

# Reducing the Sting of Disasters



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

# Introductions



**Juan Mireles, Director** – Juan is the Director of the School Facilities and Transportation Services Division. Juan has worked in state service for decades and has been activated in the State Operations Center in the Schools Task Force in recent years. Juan developed the concept of the Emergency Services Team and is well versed in the needs of schools during disasters.

# Introductions



**Joe Anderson, Staff Services Manager II** – Joe is the Emergency Services Team Manager. He came from the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), where he worked for the past 10+ years in both analytical and supervisory roles. Joe’s experience traverses the planning, logistics, and operations sections at Cal OES, including federal and state grant management and response during State Operation Center activations. He has substantial experience providing training and technical assistance in emergency management as well as organizational development. Joe is certified in Lean Six Sigma techniques.

# Introductions



**Jake Wolf, Staff Services Manager I** - Jake is the Emergency Services Team Specialist. He came from Cal OES, where he worked as an Emergency Services Coordinator on both planning and response assignments, as well as the health and medical liaison for California's health and medical support function. Jake has been a Task Force Coordinator, in advance planning, mission tasking, and other roles with Cal OES. He is thoroughly trained and well-versed in emergency management, and has over a decade of first responder experience as a Paramedic, EMT, and firefighter.

# CDE's Role in Emergency Response

- California Department of Education
  - Department Operations Center (DOC)
  - Schools Emergency Response System (SERS)
- Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
  - Unified Coordination Group
  - Schools Task Force
  - State Operations Center (SOC)
- California Department of Health and Human Services (CHHS)
  - Testing Task Force



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



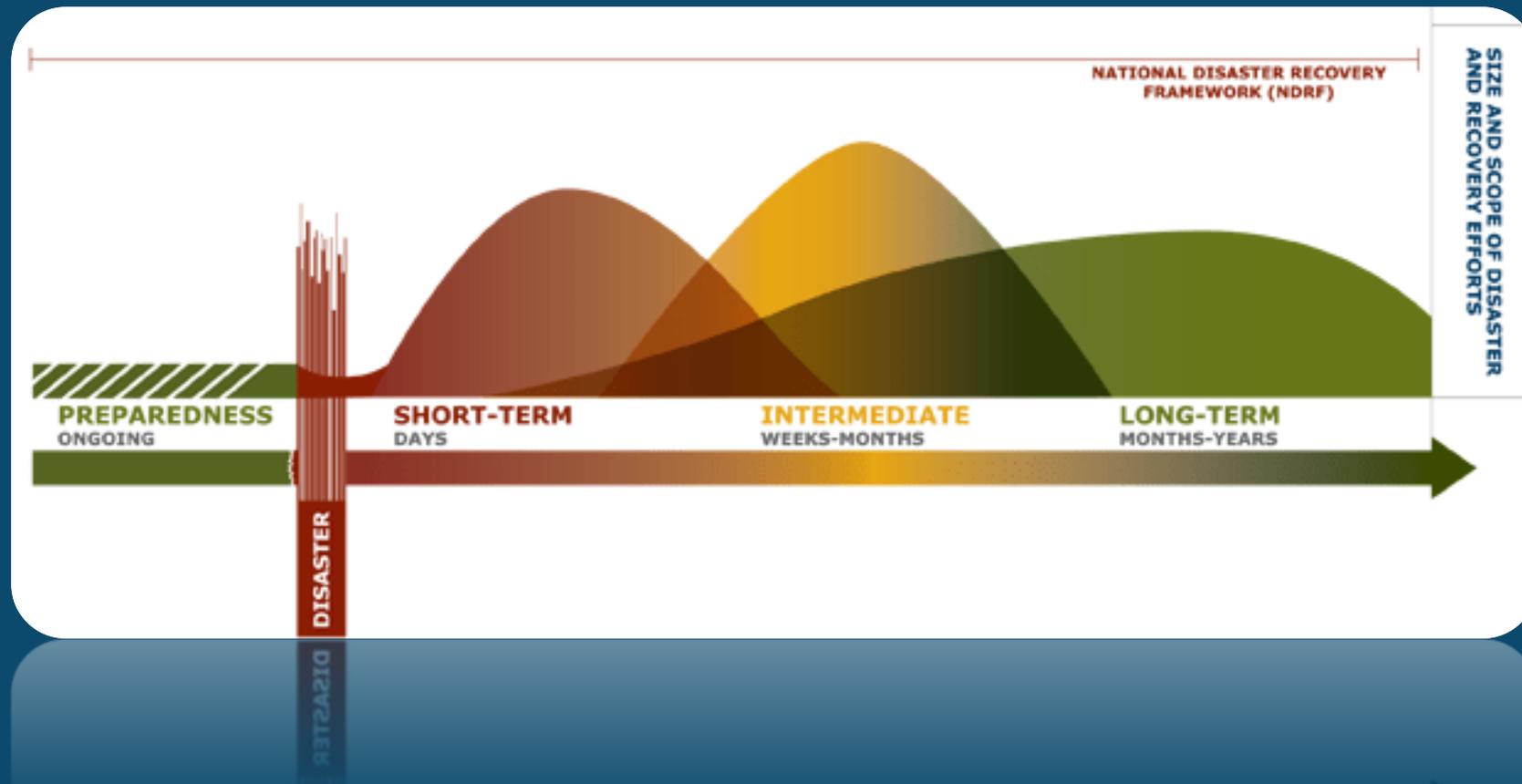
**CHHS**  
California Health & Human Services Agency

