

Monterey County Community Resilience Plan

The Monterey County Community Resilience Plan is a guide for making our community more resilient, by bringing the whole community together to better understand our shared risks and capabilities during disasters and how we can become stronger, smarter, and more capable of handling any hardship that comes our way.



Goals and Objectives



Partnership

UNITE: Promote cross-sector cooperation and collaboration on resilience building efforts; creating a diversified and representative partnership.



Engagement

ENGAGE: Increase engagement by community members and organizations in resilience building activities.



Education

INFORM: Provide a better understanding of the Monterey County community, by leveraging the knowledge of the whole community.



Self-sufficiency

EMPOWER: Support existing community resilience projects and develop initiatives and strategies for boosting resilience.

Outline of Plan



- The Community Resilience plan provides an analysis of Monterey County's
 - Demographics
 - History
 - Hazard Risk
 - Capabilities and strengths
 - Risks and needs
 - Current resilience projects
 - Lessons we've learned from past emergencies and projects, including COVID-19
- and provides actions, strategies, and recommendations for enhancing resilience throughout the County

Methodology

The information used for this plan was gathered through:

- **Secondary research** of previously conducted reports, surveys, and plans ([see references](#) to plan)
- **Input from the public** provided in the [Community Resilience Surveys](#) for organizations and individuals
- **56 Collaboration Meetings**, including 7 Working Group Meetings, with local partners and stakeholders throughout all sectors of the Monterey County Community (168 organizations provided input)

Challenges and Risks

- A rapidly changing environment
- Vulnerable transportation infrastructure
- Unsustainable lifestyle (from development to energy to waste)
- Social inequity and vulnerability
- Unaffordability, homelessness, and poor housing conditions
- Overstressed food, water, and supply chains

Strengths

- Strong community connections
- Schools as a community resource
- A culture of preparedness
- Collaboration and partnerships during disasters

Strategies – 61 Initiatives

STRATEGY 1: BUILD SOCIAL CAPITAL

- 1.1 Empower Disaster Resilience Amongst Youth
- 1.2 Strengthen Public Private Partnerships
- 1.3 Create a Resilient Religions Program
- 1.4 Create OES Office Hours
- 1.5 Develop a Community Communications Strategy
- 1.6 Implement the Community Resilience Plan
- 1.7 Develop a Resilience Block Party Program

STRATEGY 4: CREATE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- 4.1 Support Access to Public Health, Healthcare, And Social Services
- 4.2 Collaborate to Support Mental and Physical Well-Being during Disasters
- 4.3 Establish A Medical Reserve Corp
- 4.4 Encourage Preparedness for Poor Air Quality
- 4.5 Encourage Disaster Preparedness amongst Vulnerable Populations
- 4.6 Work with Rehabilitation Centers and Pharmacies to Develop COOP plans
- 4.7 Increase AFN Awareness Amongst First Responders
- 4.8 Develop an AFN Disaster Phone Tree
- 4.9 Develop an Equity & Access team in the EOC
- 4.10 Develop a Climate Action Plan's Equity Panel

STRATEGY 2: ENHANCE EMERGENCY SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE

- 2.1 Provide a Forum for Communication between Local CERTs
- 2.2 Develop a VOAD Program
- 2.3 Support Fire Mitigation Efforts
- 2.4 Address Hurdles to Vegetation Management
- 2.5 Encourage preparedness amongst tourists
- 2.6 Add adaptation into County's General Plan Safety Element
- 2.7 Reimagine Public Libraries as Resilience Hubs
- 2.8 Reimagine Schools as Disaster Hubs
- 2.9 Develop Research Partnerships with Universities
- 2.10 Strengthen Transportation Systems
- 2.11 Create Community HAM Radio Groups
- 2.12 Increase Cellular Bandwidth in Unincorporated County
- 2.13 Increase Cell Phone Availability at Evacuation Facilities
- 2.14 Amplify Cell Coverage during Disasters
- 2.15 Strengthen the Disaster Service Worker Program

