



## Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery

The County of Riverside Multi-Hazard Functional Plan establishes the responsibilities of the various County agencies in times of a disaster. Disaster preparedness and response planning include identifying short-term actions to reduce the scope of an emergency, and managing necessary resources in the event of a disaster. After any disaster, particularly an earthquake, short-term disaster recovery requires many operations that are less urgent than fire suppression or medical attention, but are equally important.

The intent of these policies is to build Riverside County into a sustainable, disaster-resistant community by accommodating natural hazards through planning, zoning, and mitigation, while preparing to respond to disasters until this goal is achieved.

### Disaster Preparedness

In recent years, the County of Riverside has expanded its emergency preparedness planning. The County is required under state law to prepare and maintain a Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Multi-hazard Functional Plan. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services has extensive guidelines outlining the requirements of the County SEMS. These guidelines establish policies and procedures and assign responsibilities to ensure the effective management of emergency operations under the SEMS. However, the SEMS does not address long-range recovery planning issues.

#### Policies:

- S 7.1 Continually strengthen the Multi-Hazard Functional Plan and maintain mutual aid agreements with federal, state, local agencies and the private sector to assist in:
- a. clearance of debris in the event of widespread slope failures, collapsed buildings or structures, or other circumstances that could result in blocking emergency access or regress;
  - b. heavy search and rescue;
  - c. fire suppression;
  - d. hazardous materials response;
  - e. temporary shelter;
  - f. geologic and engineering needs;
  - g. traffic and crowd control; and
  - h. building inspection.
- S 7.2 Identify and utilize multilingual staff personnel to assist in evacuation and short-term recovery activities, and meeting general community needs. (AI 97)
- S 7.3 Require commercial businesses, utilities, and industrial facilities that handle hazardous materials to:
- install automatic fire and hazardous materials detection, reporting and shut-off devices; and
  - install an alternative communication system in the event power is out or telephone service is saturated following an earthquake.