# CDE's Role in Emergency Response Cont.

## Emergency Services Team

- In October 2020, CDE formally established the Emergency Services Team (EST) with two permanent positions.
- The EST is charged with building CDE's internal capacity for emergency response, including interagency coordination, and building the capacity of LEAs in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

# Emergency Management Timeline



# Preparedness



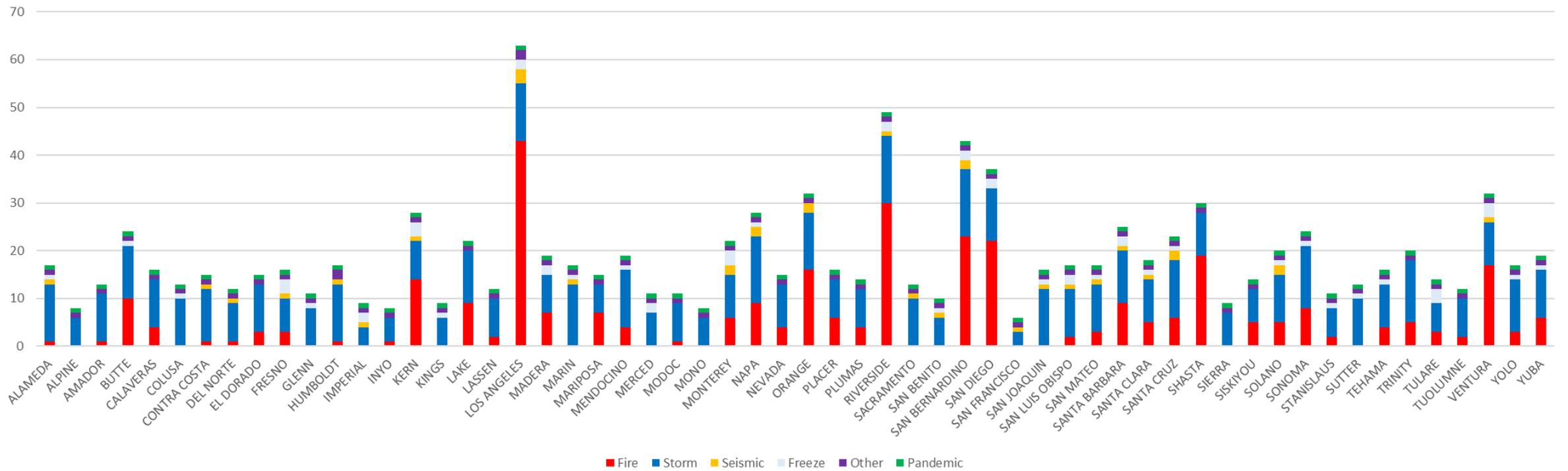
- **Preparedness** involves activities undertaken in advance of an emergency to develop and enhance operational capacity to respond to and recover from an emergency. As part of a comprehensive preparedness program, the emergency management community (districts and counties) should develop plans and procedures, maintain prevention programs, manage resources, establish mutual aid agreements, train personnel, and educate the schools.

