

Part One, Section Eleven **Mutual Aid (CW-#26)**

General

Mutual aid is designed to ensure that adequate resources, facilities and other support are provided to jurisdictions whenever their own resources prove to be inadequate to cope with a given situation(s). The basis for the system is the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement, as provided for in the California Emergency Services Act (see Part Two, Management Section Annex, Supporting Documents). This Agreement was developed in 1950 and has been adopted by the state, all 58 counties and most incorporated cities in the State of California. The Master Mutual Aid Agreement creates a formal structure wherein each jurisdiction retains control of its own facilities, personnel and resources, but may also receive or render assistance to other jurisdictions within the state. State government is obligated to provide available resources to assist local jurisdictions in emergencies. It is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction to negotiate, coordinate and prepare mutual aid agreements

Mutual Aid System

A statewide mutual aid system, operating within the framework of the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, allows for the mobilization of resources to and from local governments, operational areas, regions and state to provide requesting agencies with adequate resources. The general flow of mutual aid resource requests and resources within mutual aid systems are depicted in **Chart 1**.

The system includes several discipline-specific mutual aid agreements, such as fire and rescue, law, medical, building and safety, coroners, emergency managers (EMMA) and public works. These systems are consistent with SEMS and NIMS at all levels. (See **Chart 2**.)

In addition to the mutual aid agreements that are in place within the state of California, the Governor signed the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) which allows the State of California to participate with the other states in a nationwide mutual aid system.

Mutual Aid Regions

Mutual Aid Regions I-VI were established in California under the Emergency Services Act and each contains designated counties. Los Angeles County and its cities are in Mutual Aid Region I, which is in the OES Southern Administrative Region. (See **Chart 3**.)

Mutual Aid Coordinators

To facilitate mutual aid, discipline-specific mutual aid systems work through designated mutual aid coordinators at the operational area, regional and state levels. The basic role of a mutual aid coordinator is to receive mutual aid requests, coordinate the provision of resources from within the coordinator's geographic area of responsibility and pass on unfilled requests to the next level.

Mutual aid requests that do not fall into one of the discipline-specific mutual aid systems are handled through the emergency services mutual aid system by emergency

management staff at the local government, operational area, regional and state levels. In the Operational Area, this would be coordinated through the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management.

Mutual aid system-coordinators at an EOC may be located in various functional elements (sections, branches, groups or units) or serve as an agency representative, depending on how the EOC is organized and the extent to which it is activated.

Participation of Volunteer, Non-Governmental and Private Agencies

Volunteer, non-governmental and private agencies may participate in the mutual aid system along with governmental agencies. For example, the disaster medical mutual aid system relies heavily on private sector involvement for medical/health resources. The City's emergency preparedness partnerships, including volunteer agencies such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Disaster Communications Services, community and faith-based organizations and others are an essential element of local, state and national emergency response to meet the needs of disaster victims. Volunteer agencies and non-governmental organizations mobilize volunteers and other resources through their own systems. They also may identify resource needs that are not met within their own systems that would be requested through the mutual aid system. Volunteer agencies and non-governmental organizations with extensive involvement in the emergency response should be represented in EOCs.

Some private agencies have established mutual aid arrangements to assist other private agencies and government within their functional area. For example, electric and gas utilities have mutual aid agreements within their industry and established procedures for coordinating with governmental EOCs. In some functional areas, services are provided by a mix of special district, municipal and private agencies. Mutual aid arrangements may include both governmental and private agencies.

Liaison should be established between activated EOCs and private agencies involved in a response. Where there is a need for extensive coordination and information exchange, private agencies should be represented in activated EOCs at the appropriate SEMS level.

Policies and Procedures

- Mutual aid resources will be provided and utilized in accordance with the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement.
- During a proclaimed emergency/disaster, inter-jurisdictional mutual aid will be coordinated at the county, operational area or mutual aid regional level.
- Make sure a communications plan is in place for response activities.
- The City will make all non-law and non-fire mutual aid requests via designated countywide emergency reporting systems. Requests should specify, at a minimum:
 - Number and type of personnel needed.
 - Type and amount of equipment needed.
 - Reporting time and location.
 - To whom resources should report.
 - Access routes.

