



**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**
— SONOMA COUNTY —

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



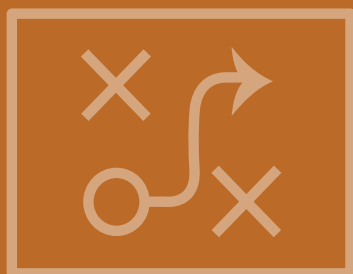
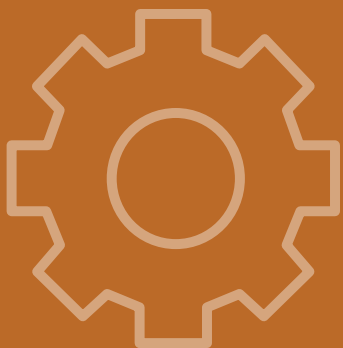


EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

— SONOMA COUNTY —

2025 Annual Report

Designed by Nhan Pham, DEM Grant Program Analyst



The Department of Emergency Management is responsible for the mitigation, preparedness, planning, coordination of response, and recovery activities related to county emergencies and disasters.

The department serves as the primary coordination point for emergency management's activities affecting more than one jurisdiction, and the unincorporated areas of the county. The Department of Emergency Management became an independent county department in July 2019.



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



MISSION - VALUES - VISION

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



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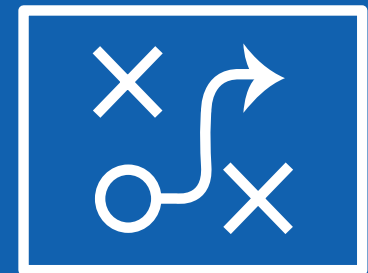
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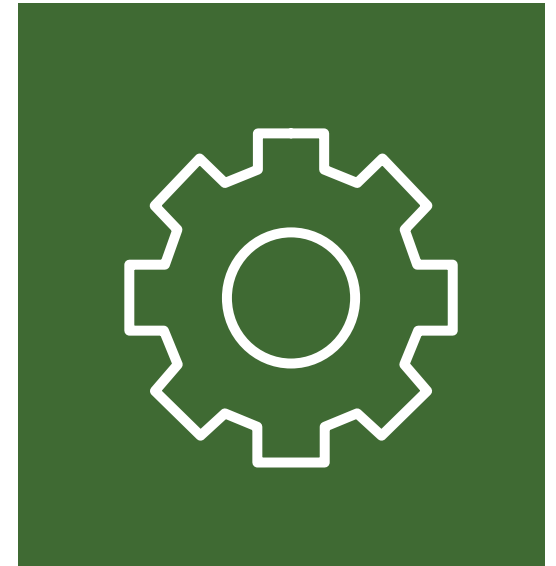
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RESOURCES



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

2025 marked another defining year for the Department of Emergency Management. We moved beyond capability maintenance to capability expansion—operationally, strategically, and regionally.

The year required real-world execution. From the winter storm and Russian River flooding response to a coordinated tsunami activation, to issuing critical alerts during a platform outage in Windsor, our teams demonstrated redundancy, speed, and disciplined coordination under pressure. We activated, adapted, and delivered.

At the same time, we strengthened the foundation. We modernized the County's Emergency Operations Plan, developed a new Recovery Operations Plan, and trained nearly 4,000 County family members in their roles as Disaster Service Workers through enhanced coursework and functional exercises. We advanced regional inter-operability by conducting the first cross-county alert & warning test in the nation with Napa County and strengthened coastal coordination through focused tsunami planning.

On the mitigation front, we led the update of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, aligning 22 jurisdictions around long-term risk reduction and preserving FEMA funding eligibility. Our Administrative Services and Grant Administration teams secured and managed millions in federal and state investments, translating funding into upgraded communications, cyber security improvements, public safety equipment, and strategic planning initiatives across the Operational Area.

The Department continues to mature as a high-performing, forward-focused organization. We are building systems that reduce risk, protect infrastructure, and strengthen community readiness — not just responding to emergencies, but shaping a more resilient future.

Our MISSION remains clear: to support Sonoma County before, during,

and after emergencies.

