



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**To:** San Mateo County Emergency Service Council  
**From:** Don J. Mattei, Interim Director, Department of Emergency Management  
**Subject:** Approval of the San Mateo All Hazard Evacuation Plan – Request for Proposals

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Currently, no standard plan covers evacuations throughout San Mateo County, however, several cities have developed plans. No blended plan brings the 20 cities and the County's unincorporated areas to a common picture of who is responsible for and supporting the Public Safety structure or overlapping city boundaries.

The idea of developing a unified plan is to facilitate better interoperability and operational understanding from the planning point. The Public Safety Community works well with each other like no other County in the State. A master plan and training means preparing the First Responders and each community to better the general public and understand what will happen during a disaster.

The Department of Emergency Management recommends developing a Request For Proposals (RFP) not to exceed \$375,000 for a contractor to develop the plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

An all-hazards approach is an integrated approach to an emergency. Preparedness planning focuses on capacities and capabilities critical to preparedness for a full spectrum of emergencies or disasters, including internal and man-made emergencies. It is a generalized plan that involves cities, districts, and educational instantiations to activate and evacuate the public

The all-hazards approach is a comprehensive emergency preparedness framework considering a full scope of emergencies or disasters when planning response capacities and mitigation efforts. This means that one is not focused on just the most common critical events but have prepared for "all hazards" that the County or city might face. The all-hazards approach leads to better overall preparedness and a more resilient one that prepares the whole County for various disasters.

For instance, in 2017, 59,985 weather-related events resulted in 592 deaths and 4,270 injuries. Most fatalities that year resulted from flash floods, tropical storms, and heatwaves. If our County is not in the path of tropical storms (say, you're in a Wyoming location), planning to mitigate tropical storm damage and injury is probably not helpful. But if we plan for communication challenges during wildfire season, windstorms, or winter weather, hazards would be appropriate.

**DISCUSSION:**

**What Are Our Hazards?**

The first step in creating an all-hazards preparedness plan is identifying possible hazards. Of course, risks vary from location to location and company to company, but here are the most common events that can set off the activation of an emergency plan:

- IT outages
- Weather-related incidents
- Power outages



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- Natural disasters
- Fire (including wildfires)
- Facilities management incidents
- Security-related issues
- Health and safety incidents
- Cybersecurity incidents
- Airplane crash
- Travel disruption

In scanning this list, these events could probably occur in our County at any time affecting cities and businesses and our 21st city San Francisco International Airport. Of course, anything could happen, but assessing threats with the most potential is probably more effective. No matter how many situations we have to cover, the all-hazards approach is scalable enough to handle any emergency occurrence.

Our infrastructure is fragile when a vehicle, tree, a person can shut down transportation for an hour or all day in the San Francisco Bay. That is a critical issue, and it happens all the time. We often forget that we live on a Peninsula and are serviced by two bridges that serve our County. If there was a critical incident in the County and the San Mateo Bridget highway 92 east or west of Highway 280, we could be in trouble.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Creating an "all-hazards" plan will ensure that cities have a standard protocol to follow in case of any emergency. Specifics may change depending on the circumstance, but cities should set guidelines that First Responders can apply to any critical event. Creating such a document is complicated and will follow the format the County developed for the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

I am requesting approval to develop a Request for Proposal to develop a County-wide All-Hazard Evacuation Plan and delegate authority to the Interim Director of the Department of Emergency Management to execute a contract with the selected vendor for a term not to exceed two years and an amount not to exceed \$375,000 in a form approved by the County Attorney and funded through Emergency Services Council Reserves. The ESC has the option to review the contract before engaging the vendor. If the ESC wishes to look at the contract, I would recommend a special meeting of the ESC for one item for the approval of the contract.