

# TRINITY COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

---



*"To collaboratively pursue the preservation of life, property and the environment in Trinity County. Establish the emergency management organization through Disaster Council partners in county, special districts, non-governmental organizations and others to develop assigned tasks, policies and procedures through a coordination of efforts to better serve and protect the interests of Trinity County."*

## Trinity County Disaster Council

### Minutes

**9/12/23**

1. Call to Order at 14:01. Welcome and Introductions: Sign in  
Note: Access via Zoom was not available due to internet outage.
2. Minutes from 7/11/23 Meeting: to read and approve  
Minutes approved.
3. Presentation: None
4. Incident Reviews – All  
No incidents submitted for review.
5. Grant Updates – Mike Cottone, Philip Simi
  - a. Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
  - b. Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
  - c. Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)  
PSPS - Generator project for Weaverville Fire Department. The existing generator will be relocated to another fire hall. PSPS grant will be closed at by end of year.  
HSGP - Soft target / physical security upgrades for the Trinity County Detention Facility, security enhancements for fire halls, bollards for the Weaverville Library.
6. Health Officer Discussion – Dr. Herfindahl  
We are continuing to look for a replacement half-time Health Officer who wants to relocate to Trinity County. Working half-time for Trinity, with 75% remote work, worked well during the pandemic.
7. Reports and Action Items:
  - a) Agricultural Commissioner  
Not present.
  - b) ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service): Robert Jackson  
Planning to install a ham radio at the Douglas City school this week. Most schools will be getting radios.
  - c) Behavioral Health  
Not present.
  - d) Board of Supervisors: Jill Cox  
No report.

- e) California Tribal TANF Partnership

Not present.

- f) Cal OES: Rick Ehlert, Robert Goyeneche

Still in the hiring process for additional Emergency Services Coordinators (ESCs). The goal is to reduce the County/ESC ratio from 4 counties per ESC to 2 counties per ESC. Expect the transition to happen in October/November.

In touch with Philip and Mike on the Deep Fire and South Fork Complex.

The smoke you are seeing is not from the fires in Siskiyou, but from Humboldt and Del Norte fires.

It has been a good fire season so far. Many of the fires have been in forest areas. There has only been one Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) this year in the valley. Transitioning now to winter preparedness, flood coordination.

Disaster Ready Summit is being held around the state. Focused on non-profits. There is a session on Friday on Chico, and another session this week in Placerville. NVCSS is participating in Listos to provide Disaster Preparedness education and outreach in Trinity County.

Native American Day is coming up soon. Should not need to be relocated since the fire camp should be demobilized soon.

There was an OES Strike Team in town about a week ago.

- g) CAO

Not present.

- h) California Highway Patrol: Sgt. Ted Luna

No report.

- i) District Attorney/Victim Witness: Joni Wiley

DA/VW is recruiting for a new Victim Advocate.

- j) DOT

Not present.

- k) Environmental Health: Dr. Herfindahl

Pesticides, such as carbofuran, have been found on illegal sites. Whereas in the past, containers would be labeled in Spanish, we are starting to see them in Chinese. We have also seen this in Siskiyou County, where responding law enforcement officers have been exposed and become ill. A worker in Trinity County accidentally ingested pesticide and had to be transported out of county for treatment. Symptoms of carbofuran exposure include burning eyes, lips, nose and throat, headaches, weakness, sweating, nausea and vomiting. Can also affect dogs. If you are on a site and see a dead animal, do not touch it, and request a hazmat team to respond. Environmental Health is the lead on these incidents. All of these pesticides are banned in the U.S. These pesticides are sometimes found in 55-gallon drums or in swimming pools.

It is important that Trinity County officials, elected or appointed, need to cooperate in a respectful manner with appropriate dialogue and input, and without personal attacks.

- l) Faith Based Organizations

Not present.

- m) Cal Fire

Not present.

- n) HHS - Public Health: Arina Erwin, Sonni DeMello

Decontamination Exercise in July at the hospital was based on carbofuran exposure and involved multiple agencies including Trinity Hospital, Trinity Life Support, Environmental Health.

There will be two half-day trainings for first responders and hospital staff.

Flu season is here. There will be a free flu vaccine / pandemic exercise event in Hayfork. We are focusing on Hayfork since there are few providers in that area.

- o) HHS - Social Services: Mike Cottone

No report.

- p) HRN

Not present.

- q) OES: Philip Simi, Mike Cottone

OES held a tabletop exercise with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to simulate an earthquake and resulting dam failure at Trinity and Lewiston Dam. The exercise involved several departments and about 24 personnel. There was good discussion around the progression of the incident and the injects, and reference to the BOR Emergency Action Plan.

OES is working with the CAO's office, Building/Planning, Environmental Health and the state Department of Water Resources (DWR) on an application for technical assistance to complete a Drought Resilience Plan.

HHS/OES staff recently attended Public Information Officer (PIO) training in Blue Lake to increase capacity to provide information to the public in a disaster.

- r) Planning and Building

Not present.

- s) Probation

Not present.

- t) Red Cross

Not present.

- u) Region III RDMHS

Not present.

- v) Risk Management

Not present.

- w) Schools: Fabio Robles

TCOE is finalizing emergency communications process. Will be bringing to administrators for review, then to Trinity County Sheriff's Office for input. Then it will go to the Safe Schools Collaborative, which everyone is invited to attend. We invite feedback on how to improve the Collaborative. The Safe Schools Collaborative meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

- x) Sheriff: Brian Ward

No report.

- y) Solid Waste

Not present.

- z) Trinity County Food Bank

Not present.

- aa) Trinity County Life Support

Not present.

bb) Trinity County Public Utility District

Not present.

cc) Trinity Hospital

Not present.

dd) Trinity Resource Conservation District: Skyler Fisher

Deep Fire and South Fork Complex – Have been using the Evacuation Status Viewer to provide information to the public. We had a good conversation at the last Fire Safe Council meeting on developing a plan for how to use these tools, update them, and make them easier to use.

Community chipping program will resume. There were 130 properties last Spring. Our goal is to increase the number of properties next year. Information about the chipping program is available on the Fire Safe Council website and Facebook page.

There are 14 Fire Wise communities in Trinity County. Community meetings will be held to get feedback on what projects they would like to see. Fire Wise Communities are important for grant funding and insurance discounts. Most residents of Trinity County reside in a Fire Wise community.

Working on Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update and will have the draft to Philip this week. We have been getting input from county departments. Plan to get it to CalOES this month and then a public review period prior to adoption by the Board of Supervisors early next year.

ee) USFS

Not present.

ff) Veterans Services

Not present.

gg) Mountain Communities Hospital: Aaron Rodgers

hh) Others:

8. Upcoming Training/Exercises – All

Flood Fighting training in Blue Lake tomorrow, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Radiation training hosted by RDMHS November 1 for hospital staff and November 2-3 for first responders.

9. Other Business

10. Next Meeting: 11/14/23 at 2:00pm

11. Schedule: Second Tuesday every other month

**2023: January 10th, March 14th, May 9th, July 11th, September 12th, November 14th.**

12. Adjourn

14:34