

PROCLAMATION

As Californians grapple with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and some of the largest wildfires in state history, this Preparedness Month is a time for all of us to reflect and act on our shared responsibility to be prepared. Individuals, neighborhoods, businesses and communities can all take steps to increase their resilience and look out for one another when disaster strikes. Throughout September, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, other state and local agencies, businesses and community organizations are conducting preparedness events to educate the public about the importance of being prepared.

My Administration has prioritized investments in resources that can help our first responders and communities prepare for and respond to emergencies. From my first day in office, we have taken swift action toward that end, including launching the nation's first statewide Earthquake Early Warning System and making major investments to fortify the state's wildfire preparedness and response capabilities. With another dangerous wildfire season underway amid the ongoing pandemic, the state is hiring 858 more firefighters and six California Conservation Corps crews to bolster firefighting support.

In the past year and a half, the state has completed 35 emergency fuels management projects to protect 200 of the most wildfire-vulnerable communities, augmented the CAL FIRE air fleet with new FIREHAWK S-70i helicopters and C-130 airplanes and bolstered firefighting surge capacity and pre-positioning capabilities. The state also launched an Innovation Procurement Sprint to develop early warning technologies and placed fire detection cameras across the state. This year's budget included \$85.6 million in new, ongoing dollars to fund permanent firefighting positions and continues the funding for CAL FIRE to procure innovative technology that allows us to model fire behavior.

Listos California, the state's emergency preparedness campaign, awarded \$50 million in local assistance grants to non-profit organizations throughout the state to build resiliency in vulnerable communities and connect residents to culturally and linguistically competent support -- a whole-community approach that fosters critical networks that can save lives. During the pandemic, Listos has mobilized volunteers to check in on older Californians isolating at home and connect them to resources and has partnered with trusted local organizations to help the state's public awareness campaigns reach our diverse communities.

This month, I urge all Californians to learn about how they can help keep their loved ones and communities safe during an emergency.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim September 2020, as "Preparedness Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 1st day of September 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State