



Glossary of Terms

As you meet with your county group, you will hear many new acronyms. Here are some of the more common ones you will encounter.

CalOES/OES: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The office takes a proactive approach to addressing the state's risks, threats, and vulnerabilities that have been tested through real events, as well as comprehensive exercises that help maintain their state of readiness and plan for and mitigate impacts.

CERT: Community Emergency Response Team. This a FEMA program in all 50 states that educates and trains volunteers for different disasters their community may face. Search online to find your city's CERT team.

EOC: Emergency Operations Center. A physical location staffed with personnel activated to support the on-scene response during an escalating incident.

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency. Their mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

HCC: Health Care Coalition. Federally funded and organized regionally under the umbrella of the Hospital Preparedness Program, the HCC consists of groups of health care and response organizations that collaborate to prepare for and respond to medical surge events.

MHOAC: Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator. The MHOAC assists the OES operational area coordinator in coordinating medical and health disaster resources in the event of a local, state, or federal declaration of emergency. Skilled nursing facilities and other medical or health-related buildings fall under the MHOAC jurisdiction. Memory Care communities and Assisted Living communities caring for residents with dementia may be eligible to receive emergency assistance.

VOAD: Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. VOAD associations improve outcomes for people affected by disasters by facilitating cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration among nonprofit organizations, community-based groups, government agencies, and for-profit companies.