



SONOMA READY

Sonoma County is more prepared for disasters than ever before

Over the past few years, Sonoma County has experienced devastating fires and floods as well as other local emergencies, such as large scale power outages. County staff and officials are working to recover and increase our capacity to respond to future disasters. Here are some ways we have improved local policies and committed tens of millions of dollars to become a stronger, more resilient community:

We are improving our disaster alert and warning systems to reach everyone.



WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS

No alert system is perfect. This is why we use multiple, redundant alert mechanisms to inform the community when there is an emergency. These include Nixle, SoCoAlert, NOAA Weather Radio System, and the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System which includes the Wireless Emergency Alert system and the Emergency Alert System. We

continue to work towards making these systems better.

Public safety staff confer weekly to review immediate and long-term weather conditions; evaluate potential risks to the region; and share training opportunities, scheduled drills and information resources.

The County continues to work with higher risk communities on evacuation route development to help people get out safely in a disaster. Several drills have been completed, with more planned, to practice safe evacuation.



We are managing our environment and homes for wildfire risks.



Through the Fuels Reduction and Landscape Resiliency Campaign, we are reducing wildfire risk with vegetation management, including controlled burns, property inspections, and grazing projects.

From County hosted workshops to educate home and landowners about best practices to manage land and make their homes fire resistant to an enhanced multi-agency inspection program that inspected over 6,500 properties in 2019 the County is engaging the community to reduce risk.

The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) offers education and advice on home hardening, such as fire resistant materials like roofing and siding. This Program offers financing opportunities home improvements, including seismic retrofits.



Learn how YOU can be prepared at [SoCoEmergency.org](https://www.sococoemergency.org)

We have new early detection tools.

Eleven fire cameras have been installed throughout the County, and 23 total throughout the North Bay region, to provide early detection of wildfires and give fire fighters real time information.

And, a system of stream and rain gauges have been installed throughout burn areas to monitor potential dangers and risks of debris flows and flash floods.



We increased capacity of our County Staff to prepare for and manage disasters.

We created the Department of Emergency Management and hired new staff to serve as the primary coordination point for emergency management and oversee critical topics such as community preparedness and alert and warning systems. We are one of only a handful of counties in California to have a dedicated manager committed to alerts and warnings.

County staff are required to serve as disaster workers during an emergency and designated staff are always available to activate alerts when necessary.

We centralized public communications and increased accessibility.

We established SoCoEmergency.org to serve as a single source for official information during a disaster.

We are partnering with United Way of the Wine Country to improve 2-1-1, a central number to call to get information and referrals, especially during disasters.



SoCo
Emergency

And we are increasing community preparedness efforts in both English and Spanish, including hosting dozens of Preparedness Workshops throughout 2020 at local libraries to educate the community about preparedness tools and to hand out preparedness kits.

We learned how to respond, plan, and rebuild.



The Board established the Office of Recovery & Resiliency to address immediate needs and sustain long-term efforts to help Sonoma County rebuild and recover through development of the Recovery & Resiliency Framework.

The Resiliency Permit Center was created to expedite permits and inspection services for property owners impacted by disasters.

The County ensured California HOPE counselors were immediately available after disasters. They have provided over 70,000 services and counseling sessions, and continue to support post-disaster emotional support needs.

And, we are exploring and leveraging every possible funding opportunity to help our community recover, and reduce or eliminate long-term risks to people and property in future disasters, including applying for \$32.6 million from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.



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