DISASTER GUIDE
FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS

ENGLISH

ALSO AVAILABLE IN:
Español  
中文  
Filipino  
Tiếng Việt  
한국어  
Lus Hmoob

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES:  
CalOES.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:  
CDSS.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY:  
BCSH.ca.gov
WHERE TO GET ALERTS AND INFORMATION

Alerts can give you a few minutes warning to get your belongings, your pet and yourself out of danger.

- If you have a cell phone and Internet access, sign up at calalerts.org for emergency alerts to be sent to your phone. Visit your county website to sign up for other local alerts.
- If you have a portable radio, listen for information about the emergency.
- If you use social media, follow @CAL_FIRE on Twitter.

LEAVE WHEN YOU ARE TOLD

If you are living outside and get an alert on your phone to evacuate, get things that are important to you and leave.

Call 2-1-1 to get information about evacuations and emergency shelters. The 2-1-1 operator can also tell you which shelters accept pets.

If you are told by fire or police officers to leave where you are, ask them where you should go to be safe.

TIPS TO SURVIVE A FLOOD

- If you are outside during heavy rains, move to higher ground. Water can come up through drains in nearby streets and spill over stream and riverbanks.
- Camping along water is always a risk. You don’t know when rivers, creeks or canals may flood.
- If you’ve been told to leave, go. Don’t wait until you see rising water to get your belongings and go to higher ground.
- Do not walk through moving water. It can make you fall, and you can’t tell how deep it is or what the water is hiding.

IF YOU HAVE A CAR

- Look for safe parking sites on high ground when heavy rain is forecast.
- If you get warnings about flooding, move your vehicle to higher ground.
- Do not drive through floodwaters or get in a vehicle if it is in floodwater.
TIPS TO SURVIVE A WILDFIRE

BEFORE

- Do not throw cigarette butts on the ground. A wildfire starts with just a spark.
- Clear away all dry leaves, branches, and trash 30–100 feet from where you sleep.
- Be especially careful if you hear that it is a Red Flag Day (weather that may lead to extreme fire).
- If you have a car and feel at risk of wildfire, park in a spot that is NOT wooded or grassy.

DURING

- Cloth masks or scarves don’t protect you from wildfire smoke. Find a place indoors if possible.
- Protect yourself against heat and flying embers with long pants, long sleeves and hat.
- Listen for announcements from emergency personnel and leave immediately when evacuation is recommended.

TIPS TO SURVIVE AN EARTHQUAKE

Protect yourself when the earth shakes:

- DROP where you are, onto your hands and knees
- COVER your head and neck with one arm and hand
- HOLD ON until shaking stops

If you are inside, stay inside and get under a table, COVER and HOLD ON.

If you are outside, move away from anything that could fall and hurt you.

Be ready for aftershocks.

If you get trapped in a collapsed building, protect your mouth, nose and eyes from dust. If you have a cell phone—call 911 if you can. Bang on a pipe or wall to help others find you.
HOW TO FIND SHELTER AND HELP YOU NEED

If you have concerns about seeking shelter during a disaster, please know:

Everyone is welcome at emergency shelters.

Under California state law, all public shelters must be accessible and no one running an evacuation shelter can ask you for your ID.

When you get to safe shelter, you can ask to use a phone to let a loved one know you are safe.

COVID-19

COVID19.ca.gov
Find a COVID-19 testing site near you. If you do not have internet access, call 1-888-634-1123.

If you don’t have insurance or have Medi-Cal but not a regular doctor, call “Medi-Nurse,” a 24/7 nurse advice line available to talk about COVID-19 symptoms in multiple languages at 1-877-409-9052.

EMERGENCY RESOURCES

211CA.org
Dial 211 for evacuation routes, shelters.

CalAlerts.org
Sign up to get your County’s alerts. Get MyShake earthquake warning app.

CalOES.ca.gov
State guides, alerts & resources.

Ready.gov
Resources to prepare for any disaster.

CDSS.ca.gov/county-offices
Contact your county welfare office to access housing and homeless services.

Response.ca.gov
Real-time wildfire & shelter news.

BCSH.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/coc_poc.pdf
Contact your Homeless Continuum of Care to access housing and homeless services.