We continue to VALUE integrity, inclusivity, and innovation.

Our VISION remains an empowered and resilient community built through education, collaboration, and trust.

The work is demanding. The stakes are high. But the trajectory is strong.

We are building capacity.

We are building resilience.

We are building the future of emergency management in Sonoma County!

We are Sonoma Strong.

We are Sonoma Ready.

Jeffrey DuVall, MPA, CEM, CA-PEM
Director, Department of Emergency Management



YEAR IN REVIEW

Emergency Council

During 2025, the Sonoma County Operational Area Emergency Council strengthened regional coordination, preparedness, recovery planning, and resilience across Sonoma County. The Council met in May, August, and November to address emerging hazards, approve key planning documents, and advance Operational Area emergency management priorities.

A major accomplishment was the development and adoption of the Sonoma County Recovery Operations Plan (ROP). Following stakeholder engagement and partner feedback, the Council approved the updated ROP in August 2025. The plan established scalable recovery activation levels, clarified recovery leadership roles, and standardized recovery coordination across the Operational Area.

In November 2025, the Council approved the updated Sonoma County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which modernized operational guidance, incorporated current FEMA terminology, improved usability, and expanded annexes covering hazards, communications, evacuation, mass care, recovery, and public warning systems.

The Council continued to serve as a key regional coordination body, bringing together local governments, special districts, state agencies, utilities, nonprofits, educational institutions, and community partners. Members shared updates on emergency planning, staffing, infrastructure resilience, public health preparedness, evacuation and sheltering, hazard mitigation, communications systems, and continuity planning.

The Council also supported Operational Area subcommittees, including the Emergency Coordinators Forum, Alert & Warning Committee, Disaster Access & Functional Needs (DAFN), Mass Care & Shelter Council, and Emergency Transportation Committee, which advanced regional preparedness and operational readiness throughout the year.

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 Emergency Management Awareness Month

In August 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Gold Resolution Proclaiming August 2025 as National Emergency Management Awareness Month.

Spearheaded by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), this month-long campaign aims to raise awareness about the emergency management profession and the vital role emergency managers play in keeping our local communities safe.

In Sonoma County, the Department of Emergency Management works year-round to serve and build resilience in our community by preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all kinds of emergencies. Throughout August, this campaign will highlight:

- What emergency management is.
- What emergency management does for our community.
- Why our profession matters.
- Emergency managers working at all levels and in all sectors.
- The value that emergency management brings to all communities and organizations.

Emergency management is a critical discipline that ensures communities are prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters by coordinating systems, resources, and strategies that protect lives, property, and the environment.





Warehouse Coordinators

2025 was a year of increased preparation, expansion and consolidation for the warehouse team. We prepared for power outages by assembling provide energy resilience kits, (PERKs) that consisted of small generators, fuel and charging station. We expanded our trailer fleet which now numbers 16, including a revamped mobile communication trailer. We consolidated the emergency preparedness material to provide more space and availability for performance.

The Cloverdale warehouse was made more secure by new fencing and cameras. It also provides a secure location for multiple trailers, Command Trailer, Tower trailer, Solar trailer, Mobile Command trailer, cots, blankets and hygiene kits.

On the response side we assisted Marin County fire victims by deploying our 3-stall shower trailer at the San Rafael Community Center, deployed the 100-foot tower trailer to Sears Point Raceway to assist Sonoma County Sheriff's Department and provided energy resilience and storm assistance kits to various locations in west Sonoma County during stormy weather.

All in all, a productive year of preparedness and organization.



ALERT

& WARNING PROGRAM

The Department of Emergency Management's Community Alert and Warning Division continued its commitment in 2025 to providing timely, accurate, and coordinated emergency notifications to protect life and property. Throughout the year, the division balanced real-world incident response with continued system testing, interagency collaboration, and program development. From supporting evacuations and severe weather response to advancing cross-jurisdictional alerting and redundancy, 2025 represented a year of both operational application and strategic growth. These efforts strengthened the county's readiness and reinforced the critical role of public alerting in emergency management.