- Estimated duration of operations.
- Risks and hazards.

Authorities and References

Mutual aid assistance may be provided under one or more of the following authorities:

- California Emergency Managers Mutual Aid Agreement.
- California Fire and Rescue Emergency Plan.
- California Fire Assistance Agreement.
- California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan.
- California Master Mutual Aid Agreement.
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact.
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act , Public Law 93-288, as amended: provides federal support to state and local disaster activities.
- **(List any Local Mutual Aid Agreements)**
- **le the agreement with Duarte for the alternate seat of government**

Chart 1

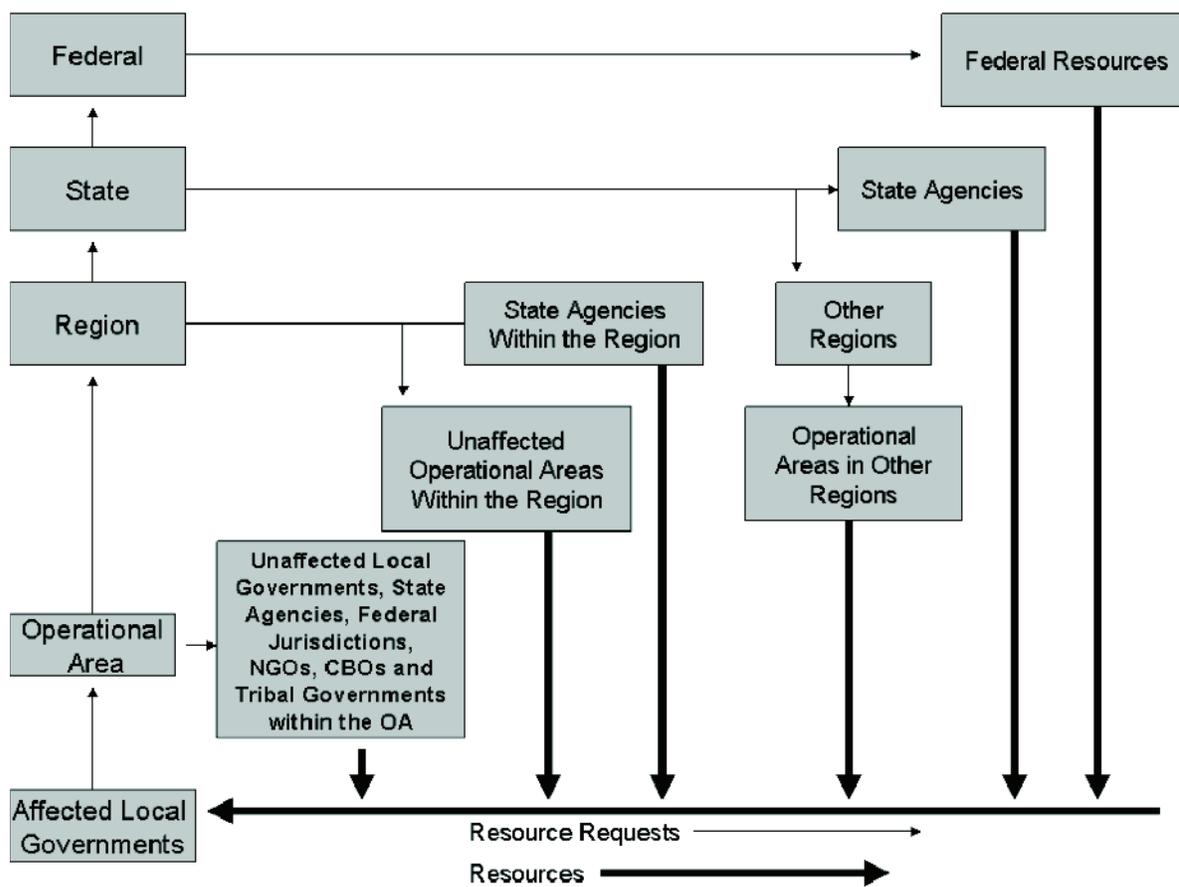


Chart 2

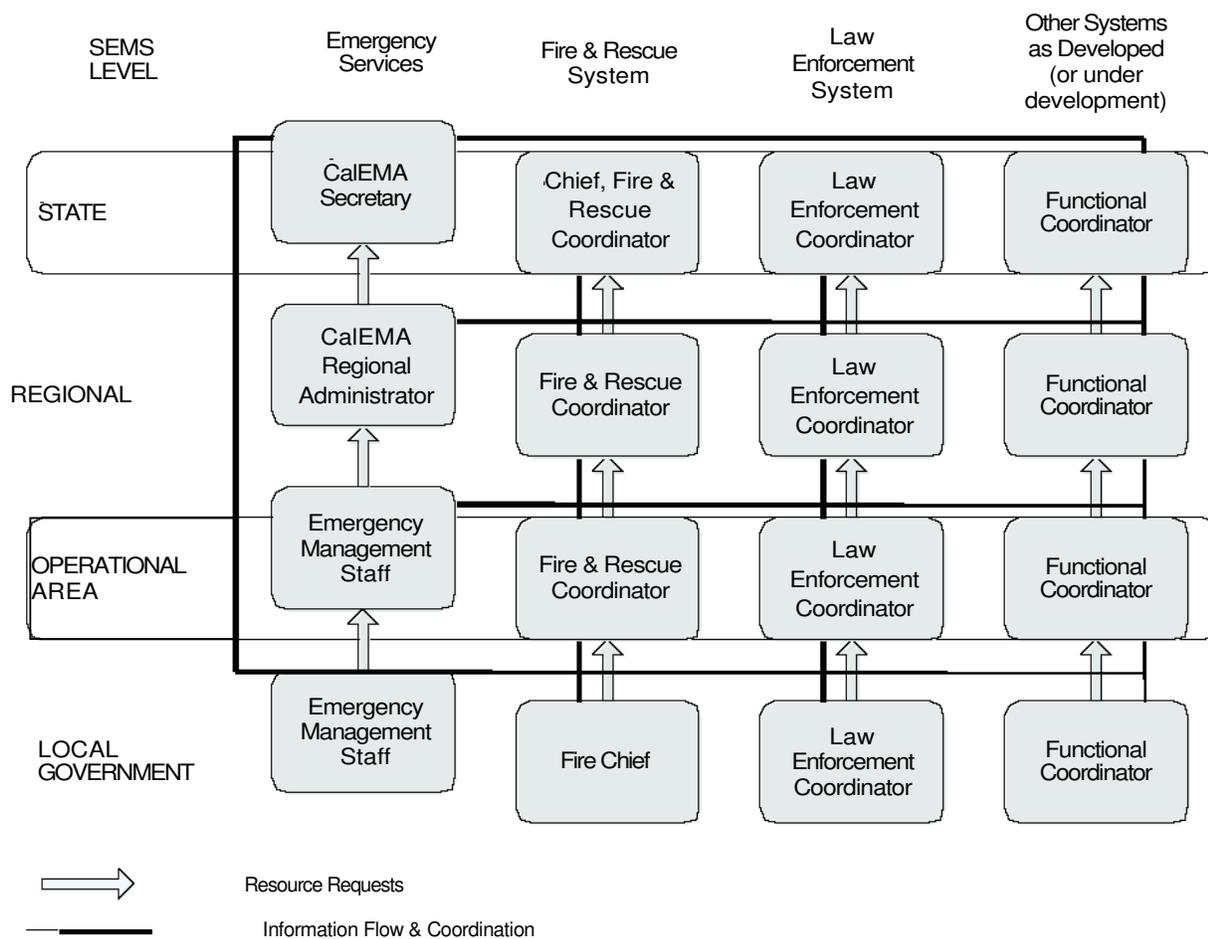


Chart 3