# Preparedness

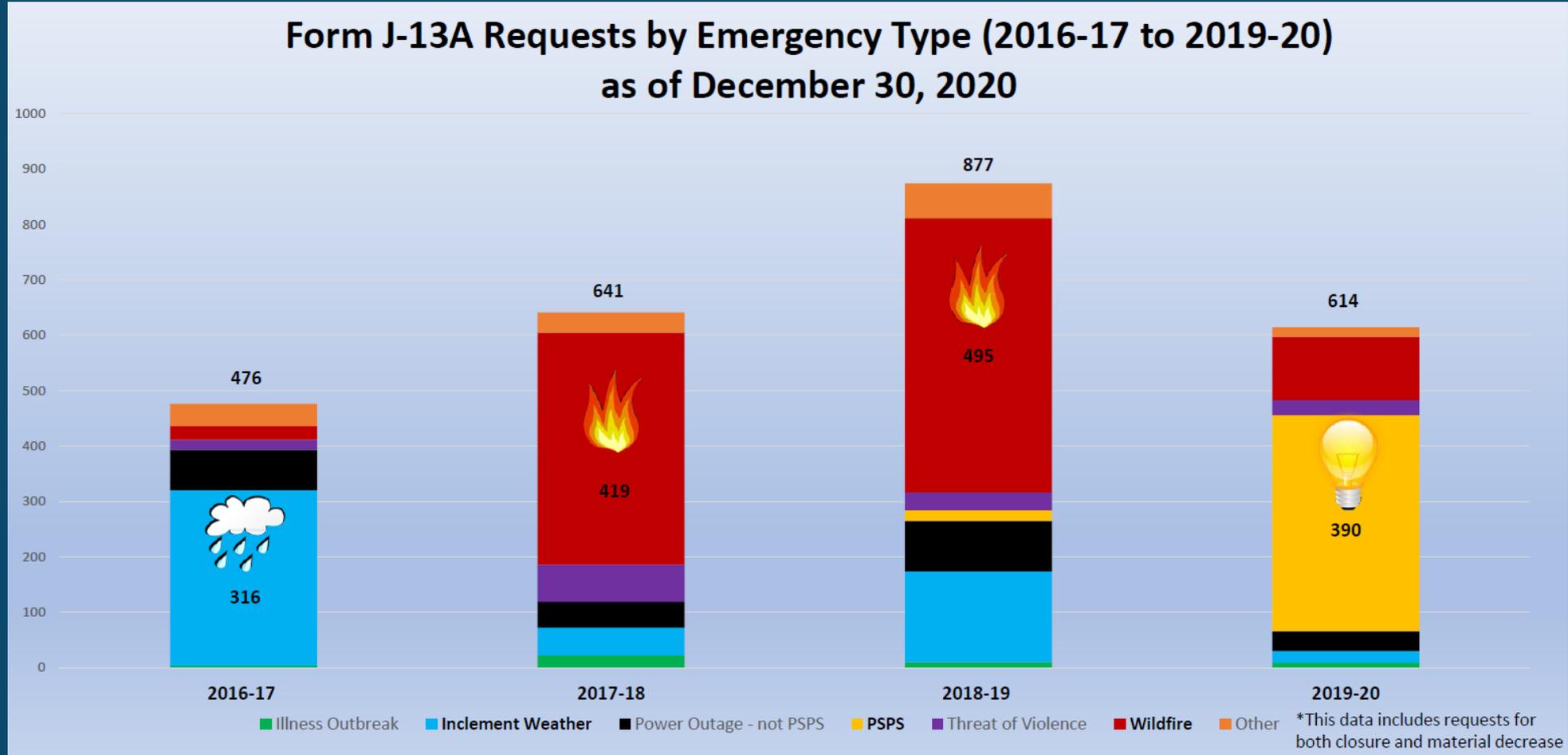
- Development of plans and procedures between schools, districts, and the local level, generally the county/city emergency office.  
Plans include:
  - Communications plans and procedures
  - Earthquake plans and procedures
  - Evacuation plans and procedures
- Participation in Emergency Management Programs at the district or county level.
- Participation in Training such as California Specialized Training Institute or FEMA independent Study Courses
- Participate in Seminars/Workshops/Drills/Exercises
- Know your facilities and where the utility shutoffs are located.