2025 Incident Responses

2025 Winter Storm Incidents During a series of winter storms in the early months of 2025, the Alert and Warning Division supported public safety operations through coordination and messaging related to hazardous conditions, road impacts, and community safety concerns. As a result of those storms and the river level forecasts in late January – early February, alerts were issued for storm preparedness in areas along the Russian River.

July 2025 Tsunami Alert In July 2025, an offshore earthquake prompted tsunami warnings and advisories along the California coast, leading DEM to activate its Department Operations Center and issue a Tsunami alert to at-risk coastal communities. Alert and warning operations were closely coordinated with the Sheriff's

Office, releasing a unified, consistent message within one minute of each other across SoCo Alert, Wireless Emergency Alerts, and Nixle. The incident highlighted continued improvements in rapid messaging, including the use of an internally developed AI-assisted alert text tool, and demonstrated strong coordination and public communication, while identifying opportunities to further enhance multilingual outreach and field communications.

2025 Winter Storm Incidents In 2025, a gas line rupture in the Town of Windsor prompted a Shelter-in-Place order for nearby streets, a hotel, and an apartment complex while agencies assessed the hazard. Although an evacuation was initially considered, unified command determined that sheltering in place was the safest course of action. The DEM's alert and warning operations performed effectively despite the County's primary alerting platform being unavailable, with staff successfully transitioning to the backup platform to issue SoCo Alert messages to approximately 10,000 residents. Alerts were closely aligned with Sheriff's Office Nixle notifications to ensure consistent public guidance. The incident demonstrated the strength of system redundancy, strong interagency coordination, and the ability to deliver timely, reliable public alerts under challenging conditions.

ALERT & WARNING PROGRAM

Training, Exercises, and System Validation

2025 Alert and Warning Exercise Series

On February 25, 2025, the Department of Emergency Management conducted a full-scale SoCo Alert exercise in the Town of Windsor. More than 17,000 phone numbers were successfully reached, with strong delivery across phone, email, and text channels. The exercise was coordinated with the Town of Windsor and demonstrated continued collaboration and partnership.

In March 2025, Sonoma and Napa counties conducted the first live cross-county Wireless Emergency Alert exercise in the United States, validating cross-jurisdictional alerting capabilities. The DEM Alert and Warning Division, in partnership with the Napa County Office of Emergency Services, tested the ability to send alerts into each other's jurisdictions. Members of the Sonoma County and Napa County Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) supported the exercise by providing field-based confirmation of alert receipt. The exercise was highly successful, and similar regional interoperability tests will continue as part of our county's ongoing training and exercise program.

WE ARE COMMUNITY ALERT & WARNING



Our Community Alert & Warning Team works year-round to keep systems ready and send timely, clear messages that keep Sonoma County safe before, during, and after emergencies.





EMERGENCY COORDINATION

The Emergency Coordination and Operations Division ensures the County is ready to respond whenever disaster strikes. The Division oversees the readiness of our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team and leads the planning and training efforts necessary to facilitate a collaborative and effective response before, during, and after emergency incidents. In emergency situations, the Division helps facilitate efficient information sharing across response partner agencies and provides in-field support to first responders and field resources.

The Division operates the Duty Officer program, which monitors incidents and emergencies occurring around the County 24/7 and responds to any requests for service or support needed from the Department. Duty Officers remain busy throughout the year monitoring forecasts, sharing operational information with partners, organizations, and agencies. The Duty Officers train regularly on alert and warning systems.

2025 Flood Incident

In 2025, the Emergency Coordination Division responded to several critical incidents across the County. In early February, the County was hit by significant rainfall, resulting in flooding along the Russian River. The EOC was activated and the Division supported local community members impacted by the floods with Storm Assistance Kits (SAK's) and emergency generators while monitoring flooded areas and pushing out emergency information.

2025 Bomb Threat Hoax

On March 10th, following a bomb threat hoax at a school in Occidental, the Division responded with district representatives, the Sonoma County Office of Education, and the Sheriff's Office to facilitate the safe pick-up and reunification of children with their families.

2025 Tsunami Risk

In July, following a major earthquake of the coast of Kamchatka, Russia, the Emergency Coordination Division responded to the threat of a tsunami. Coordination assisted in opening and staffing the EOC and worked with the Sheriff's Office and Regional Parks to evacuate low-lying coastal areas that could be impacted, while coordinating public safety information with the County Communications Team.

