**Tri-County Notes from January 31, 2023**

**Resources**

[Monterey County Virtual Local Assistance Center](http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/winterstormsVirtualLAC)

[San Benito Co. Local Assistance Center Flyers](https://www.cosb.us/departments/office-of-emergency-services-oes-and-emergency-medical-services/emergency-management/emergency-preparedness-links/storm-recovery-sources)

[Santa Cruz County Public Meetings](https://www.santacruzcounty.us/OR3/Emergency/PublicMeetings.aspx) February 2 and 7 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

To request a copy of the Check-In video email [marsha@cadresv.org](mailto:marsha@cadresv.org)

**Disaster Recovery Funds**

[Santa Cruz Community Foundation](https://www.cfscc.org/)

[San Benito Community Foundation](https://givesanbenito.org/)

[Monterey Community Foundation](https://www.cfmco.org/)

**U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Recovery and Resilience**. We are working with our federal partner FEMA to provide disaster assistance to homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-profit organizations. If you have any questions, my email is [Barbara.nitis@sba.gov](http://Barbara.nitis@sba.gov) and 571-752-0660. [disasterloanassistance.sba.gov](http://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/) to apply online.

Emergency Food and Shelter Grant. Am writing an Emergency Food and Shelter grant. Please let me know if your agency has incurred expenses related to food, rent assistance, utility assistance, hotel/motel stays, shelter. Josh Madfis [josh.madfis@unitedwaymcca.org](mailto:josh.madfis@unitedwaymcca.org)

**Individual Assistance Questions** [maggi.daigle@dhses.ny.gov](http://maggi.daigle@dhses.ny.gov), 518-416-4955 (currently no IA for San Benito County)

[**Community Bridges**](https://communitybridges.org/emergency/)

* In-person and virtual zoom training programs on insurance and emergency support ( 4 languages) [www.communitybridges.org/emergency](http://www.communitybridges.org/emergency)
* Tool library for mold remediation as well (Scroll down to Free Cleanup Tool Rental)
* [Disaster Related Information, Resources and links](https://communitybridges.org/emergency/)

**ASL interpreter (either on zoom or in-person) or CDI** for your agencies.

<https://www.dhhsc.org/> to find "Interpreting Services of Central California" or call them at 559-375-0902 (based in Fresno's DHHSC Headquarters). They will send you one for the locations in Monterey/San Benito Counties). If you need an interpreter for Santa Cruz County, I can provide you with the other interpreting agencies list in case you need to contact me. Krystal Rios-Harris-DHHSC [Krystalr@dhhsc.org](http://Krystalr@dhhsc.org) and 831-240-4020.

**Insurance Information and Advocacy** [Uphelp.org](http://uphelp.org/)

**Help applying for FEMA Assistance**

Catholic Charities

**Cleanup / Muck out**

Team Rubicon in Ben Lomond

[**Immigrant Rights During Disasters**](https://cadresv.org/resources/protected-areas-for-ca-immigrants-in-disaster/)

**Teddy Bears.** Stuffed animals for children in crisis, forgotten seniors, and terminally ill.

[**https://www.teddybearswithheart.com/**](https://www.teddybearswithheart.com/)

**Snack food for Felton - Valley Churches**

**Recovers.org.** Harvey Pressman CERV: We are working to get Recovers.org back up and running. Stay tuned. presstoe@aol.com

**California Rural Legal Assistance.** Phyllis Katz, CRLA, Directing Attorney - Watsonville and Salinas. California Rural Legal Assistance is available to provide free legal assistance to low-income residents in Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties. We are available to assist people under the age of 60 who have questions about their tenant or home-owner rights. Many tenants want assistance to know if they have a right to the return of their rent for the remainder of the month after they were forced to leave and whether they are entitled to get their security deposits returned. They also may have questions about whether their landlord is responsible for some of the damages to their unit, although the rains are an "act of G-d." or force majeure. We are also available to help resolve any difficulties with FEMA that might arise and need advocacy. People over the age of 60 can be served by our very capable companion agencies **Senior Legal Services in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties and also Legal Services for Seniors in Monterey County.** Our **Watsonville office is available at (831) 724-2253** and serves Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties and our **Salinas office is available at (831) 757-5221** and serves Monterey County. If you have any challenges or difficulties, please feel free to reach out to me at [pkatz@crla.org](http://pkatz@crla.org)

**Disaster Unemployment Benefits**

[EDD has Disaster Unemployment Benefits available](https://edd.ca.gov/en/unemployment/Disaster_Unemployment_Assistance/). People who lost income can apply. If they have difficulty getting their UI benefits, California Rural Legal Assistance is available to help.

