- **Hospitals-** Hospitals maintain evacuation plans and alternate care site plans. Coordination is essential amongst facilities and county.
- **Special Needs Facilities-** County Public Health maintains list of licensed facilities and coordinates with those facilities in case of evacuation order.



Special Facilities and Populations

- **Independent Living Special Needs** – List distributed to each fire department to utilize should an evacuation be ordered.
- **Carless Population-** Transportation coordinated through EOC.
- **Transient & Recreating Public-** Precautionary evacuations and closures limit recreating or visiting public should emergency escalate.

Shelters & Pets

In San Luis Obispo County, the American Red Cross opens and operates evacuee shelters. The shelters are opened at the request of a local official.



Shelter Specifics

- American Red Cross has 81 shelter agreements
- DSS & ARC coordinate closely in County EOC for shelter operation.
- Pets are not allowed inside ARC shelters. County Animal Services and non-profit agencies will coordinate animal needs.
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) assist in animal evacuations and fill a position in the EOC.
- Shelters for an emergency at DCPP are predetermined and publicized.

Repopulation

Repopulation- return of residents to areas previously evacuated

Repopulation

- Repopulation is permitted after:
 - Emergency threat mitigated
 - Infrastructure identified as safe
 - Utilities secured and available
 - Emergency response agency approval



Questions?

Contact County OES

781-5011

www.slocounty.ca.gov/oes