EMERGENCY COORDINATION

Emergency Management Training Program

A major goal for the Emergency Coordination Division this year was an overhaul of the County's emergency management training program, developing new courses and training requirements for County Disaster Service Workers (DSW's) and staff assigned to the EOC. These trainings were designed to familiarize staff with their potential roles and responsibilities if and when they may be called into service and will be taken on an annual basis. To compliment these new courses, the Emergency Coordination Team built a series of live drills and tabletop exercises to provide hands-on experience to new staff within the EOC environment, responding to different scenarios and threats to challenge and grow their skills. The Team also facilitated a functional exercise in June that focused on a threat to the water supply system in Sonoma County, allowing EOC staff a chance to practice their roles and develop relationships with partner organizations.

In 2025, Emergency Coordination trained nearly four thousand DSWs through a combination of live trainings and self-paced courses.

Recovery and Emergency Operations Plan

The Emergency Coordination Division developed a new Recovery Operations Plan and reworked the County's Emergency Operations Plan. The Recovery Operations Plan draws on best practices from previous recovery efforts and is designed to provide the County

with a flexible and scalable approach to short, medium, and long-term recovery efforts following disaster incidents. The overhaul of the Emergency Operations Plan, last revised in 2022, created a more concise, accessible, and operationally focused document that provides high-level guidance on the County's emergency management processes and operations.





HAZARD

MITIGATION

Hazard Mitigation and the 2026 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) Update

In 2025, DEM led the update to the Sonoma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) for the first time, a significant new undertaking for the department, supported by the creation of its Hazard Mitigation and Recovery Division. Funded through a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) award, this effort brought together 22 participating jurisdictions, including cities, fire districts, and utility districts, to identify local vulnerabilities and develop strategies to reduce long-term impacts from natural hazards.

The update involved extensive coordination across County departments and partner agencies, and integrating new data, hazard modeling, and social vulnerability analysis to better understand how local risk has changed in the last five years. DEM also emphasized inclusive community engagement, hosting bilingual public meetings and making plan materials accessible to ensure broad participation in the process.

The updated MJHMP establishes a comprehensive framework for local mitigation investments ranging from vegetation management and flood mitigation to infrastructure resilience and community preparedness initiatives. Once adopted in 2026, the plan will maintain Sonoma County's eligibility for FEMA mitigation funding and guide cross-jurisdictional collaboration to build a safer, more resilient county.





2025 Tsunami Meeting

The Sonoma County Tsunami Response Meeting, held in Bodega Bay, was convened by the Department of Emergency Management to bring together coastal response partners to strengthen coordination and preparedness for tsunami incidents. While tsunamis are rare in the region, their potential impacts can be severe, making proactive planning essential. The agenda included a briefing on tsunami hazards and alert protocols from the California Geological Survey and National Weather Service, a scenario-based tabletop exercise simulating a distant-source tsunami, and a roundtable discussion for agencies to share their plans, challenges, and lessons learned.



COMMUNITY

PREPAREDNESS

BY THE NUMBERS

Advertising and
Social Media Impressions

3.25 M

Public
Engagement

73
OPPORTUNITIES

8688
PEOPLE REACHED

Partner
Engagement

151
OPPORTUNITIES

2091
PEOPLE CONNECTED

In 2025, The Community Preparedness division of the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) expanded and sustained a strong public preparedness presence across the county. The Team utilized a combination of community outreach, partner coordination, volunteer-led support, and broad communications efforts to accomplish their goals. Engagement logs for the reporting period (January through December 2025) document a year defined by high-volume activity and strategic collaboration. The staff is proud of the obvious increase in public participation and the number of community members we were able to reach through varied and multiple media channels.



COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Sonoma Ready Program

Empowering Through Education

DEM's public preparedness outreach in 2025 emphasized consistent community presence, targeted preparedness education, and participation in high-visibility events. This year preparedness education reached new heights of collaboration and participation.