Many farmworkers are not working during this time of year, so they will only be eligible for their regular UI, if they’re eligible to receive UI benefits. Unfortunately, this does not extend UI to self-employed people or independent contractors who have not paid into the UI/SDI system the way the pandemic UI benefits were made available to folks.

Q - Does this apply to undocumented workers?

A – Unfortunately, EDD will not assist people who are not documented unless they're eligible for State Disability Insurance (they should not provide a Social Security number - just payroll stubs) and EDD will not assist people who have not paid into the system - often people who have worked under the table -- are not going to be eligible.

**Issues**

Ray Cancino, Community Bridges

lack of coordination with counties to close Pajaro. We received 4 service calls that needed to be transferred to MST for paratransit clients out of Pajaro. Lack of 24-hour support MST Call Center was 8am-8pm, 211 was back up.

Lack of coordination support with N/P with financial assistance. Currently operating a triage and disaster assessment form that helps triage support to n/p and coordinate care. (County and city) reused our assessment but hasn’t provided data.

Crisis cleanup - 75% of incidents are still not accepted or claimed. Great tool for coordination but still lacks oversight and support to ensure clients with needs are met and coordinated

Krystal Rios-Harris-DHHSC

Lack of communication: needed Certified Deaf Interpreters due to some clients being either semi-lingual or alingual (not enough language). They did not understand captions or ASL interpreters. Example: gestures, pointing to objects, and pictures.

**Activities**

Nancy Wakeman, Red Cross

Mass Care, Distribution of Emergency Supplies, DRC/LAC support, Detailed Damage Assessment, Long Term Recovery Casework, Latino Engagement Outreach.

Provided clothing (Jackets/Sweaters, children’s clothing, shoes, etc), Blankets, Diapers from donations we’ve received. Working with Monterey All-In to provide food & receiving more clothing donations from them.

**Challenges**

Ca Fire Foundation provided $250.00 gift cards. Discussion of communication, coordination concerns. Too many people.

**Questions and (some) Answers**

Q - Someone report out on crisis cleanup

From Kris & Madison, San Benito Co. OES to Everyone: San Benito Co. only had one household register for Crisis Cleanup :-(

Response: Yup, that’s the problem too focused on technology

Q - Any chance Crisis Cleanup can reopen for call-in signups?

A- We can request that they open up the hotline. The issue is lack of volunteers to answer calls from California. (Tonje)

Q – What are the dates of this disaster

A - CalOES' start date is Dec. 27th. End is Jan. 31st. Applications must be in by March 6.

FEMA DR 4683

In Monterey County, all evacuation orders and warnings were lifted on January 19th, that was the end of the flood threat for us.

Q – Has Transitional Sheltering Assistance ever been provided for California?

A - Jacqueline Chadwick, FEMA Mass Care/VAL. Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) is a FEMA program and must be requested by a state. There is additional information about TSA on fema.gov. It has not been requested for DR 4683.

3 Historical TSA in CA- 4220 4334, 4407.

Q - Anyone know of support for serious private road damages? At a previous meeting I attended someone mentioned that Cal Trans has helped in the past, which seems unlikely.

A – Counties should to weigh in on any options. All check with arborists who may be able to help.

**UNMET NEEDS (reported on the call)**

**Total loss clients need Long Term Recovery**

**Financial aid small group meeting**

Nancy Wakeman - Red Cross, Ray Cancino – Community Bridges, Lynn Robinson – Valley Churches

**Red Cross needs addresses from Santa Cruz County for damaged homes**

**Support for outside nonprofits – Shelter (hotel? Space for cots?), Food (prepared meals? Groceries), Kitchen, (need specifics)**

**Warehouse/Storage Space**

* U-Haul is offering free storage in some counties

**Financial assistance for workers who lost wages** (primarily ag workers) (Angela - Catholic Charities & Kalyssa – United Way)

**Standing Tree Hazards**

There is a need (Tonje) to address the standing hazard trees as they are disasters waiting to happen. Especially in zones that were burned by the fire and are now additionally weakened in the storms. Team Rubicon are not climbers and cannot fell hazard trees. Of the fallen trees, they are prioritizing trees that fell on homes and other infrastructure. Unfortunately, they are unlikely to get to all the trees that have been reported in.

