



HOW TO PREPARE FOR A NATURAL DISASTER DURING COVID-19



If a natural disaster hits during the COVID-19 pandemic, evacuation shelters like this one would be dangerous. Agencies are planning for alternatives.

It's a situation nobody wants to imagine: a major earthquake, flood, fire or other natural disaster strikes while the U.S. is grappling with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"Severe weather season, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes — these disasters do not stop because we're responding to COVID-19.

In all of those places where these can occur, emergency responders are already strapped dealing with the pandemic. What's more, much of the usual disaster strategies — evacuation shelters, food assistance, an influx of aid workers — may be challenging.

Many are hoping and praying a major disaster doesn't happen while the coronavirus outbreak still has the country in lockdown. But as Craig Fugate, the former head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, puts it: "Hope isn't a strategy."

Government agencies



The local, state and federal government agencies that typically handle natural disaster response are currently trying to contain and control the pandemic, raising questions about availability and staffing.

At a state and local level, officials are banding together and planning to support each other, while acknowledging the virus may complicate some of those efforts.

In most disasters, states lend each other personnel through a national mutual aid compact. During the pandemic, sending personnel to other states may be problematic because of fear of spreading the disease and potentially putting them in harm's way.

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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HUMAN RESOURCES SAFETY DIVISION

Safety Newsletter

Personal preparedness



People all over the world have spent the past month, and more, dealing with the rapid spread of the new coronavirus, but for earthquake-prone California, preparation and response can't just stop there.

Earthquake experts — including at the U.S. Geological Survey and UC Berkeley's seismology lab — are considering, especially in recent days, one potential scenario that isn't an out-of-bounds notion: the convergence of an earthquake with the COVID-19 pandemic in the Bay Area and across California.

Geological experts warn that the next 25 years hold a 72% chance of a massive earthquake on the 60-mile-long Hayward Fault or any of the Bay Area's big faults, which means Californians live with the constant threat and possibility of quakes.

"An earthquake is just as likely this week as it was three weeks ago," Richard Allen, director of the Berkeley Seismological Laboratory, said. "The good news is that when we have an earthquake, one of the things we have to think about is that we will be stuck at home, and many of us are already doing that. In a sense, the bits that we need to do in an earthquake — they're already there."

The bright side is that many steps Californians would take to prepare for an earthquake have been taken in the frantic attempts to prepare for COVID-19. The flip side is that the confluence of the two disasters would be as devastating as it would be unprecedented, with the state's health system already overloaded.

One thing Californians can do now, Allen said, is broaden their disaster planning. "There's no question if you're prepared for one kind of disaster, basically, what that means ... (is) for a big disruption to your daily life, and potentially to other disasters."

For many of us, pandemic preparation and response included stocking up at grocery stores, securing a good Wi-Fi connection for working at home and heeding the shelter-in-place directives.

Experts say it's also a good time to reassess your personal plan in the event of a natural disaster. (And if you don't have one, get on it!)

Perhaps you've already dipped into your emergency stash of food and supplies and need a restock. If you haven't driven in a while it's a good idea to check that there's gas in the car. And certainly a grandparent's house may not be the ideal go-to these days.

Health officials and various states are also discouraging interstate travel. Places that may have seemed like good getaways may no longer make sense.

Every day, the situation is changing in different parts of the country. It's important to stay aware of local restrictions and keep adjusting your plans as needed.

Here are few more things you can do to expand your preparedness and limit your impact to medical systems that are already overloaded, no matter what strikes:



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<https://www.rivcocert.org/registration.htm>



Emergency shelters and evacuations

This is the area that emergency officials are most concerned about. Where should people go in the event of a major hurricane, wildfire or earthquake? And how do you make sure people do leave home if they need to?

"We've been telling people: stay home, stay home, stay home, stay home and then you're going to turn around and tell them they need to evacuate. That's going to be a hard message."

Local officials and the American Red Cross say they're going to do everything they can to avoid using large evacuation shelters.

Hotel rooms and college dormitories, many of which have been left vacant because of the coronavirus, would be the first preference. Putting people in individual rooms would allow for proper social distancing and mitigate the chances of the virus spreading.

If an emergency shelter is necessary, it will look very different than normal. Instead of buffet lines, meals would be delivered to people. Beds would be spaced further apart to allow for social distancing. Hygiene standards would be ramped up. Temperature checks would be conducted at the shelter door.

Safety of the clients and the personnel is the top priority.



Have a go-bag that you can use in any emergency

In an earthquake, you want to be ready to be self-sufficient for three to five days, which includes food and ample water. If you don't yet have the following, consider adding:

- *An extra pair of clothes and sturdy shoes*
- *A sleeping bag or a blanket*
- *A tool kit*
- *A first aid kit*
- *Cell-phone charger and portable radio*
- *Personal hygiene and sanitation items*
- *Any prescriptions and/or personal documents*
- *Necessary items for pets and children*

Assess your bedroom and the spaces you spend time in

Familiarize yourself with the heavy objects near you — bookcases, dressers, paintings — and surfaces under which you could take cover. Avoid hanging items above beds and make sure heavy items are latched securely in place.

Have a plan

The risk of an earthquake now is the same as before the pandemic, but the situation is undoubtedly more complicated, U.S. Geological Survey Communications Officer Paul Laustsen said. It's not about alarmism but about being as ready as possible even for things that feel unnecessarily stressful. When infrastructure is already overloaded, it's better to be prepared where we can.