# Preparedness – Disaster Frequency

Disaster Occurrences per County by Type



# Preparedness – J-13A Disasters



# Preparedness – School Safety Planning

- **Emergency Operation Plans** - Thorough response planning for a hazard event helps ensure that a school community executes an organized, timely, and well-communicated response when the unexpected occurs.
- **Catastrophic Plans** - The widespread impact of a catastrophic incident increases the importance of emergency planning for schools.
- **Standard Operating Procedures and Guidance** – SOP's and SOG's are utilized in specific situations to help the end user through a process utilizing best practices.



# Response



*Cal OES State Operations Center, taken March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, Employees assist in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis.*

- Response activities are comprised of the immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and the environment, and meet basic human needs. An example is evacuating school children to higher ground during a tsunami emergency. It is important to have points of contacts from the following: local law enforcement, fire department, local Office of Emergency Services, County Department of Education, Red Cross, and other local resources that can assist.

# Examples of response activities may include:



- **Implementation** of emergency plans.
- **Activation** of sheltering and/or evacuation procedures.
- **Organizing** staff and personnel into a response structure using ICS.
- **Coordination** with first responder and emergency management agencies for life saving resources.
- **Communication** with parents/guardians and the district to ensure safe reunification of students with their family units.

# Response - Situational Awareness

- For the school or district to respond in a safe manner to a disaster, there needs to be a way for the incident commander(s) to make decisions and support the response. Generally, this is done using Situation Reports (sitreps) that follow the 5-Ws of who, what, where, when, why, and how if applicable. These sitreps can provide information on safety, incident status, personnel, or anything else deemed necessary to the command team during response. The incident commanders should establish priorities of information that will aid them in decision-making during the incident.



# Response – Establishing a School Site EOC

- Establishing an Emergency Operations Centers can be very beneficial and does not require a lot of coordination. Within the school or district's Emergency Operations Plan, establishing a base of operations will provide a coordination hub for all activities related to the disaster. Schools and districts should only establish an EOC when it is safe to do so. Generally, the EOC at a school should be established if the school is sheltering in place and awaiting assistance from fire and/or law enforcement officials. At the district level, an EOC should be established when supporting numerous schools are impacted to better manage the flow of information and coordinating ability of the agency.



# Recovery



*The California Conservation Corps heads up a watershed project at Berry Creek, CA. Straw wattles are placed to help prevent dangerous debris from entering California's water system.*

- **Recovery** refers to actions to restore the learning environment for schools affected by an event. Recovery is an extended period that blends into the “before” timeframe of the next hazard event for a community and should include steps to build back better so that future natural hazards have lesser impacts.