Better Together Symposium

The Better Together: Excellence in Neighborhood Preparedness Leadership event, hosted by the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, welcomed 82 neighborhood leaders to the ranks of Preparedness. They were excited to gather, learn from each other how to engage neighbors, and learn from other local leaders how they have grown their neighborhood programs. This was our most successful Better Together event to date. The strong turnout reflects growing community interest in neighborhood-level preparedness and reinforces the value of bringing residents together for shared learning, connection, and momentum-building across our preparedness efforts.

Meet Your Street

A countywide event designed to help neighbors connect and build stronger communities. It all starts with just one person and we designed this program for them.

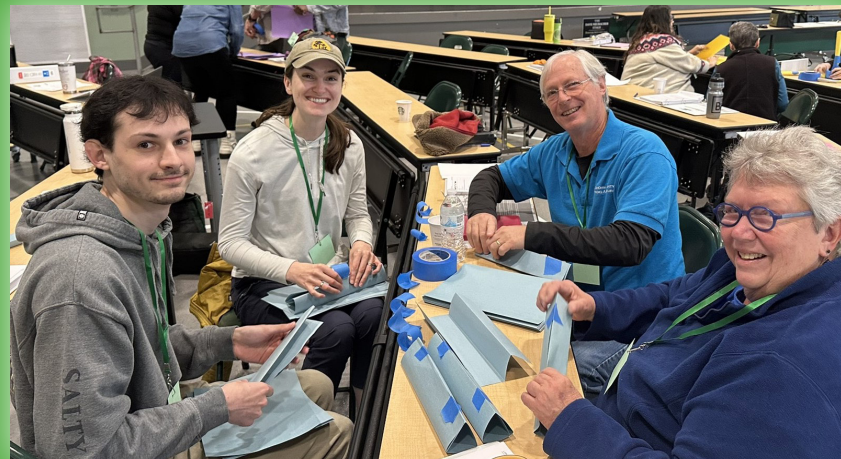
We created a ready-to-go kit for potential leaders that included

prizes, raffle tickets, door knockers, and posters. The event was “build your own” with many options for activities, making it as simple or as elaborate as each leader wanted. Neighborhood leaders got creative, some had games, some hosted a potluck, others rented a margarita machine. All the creative ideas were embraced, and the attendees appreciated the events.

In total, 59 leaders picked up materials, creating the potential of reaching 1,700 neighborhood homes. Based on the success of this launch, our department will make this an annual effort.



Across 2025, the SoCo CERT program strengthened its foundation and delivery capacity while expanding the number of hands-on advanced trainings offered. Early in the year, the program invested in skills-building for existing members through First Aid/CPR/AED training in both English and Spanish and by partnering with Sonoma CART to deliver an Animals in Disasters workshop. Staffing capacity was also increased through the addition of an intern and extra-help support, enhancing training delivery, coordination, outreach, and overall instructional depth.



SAN PETERSBURG COUNTY **Emergency Response Team**



COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

2025 Fire and Earthquake Safety Expo

This event was relocated from Cloverdale to the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, enabling organizers to develop a bigger audience and more partnerships based on the central location. Close to 3,000 attendees stopped by the DEM booth to pick up a free go bag, find their evacuation zone, and learn more about preparedness. Fire Departments and other first responders joined in the day providing education to the community in preparedness for all hazards.



ShakeOut

This year's Sonoma County Spring ShakeOut had 500 registered participants. The annual earthquake preparedness effort gives community members a chance to practice "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" wherever they are, helping ensure they respond safely during an earthquake. Our Spring effort helps to draw interest in Sonoma County by holding the event outside of our traditional high fire risk fall.

Community Partnerships

Preparedness efforts in 2025 were supported by steady coordination and planning with partners across the emergency management ecosystem. DEM logged 151 partner and stakeholder engagements, drawing approximately 2,090 participants. These engagements included a broad mix of government, nonprofit, community, and response-sector partners. - Ninety-Four unique organizations were recorded as participating in our events across the year, reinforcing the scope of DEM's collaborative work. Community preparedness projects involve collaboration with local partners and community groups, which helps tailor the content to the community we are serving. Overall, this demonstrates that DEM's public preparedness work is not limited to outreach events but is underpinned by extensive coordination to align messaging, plan joint engagements, and strengthen countywide readiness.