STRATEGY 5: ENCOURAGE RESILIENT HOUSEHOLDS

- 5.1 Provide Emergency Preparedness Packets and Kits to New Residents
- 5.2 Support Discounted Disaster Insurance for Renters & Low-Income Owners
- 5.3 Promote the Use of Renter's Insurance
- 5.4 Increase Funding for Disaster Mitigation Home Modifications
- 5.5 Develop Disaster Resistant Building Development
- 5.6 Support Local Housing Programs that Reduce Disaster Risk
- 5.7 Develop a post disaster rapid housing replacement program
- 5.8 Strengthen Partnership with organizations that serve homeless
- 5.9 Create a Resilient Hotels Program

STRATEGY 3: MOVE TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 Develop Multijurisdictional Climate Council
- 3.2 Develop County & Department Climate Action Plans
- 3.3 Develop a Community Action Toolkit
- 3.4 Support County Youth Climate Action Council
- 3.5 Support 3CE project
- 3.6 Support SB743
- 3.7 Encourage Transportation System Resilience
- 3.8 Examine Ways to Provide Backup Power to Vital Facilities in the County
- 3.9 Support Stormwater Pollution Education Campaigns
- 3.10 Support Local Water Conservation Efforts
- 3.11 Support Drought Planning and Preparedness
- 3.12 Support Best Practices that Prevent Pollution and Waste
- 3.13 Support Recycling and Composting Public Outreach Campaigns
- 3.14 Support the Food Recovery Program and Working Group
- 3.15 Develop a County Food Policy Council
- 3.16 Develop a Disaster Food Voucher Program

STRATEGY 6: EMPOWER SOCIAL MOBILITY

- 6.1 Expand Affordable Child Care
- 6.2 Reduce Disaster Vulnerability of Supply Chains
- 6.3 Assist Small Business with Continuity of Operations Planning
- 6.4 Expand Access to Affordable, High-Speed Internet

Recommendations for leadership

1. Develop resilience office(s) or center(s)
2. Encourage outdoor interactions
3. Develop an evacuation fund for low-income residents
4. Provide emergency funding for undocumented immigrants
5. Develop a program to review & suggest modifications for current codes/regulations that impede disaster mitigation
6. Develop a large animal rescue program for disasters
7. Improve stormwater drainage system capacities
8. Support affordable public transit development
9. Incentivize affordable housing development
10. Expand participation in efforts to combat racial and socioeconomic inequities and discrimination
11. Develop a proactive investigations process for housing/living conditions

Recommendations for the community

There are “What You Can Do” tables throughout the strategy section that provide recommendations for the community to help meet the listed goals.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Every person and organization should work to prepare their home and self for disasters by:

- ✓ Making an emergency plan and kit
- ✓ Signing up for local alerts and buying a NOAA weather radio
- ✓ Insuring and preparing their properties
- ✓ Developing or joining a local CERT and/or HAM radio group.

Community members should work together to make emergency communication easier & allow community members to better help one another before, during, & after disasters by:

- ✓ Creating preparedness fairs
- ✓ Developing community emergency response plans
- ✓ Making a neighborhood contact tree.
- ✓ Organize carpool or bike caravans to work, school, or other locations, including walking school bus programs to reduce vehicle reliance and better familiarize residents with their neighborhoods
- ✓ In rural regions, community members can develop programs like the [General Mobile Radio Service](#), a licensed radio service that uses specific radio stations to communicate during disasters when cell coverage is limited.

Plan Attachments



Community Resilience Survey – Still active and will continue to be incorporated into the plan.



Resilience Outreach Toolkit – Provides information to help the public prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from disasters. (Response and Recovery toolkits still under construction)

STAY INFORMED			
BEFORE A DISASTER			
EMERGENCY ALERTS Register for emergency alerts and notifications.	COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS Participate in community drills and exercises.	EMERGENCY PLANNING Develop an emergency plan for your household.	EMERGENCY SUPPLIES Assemble an emergency kit.
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS Participate in community drills and exercises.	EMERGENCY PLANNING Develop an emergency plan for your household.	EMERGENCY SUPPLIES Assemble an emergency kit.	EMERGENCY ALERTS Register for emergency alerts and notifications.
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS Participate in community drills and exercises.	EMERGENCY PLANNING Develop an emergency plan for your household.	EMERGENCY SUPPLIES Assemble an emergency kit.	EMERGENCY ALERTS Register for emergency alerts and notifications.

Disaster Resource Directory – Provides the public information on resources that may help them with disaster response and recovery.

The plan and all attachments, along with additional information on the Community Resilience Project, can be found at: www.co.monterey.ca.us/resilience