



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.



- S 7.4 Use incentives and disincentives to persuade private businesses, consortiums, and neighborhoods to be self-sufficient in an emergency by:
 - maintaining a fire control plan, including an onsite fire fighting capability and volunteer fire response teams to respond to and extinguish small fires; and
 - identifying medical personnel or local residents who are capable and certified in first aid and CPR.

- S 7.5 Conduct regional earthquake drills and, where appropriate: (AI 82)

- utilize HAZUS results in the Technical Background Report to develop internal scenarios for emergency response; and
- test back-up power generators in public facilities and other critical facilities taking part in the earthquake drill.

- S 7.6 Improve management and emergency dissemination of information using portable computers with geographic information systems and disaster-resistant Internet access, to obtain: (AI 86)

- hazardous Materials Disclosure Program Business Plans regarding the location and type of hazardous materials;
- real-time information on seismic, geologic, or flood hazards; and
- the locations of high-occupancy, immobile populations, potentially hazardous building structures, utilities and other lifelines.



HAZUS Earthquake Scenario Loss Estimations:

HAZUS is a standardized methodology for earthquake loss estimation based on GIS. HAZUS is designed for use by state, regional and local governments in planning for earthquake loss mitigation, emergency preparedness, response and recovery. The Safety Element Technical Background Report (Appendix H) provides a detailed earthquake loss estimation for Riverside County.

Critical Facilities and Lifelines

Critical facilities are parts of infrastructure that must remain operational after an earthquake, or facilities that pose unacceptable risks to public safety if severely damaged. In Riverside County, critical facilities include schools, hospitals, fire and police stations, emergency operation centers, communication centers, dams, and industrial sites that use or store explosives, toxic materials or petroleum products. It is essential that critical facilities have no structural weaknesses that can lead to collapse.

Critical facilities may provide only limited services if lifelines are disrupted. The issue of seismic hazard mitigation for lifelines is very complex, given the diversity of lifeline facilities. The effects of strong ground motion applies to structures involved in lifeline service, such as the control tower in an airport, or the buildings that house computers and telephone circuits that are central to communication lifelines. Strong ground motion can also result in damage to freeway interchanges and bridges that are essential for successful transportation lifelines. When properly designed, manufactured and laid out, buried pipelines are generally not damaged by strong ground motions, but can be severely disrupted in areas of surface rupture, liquefaction, or landslides.

Figures S-12 through S-21 depict the locations of hospitals, emergency response facilities, school locations, communications facilities, dams, transportation facilities, hazardous materials sites, and natural resource lifelines in relation to varying degrees of ground shaking risk. Each figure illustrates the geographical



Critical Facilities: Facilities housing or serving many people, that are necessary in the event of an earthquake or flood, such as hospitals, fire, police, and emergency service facilities, utility "lifeline" facilities, such as water, electricity, and gas supply, sewage disposal, and communications and transportation facilities.