**Private Roads**

Is any relief available or will it entirely be owner responsibility?

**SURVEY RESPONSES – UNMET NEEDS**

Wage loss, need blankets, mobile laundry mats for those that lost their belongings

Yes. Financial needs. Lost of wages and rental assistance.

Drinking water in one community, in progress

Farm workers affected are unable to work because fields are damaged. Expenses increased as they had to pay for meals, hotels, cleaning and repairs. Undocumented residents are not eligible for government assistance. They are reluctant to make their needs know for fear being deported; or having friends and family living with them be deported.

Lost wages, housing issues, food insecurity, access to basic needs because of blocked roads.

Our clientele population unmet need for medical transportation

High deductibles to use insurance. More needs due to flood damage

FEMA navigation and Insurance Navigation assistance, rental assistance, low-no barrier financial assistance

Clients continue to have unmet needs as they rebound from the storm damage.

**SURVEY RESPONSES – LESSONS LEARNED**

That we are not a part of the system that works with those in need during or after natural disasters, we need to get involved more with that community.

We have good communication with our congregants but could use training on evacuations and how to be better prepared

I feel that the deaf and hard of hearing community need more access to resources in case of emergency and how to contact emergency departments such as 911, fire stations and nearest shelters. We are planning to provide more workshops regarding disaster emergencies. The successes were that they got the information we had provided - actually used it - for example few of them attended to the nearest shelter and most of them had informed us that they were safe and had what they needed during the storm which was a relief.

Additional funding is necessary to continue to provide support.

Libraries got many phone calls, even outside of official role. A local, safe, trusted, reliable, and rapid source of information is critical in an evolving/cascading emergency situation. We had many tools in hand that other agencies would have to source during the crisis (connectivity, devices, charging batteries, office supplies, etc.) we are embedded around the entire County so finding a place near where needed was easier than having to transport a trailer, set up a tent, etc.

People should have consolidated important documents so they could be easily located. People should make disaster plans related to meeting with family members knowing there may not be internet, electricity or cell phone coverage.

"In the past non-profit organizations were able to use MontereyCo.Recovers.org, a free website that enabled us to work together to identify needs, match needs with offers to donate and volunteer, efficiently AND effectively. This website is currently unavailable and begin updated.

CERV and others are working with Supporting Resilient Communities, a non-profit run by the site's owners and original creators, to get this site back ""up.""

It was/will be a free site available to any community and has been used in other counties in CA and other states, as well as internationally. https://www.srcinternational.org/"

We would like to formally thank Kevin Drabinksi for his clear and consistent communication and engagement. His and his team's hard work allowed us to resume business (once things were safe) and keep our staff employed. Having the ability to communicate with him and his responsiveness made navigating an extremely difficult time much easier.

Speed is often essential in relief and recovery efforts. Families that live paycheck to paycheck can't afford to wait for relief checks. People with disabilities who rely on powered devices can't wait for the power to go back on. Farmworkers who are evacuated need immediate support.

Creating a disaster assessment that can help triage and organize agencies strength expedited response and recovery effort. Making sure city and counties do not withhold information and do not end partnerships too early is vital. We are still missing data for some clients and many who could have received support via DRC.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, there are gaps for information that non-profits are needed to step into with very little resources and support, especially when staff is also impacted by the events. Also, bright spots have been collaborating with other non-profit-triage groups, where we plan. Successes include having staff and clients willing to stretch to meet community needs such as sandbagging and direct immediate assistance. Another success is our SERAP program between family resource centers, other partners and our local community foundation to quickly raise funds and distribute fund out to those most in need.

While much of the media focus has been focused on the 'public infrastructure' damage to our roads and coastlines, there is also what I termed the 'human infrastructure' damage that does not get much focus but needs huge support.