

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
AND KATHRYN BARGER**

**JUNE 26, 2017**

**Evaluating Los Angeles County’s Emergency Preparedness**

Natural and man-made disasters are unpredictable by nature and tend to be extremely costly and disruptive for an extended period beyond the originating event. It is during these calamitous events that the public’s reliance on government agencies increases significantly as there is a collective effort to address the immediate health and public safety impacts and strive to restore order. Given the increasing vulnerability to disasters of all kinds, it is important that Los Angeles County (County) departments take steps to ensure that County residents can rely on them to provide critical services and continue essential operations in the face of a calamity or any other widespread service disruption.

In particular, certain departments that provide vital services and perform key functions must have plans in place in the event that the staff members in those departments are unable to access their primary work spaces. These departments should also have simple and clear communication methods to facilitate notifications of the public, County staff, or other governmental agencies as well as alternative processes and procedures that can be quickly employed to continue operations. By having these strategies in place, protection of County residents and the continuity of business operations would be

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MOTION

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enhanced in the event of a disaster.

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was established with the purpose of organizing and directing the preparedness efforts of the County. Each County department would benefit greatly from working closely with OEM to review their respective emergency preparedness plans and determine the best course of action in the event their principal place of business and operating systems become inaccessible.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Direct the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to work with all County departments and report back in writing in 120 days with the emergency readiness level of each department. The assessment of emergency readiness should include consideration of the departments' completion and maintenance of a current Department Emergency Plan and a Business Continuity Plan, as well as a communications and outreach plan to members of the public, County departments, other governmental agencies, at the state and federal level, and nonprofit recovery and aid organizations.
2. Direct all County departments to assist OEM by completing OEM's department emergency preparedness surveys and assessments in a timely manner so the findings can be used in OEM's written report back to this Board.

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(DJ/VS)