2020-2021 COUNTY PROOF OF VEHICLE INSURANCE CARD

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HUMAN RESOURCES SAFETY DIVISION

Safety Newsletter

PLACE THIS CARD IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT OF YOUR COUNTY FLEET VEHICLE.
IT COVERS THE PERIOD FROM 7/01/2020 TO 6/30/21

Or download it at- <https://riskmgmt.rc-hr.com/Portals/29/2020-2021.pdf?ver=2020-07-02-112241-453>

<p>CALIFORNIA INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION CARD</p> <p>COMPANY PRISM (Public Risk Innovation, Solutions and Management)</p> <p>POLICY NUMBER(S) EFFECTIVE DATE EXPIRATION DATE</p> <p>PRISM 20 GL2-06 7/1/2020 7/1/2021</p> <p>YEAR MAKE/MODEL VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER</p> <p>Any Vehicle Owned by the County of Riverside</p> <p>AGENCY/COMPANY ISSUING CARD</p> <p>Riverside County Risk Management</p> <p>P.O. Box 1210 Riverside, CA 92502</p> <p>Coverage Subject to Self Insured Retention</p> <p>INSURED: Riverside County</p>		<p>THIS CARD MUST BE KEPT IN THE INSURED VEHICLE AND PRESENTED UPON DEMAND</p> <p>IN CASE OF ACCIDENT:</p> <p>Report all accidents to your Claims Administrator as soon as Possible. Obtain the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do not admit responsibility . Obtain name and address of each driver, Passenger and witness. Obtain name of Insurance Company and policy number for each vehicle involved.
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COVID AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HUMAN
RESOURCES SAFETY DIVISION

Safety Newsletter

WHAT to do when an employee tests positive for COVID-19 and when an employee is self-quarantined for working with an employee who tests positive (whether or not the quarantined employee tests positive or negative)

1. Complete and submit Worker's Comp (WC) forms for ALL employees who are positive and/or negative if they are quarantined (951-955-3530)

- a. The last day worked will be the date of injury*
- b. WC will determine if work-related and accept or deny the claim*

2. Call Safety IMMEDIATELY if an employee is hospitalized (951-955-3520)

- a. Safety will determine if work-related and notify Cal-OSHA*
- b. If it is undetermined, Safety will notify Cal-OSHA to err on the side of caution*

3. Call Safety IMMEDIATELY if an employee succumbs to COVID-19 (951-955-3520)

- a. Safety will determine if work-related and notify Cal-OSHA*

4. If an employee is hospitalized for a medical issue or procedure that is not work related (e.g. appendicitis or surgery on a broken foot) and they are tested for COVID-19 in the hospital and it comes back positive, follow steps 1-3.

According to Cal-OSHA, an infection on the job is recordable on the employers Cal-OSHA Log 300. OSHA exemption for the common cold or flu does not apply to COVID-19 when the worker is infected on the job.

Source: 2020 Cal-OSHA Reporter 3.3.20

RIVCO 1HR
safety division

RIVCO 1HR
workers' compensation

Do you know where to find County forms for Safety and Workers' Compensation? Look below!

Workers' Compensation Forms: [HERE](#)

Commonly Used Safety Forms: [Here](#)

Emergency Action Plan Template: [HERE](#)

Injury and Illness Prevention Plan: [HERE](#)

MURDER HORNETS?

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HUMAN
RESOURCES SAFETY DIVISION

Safety Newsletter



You've probably heard of the Murder Hornet (Personally I bet on a plague of locust for August and lost big time,) the killer insect that's going to wreak havoc across the US! Well, before you make any hasty moves, below are some facts regarding the menacing "Murder Hornet."

What is it?

Let's first dispel the name. "Murder hornets" is an attention seeking name. Its correct name is the Asian Giant Hornet (Scientific Name: *Vespa mandarinia*). In sheer size a queen can grow to 1.5 inches (About the size of an adult thumb) in length.

Where did they come from and are they in the US?

Asian Giant Hornets originate on the east Asian continent, found in Japan, Thailand, Russia and other neighboring countries. The first sighting of the Asian Giant Hornet in North America was in the Vancouver Island in British Columbia in the late summer of 2019. Dead specimens were later found in Washington state.

How did they get here and how dangerous are they?

That is not fully known, but one belief is via a cargo ship. These Hornets are loners and only attack if provoked. It is not in their nature to initiate an attack on people. Truthfully, they are more concerned with honeybee hives.

Can they kill me?

According to those that have been stung, their stings are extremely painful. It has been described as feeling like a hot nail going into one's skin and lasting for hours. The good news is their sting is not usually fatal. On the other hand, multiple stings from a swarm or an extreme allergic reaction (Anaphylaxis) can cause death. On average, they kill up to 50 people per year

What should I do if I see one?

LEAVE IT ALONE! Don't approach it, don't swat it, and don't spray it with insecticide; just walk away. If possible, take a picture and call the local vector control agency and inform them.

Should we BEE concerned?

As stated earlier, the Asian Giant Hornet's primary target is honeybee hives. By pollinating many agricultural crops, honeybees play a major role in our food system that extend beyond honey production. Given these hornets prey on honeybees who are already decreasing in numbers, their presence on this continent should not be ignored.

Why do they attack honeybee hives and are they doomed?

One word: Food! By beheading and dismantling honeybees' bodies, their parts are used as food for hornet larvae. Well, as threatening as the Asian Giant Hornet sounds, Japanese honeybees have learned how to defend themselves from this invader with the aid of heat as its secret weapon! Hopefully the tactic will catch on!

A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE...HOW MANY PEOPLE REALLY DIE FROM "MURDER HORNETS" PER YEAR?

Lightning Strikes: 24000

Falling out of beds: 450

Giant Asian Hornets 50

Falling coconuts: 150

Hippos: 2900