Emergency Operations Terms and Definitions

Evacuations

Evacuation Warning: The alerting of people in an affected area of potential threat to life and property. An Evacuation Warning considers the probability that an area will be affected within a given timeframe and prepares people for a potential Evacuation Order. Evacuation Warnings are particularly necessary when dealing with a variety of issues such as special needs populations and large animals.

Evacuation Order: Requires immediate movement of people out of an affected area due to an imminent threat to life.

Shelters

Temporary Evacuation Point (TEP): A location identified by Law Enforcement or Fire as a temporary place to evacuate to when a disaster or large-scale incident strikes. It does not include over-night stays or provision of services for evacuees. Law Enforcement should provide a field representative at the TEP.

Shelter: A short-term place to house evacuees when a disaster or large-scale incident requires people to be out of their homes for one or more nights. Shelters provide services and meals are typically run by the Red Cross.

Road Closures

Hard Closure: Closed to all traffic EXCEPT Fire and Law Enforcement.

Soft Closure: Closed to all traffic EXCEPT Fire, Law Enforcement and Critical Incident Resources (i.e. utility companies, Damage Assessment Teams, CalTrans, County Roads, etc.)

Residents Only Closure: Soft closure with the additional exceptions for residents and local government agencies assisting with response and recovery.