

ARE YOU READY?



Fires, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis are just a few disasters Californians may face. The U.S. Census Bureau surveyed Americans to see how ready they are for disaster. The results show there is much room to improve.

By **KURT SNIBBE** | Southern California News Group

To better understand the needs of first responders and other emergency workers, the 2017 American Housing Survey asks U.S. residents how prepared they are for disasters.



Emergency water supply

At least three gallons or 24 bottles of water for each person in the household



Nonperishable emergency food

Household has enough nonperishable food to sustain everyone in the household for three days.



Prepared emergency evacuation kit



Emergency meeting location



Communication plan

The communication plan must include a contingency for the disruption of cellphone service.



Evacuation vehicle(s)

Vehicle(s) must be reliable and able to carry all household members, pets and supplies up to 50 miles away.



Evacuation funds

If you had to evacuate your home for a safe place at least 50 miles away, do you have financial resources to meet expenses of up to \$2,000?

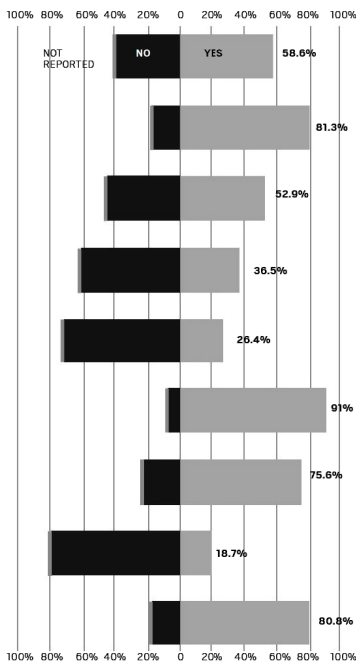


Generator present

Asked of 1-unit buildings and multiunit buildings with 2 to 4 units.



Access to financial information



A FEW SAFETY SKILLS

- Learn to use a fire extinguisher
- Know how to shut off utilities

GAS: If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve, if you can, and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.

Caution: If you turn off the gas for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it

back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

WATER: Water quickly becomes a precious resource following many disasters. It is vital that all household members learn how to shut off the water at the main house valve.

ELECTRICITY: Locate your electrical circuit box. For your safety, always shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit.



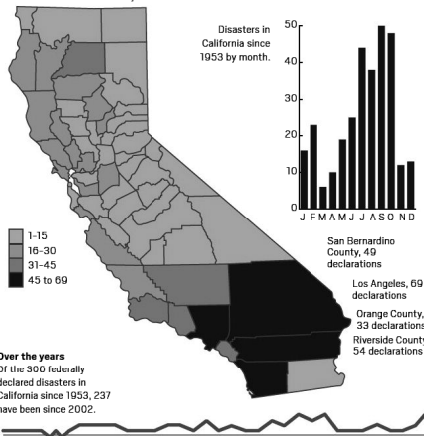
Learn first aid and CPR

It's best to take lessons on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation correctly. For classes, contact the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. The American Heart Association says if you are not trained in CPR, then provide hands-only CPR. That means 100-120 uninterrupted chest compressions a minute until paramedics arrive.

If alone, call for help, then repeat cycle of 30 compressions and two rescue breaths until emergency personnel arrive.

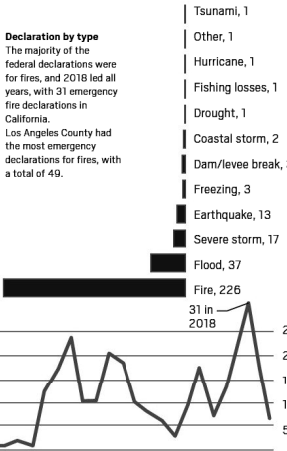
CALIFORNIA PROFILE

There have been 306 federally declared disasters in California since 1953.



Declaration by type

The majority of the federal declarations were for fires, and 2018 led all years, with 31 emergency fire declarations in California. Los Angeles County had the most emergency declarations for fires, with a total of 49.



Over the years
Of the 306 federally declared disasters in California since 1953, 237 have been since 2002.

Federal Emergency Management Agency's mission: To support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

The U.S. has had federal disaster relief in place since the early 1800s, but FEMA was officially created by President Jimmy Carter in 1979.

FEMA became an official part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in 2003.

In 2006, the Post-Katrina Emergency Reform Act reorganized FEMA after a lackluster response to the natural disaster.