

Disaster Needs Assessment Recommended Actions

Maintain preparedness outreach programs to involve diverse community groups in emergency planning.

1. Work with a variety of community leaders, trusted messengers, and organizations to serve as liaisons and advocates for emergency planning. Ensure these efforts reach all members of the community, including farmworkers, individuals with disabilities, and those with limited English proficiency.
2. Maintain a list of community partners that serve individuals with access and functional needs, including details about their services, capacity and areas of operation.

Advance communication strategies for individuals with access and functional needs in Ventura County.

1. When feasible, provide accommodations for critical preparedness materials in braille, large print, audio recordings, plain language and indigenous languages. Ensure that live video briefings include American Sign Language interpretation.
2. Continue work to train volunteers, community partner staff, emergency managers and first responders in cultural competency and effective communication with people with disabilities to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to support the diverse communities, including those with access and functional needs during emergencies.

Empower individuals with access and functional needs in Ventura County to enhance their personal preparedness for emergencies.

1. Promote the creation of neighborhood buddy systems where individuals with access and functional needs have a designated partner for emergency check-ins and assistance through collaborations with community partners.
2. Continue encouraging residents to create Animal Emergency Kits for their pets and service animals.

Continue to advocate the importance of backup power solutions for residents relying on electrically powered medical devices.

1. Continue efforts to raise awareness about assistance programs such as the Medical Baseline Allowance program and the SCE Critical Care Backup Battery Program.

Work to educate the community in an effort to increase accessible emergency transportation network

1. Identify and collaborate with local service providers – such as private and school bus operators – to explore expanded hours of operation during emergencies.

Continue to enhance mental health support for individuals with access and functional needs post-disaster.

1. Continue efforts to deploy mobile mental health resources to assist with providing on-site counseling, support groups, and trauma-informed care following a disaster.

Increase awareness regarding post-disaster basic needs and services through resources such as Ventura County Recovers and 211.