Emergency Services

Operations

The Colusa County Office of Emergency Services (OES), a division of the Colusa County sheriff's office, is the county's emergency management agency. As such, it is the lead agency that fulfills the county's requirements under the Emergency Services Act (Government Code Section 8550 et. seq.).

Partners

OES works with:

- Partners in the emergency management programs of the cities of Colusa and Williams
- The Colusa Regional Medical Center
- Various special districts, authorities, and joint powers authorities within Colusa County

Mission

The primary mission for OES is to coordinate the county government's role in response to disasters or other large-scale emergencies. View the <u>four aspects of emergency management</u>.

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Four Aspects of Emergency Management

Preparation

Training, drills and exercises, plan development, and other such activities are part of the preparation before a disaster happens. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) works with county staff, allied agencies, neighboring jurisdictions, and state agencies to ensure the necessary procedures and networks are in place.

Response

This is where the rubber meets the road. This office responds to disasters (or potential disasters) in the unincorporated areas of Colusa County, supports other political jurisdictions within the boundaries of Colusa County dealing with a disaster in that territory, or both. Personnel from the various departments and allied agencies that have participated in training respond to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which:

- Coordinates the response and recovery efforts of governmental and allied nongovernmental agencies
- Manages the county's overall response to natural and man-made disasters
- Tasks various county departments with emergency responsibilities (some pre-identified, some generated as the disaster requires)

Recovery

When the threat has been removed, it is time to get back to normal (or at least as close to normal as possible). This involves ensuring the functions of county government are back in place as quickly as possible. OES is unable to provide direct disaster assistance, including financial assistance, to the residents of Colusa County. However, this office is a conduit for information, especially about agencies that can directly help.

Mitigation

What happened during the disaster, and why did it happen? If steps can be taken to either reduce the likelihood of similar events or reduce the amount of damage from a similar event, such steps are considered.

Cycle of Aspects

The above aspects are not separate from one another, and they continue to cycle without end. It is not uncommon to still be responding to an event, while at the same time starting recovery and implementing early mitigation steps. This takes more than just the few people assigned to OES. It takes the involvement of personnel from many county departments and allied agencies. Their participation is vital and appreciated.

For details about emergency management, please contact the sheriff's office at (530) 458-0200.

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