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.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Grant Administration

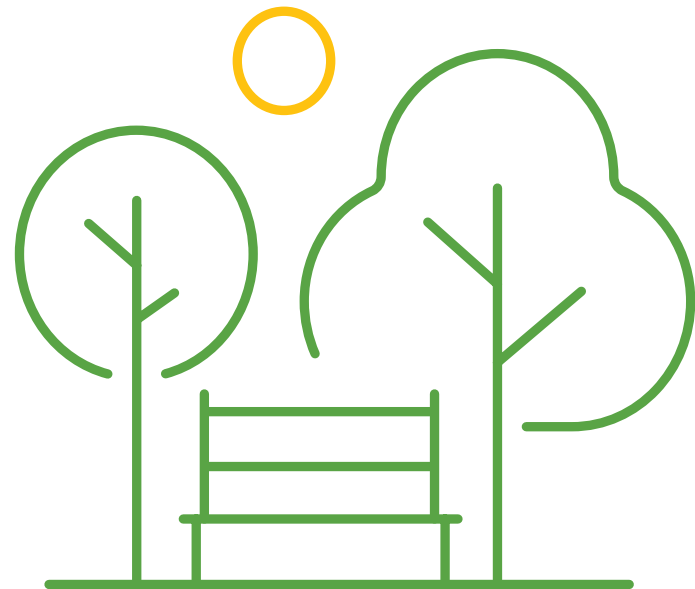
Grant Administration is responsible for applying for and administering multiple grants, including Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grants and California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Community Block Development (CDBG) grants on behalf of the county and Operational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

2025 Highlight

In 2025, the Grant Administration team partnered with our funding partners, County staff, Operational Area partners and suppliers to achieve great results. The following grant funded plans and projects were completed this year:

- Sonoma County Cyber Incident Management Annex
- Sonoma County Disaster Recovery Plan Capabilities Gap Analysis
- City of Cloverdale Police Department Equipment
- City of Cotati Police Department Equipment
- City of Healdsburg Police Department Radios Upgrade Project
- City of Petaluma Police Department Equipment
- City of Santa Rosa Fire Department Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Equipment
- City of Santa Rosa Police Department Radio Upgrade Projects

- City of Sebastopol Fire Department Rescue Task Force Equipment
- County of Sonoma Emergency Operations Center Radios
- County of Sonoma Department of Emergency Management Mobile Message Boards
- Redwood Empire Communications Dispatch Authority (REDCOM) Radios Upgrade Project
- Santa Rosa Junior College Temporary Flood Dams
- Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association Emergency Medical Services Equipment
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Communication System Upgrade Projects
- Sonoma County Water Agency Security Monitoring System
- Sonoma Valley Fire District Rescue Lifting Airbags



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Active Grants Administered During 2025		
Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)	FY23 Cyber Incident Management Annex	\$136,668
	FY24 Critical Public-Safety Communication System Replacement	\$38,000
Community Development Building Grant Mitigation (CDBG)	Community Emergency Response Team	\$500,000
	Sonoma Ready Community Education Plan	\$500,000
	Disaster Recovery Plan Capabilities Gap	\$374,000
	AFN Gap Analysis & Feasibility Study	\$421,900
	AFN Communication Plan Implementation	\$499,400
	Emergency Transportation Gap Analysis	\$444,440
State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)	FY22 - 19 Projects	\$671,457
	FY23 - 18 Projects	\$535,157
	FY24 - 14 Projects	\$477,966
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Sonoma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	\$419,998
County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program	Drought Resiliency Plan	\$190,000
American Rescue Plan Act Community Resilience Program	Culturally Responsive Disaster Response	\$1,925,470

RESOURCES



SoCo Emergency. A single point of contact for residents seeking information during disasters, as well as preparedness and recovery information. SoCoEmergency.org.

 [@SoCoDEM](https://www.facebook.com/SoCoDEM)

 [@SonomaCo_DEM](https://twitter.com/SonomaCo_DEM)

 [Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com)



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.



Nixle. Text your zip code to 888777 or sign up at 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





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