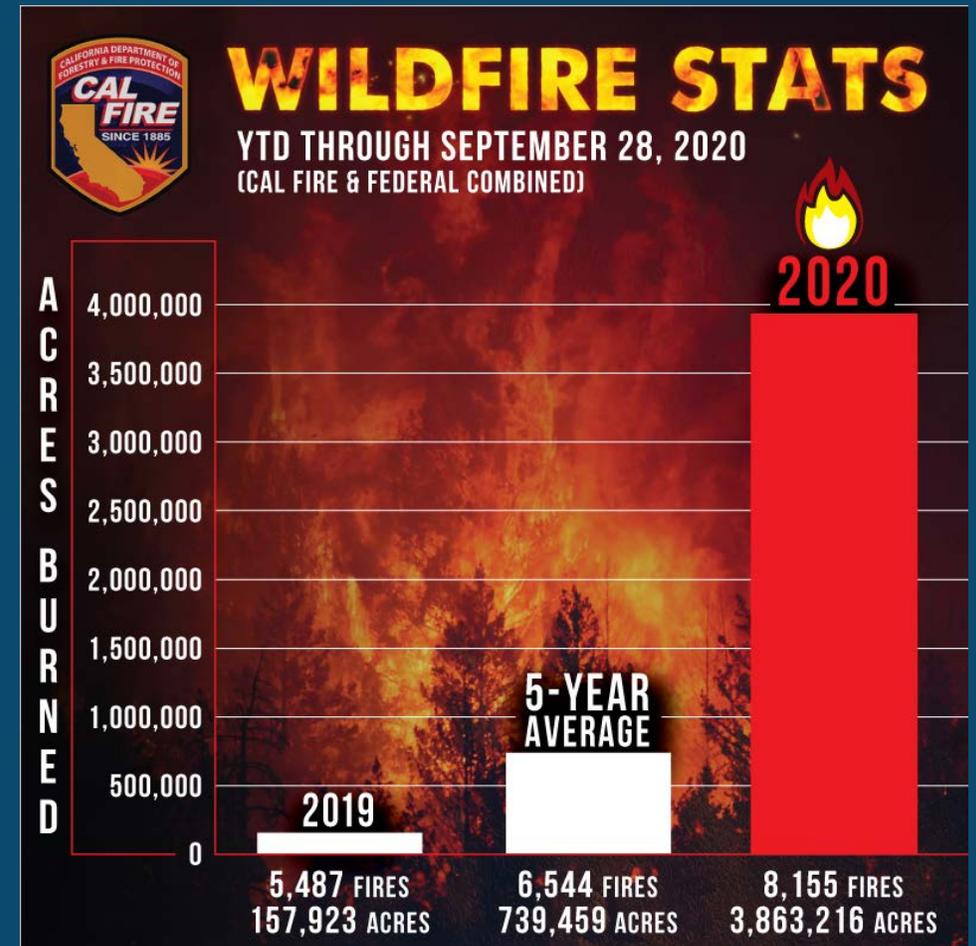
# Recovery – Public Assistance

- This program provides assistance to public organizations impacted by a disaster
- Program link:  
<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery/individual-assistance>



# Recovery - 2020 Statewide Wildfires

- 6 of the Top 20 largest wildfires in California History have occurred in 2020
- More than 100 LEAs impacted
- Wildfire response and recovery in a COVID context
- Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)



# Recovery - Project SERV

- Project School Emergency Response to Violence (SERV) funding available from the U.S. Department of Education for wildfire recovery
- Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, mental and behavioral health services for students and staff, substitute costs, and excess transportation costs
- Grants work especially well when coordinated at the COE level on behalf of impacted LEAs
- Send inquiries to [EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov](mailto:EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov)

# Prevention & Mitigation



*The first tsunami vertical structure in the United States: Ocosta Elementary School, Westport, Washington. The building is designed to withstand an earthquake and has a flat roof over the gym to accommodate up to 1,000 students and community members from a resulting tsunami.*

- **Prevention-Mitigation** is defined as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural or human-caused hazards and their effects. This definition distinguishes actions that have a long-term impact from those more closely associated with immediate preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

# Mitigation – 404 Program

- This program is to reduce the risks of impacts of future disasters. If your facility is already damaged by a disaster, use the 406 program instead.
- Program link:  
<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery/disaster-mitigation-technical-support/404-hazard-mitigation-grant-program>



# Mitigation – 406 Program

- This program reduces the potential of future damage to portions of a facility damaged by a declared disaster
- This applies to permanent work projects
- Program link:  
<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery/public-assistance/406-pa-hazard-mitigation>



# Emergency Services Team (EST)

- Joe Anderson, EST Manager – [joanderson@cde.ca.gov](mailto:joanderson@cde.ca.gov)
- Jake Wolf, EST Specialist – [jwolf@cde.ca.gov](mailto:jwolf@cde.ca.gov)
- [EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov](mailto:EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov)