



## **Statewide Emergency Preparedness Coordination Group (SWEPC)**

### Meeting Minutes

Date: December 18, 2024  
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Location: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Headquarters

Three presentations were given during the meeting, and a summary of each is provided below. Please refer to the presentation slide decks accompanying these minutes for more details.

#### **Agenda Item 1: Introductions**

Noele Richmond, Program Manager I, Emergency Functions Planning Unit (EFPU), Cal OES, addressed the audience and provided opening comments.

#### **Agenda Item 2: CalHeatScore**

Presenter: Walker Wieland, Chief, Extreme Heat Ranking Development Section, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA)

Cal EPA was mandated by Assembly Bill 2238 to create the CalHeatScore which is a heat risk ranking system that combines weather data (temperature and humidity) with emergency department data to assess heat-related health impacts at the ZIP code level. This system uses a scale from 0 (low risk) to 4 (severe risk), similar to how hurricanes or tornadoes are ranked. The tool is a public health mapping tool that will update daily and provide 7-day heat forecasts. It also maps local resources like cooling centers to help vulnerable communities prepare for extreme heat. CalHeatScore launched as a prototype January 1, 2025, with a public announcement on January 8, 2025. After the release, a public comment period and hybrid meetings in January 2025 will seek feedback for improvements, followed by workshops in Spring-Summer 2025 to test the tool's real-world effectiveness. While CalHeatScore will complement, not compete with other heat risk tools like HeatRisk from the National Weather Service (NWS), it offers more localized data, focusing on California's unique health trends and resources. The tool will eventually include an application programming interface and a mobile app for broader accessibility and is also

exploring the integration of additional data, like air quality and urban tree canopy, to improve heat resilience. Although not yet part of the Extreme Temperature Plan, ongoing conversations are exploring how CalHeatScore could support state-level responses to extreme heat events and inform hazard mitigation efforts.

### **Agenda Item 3: California Cybersecurity Integration Center (Cal-CSIC) Update**

Presenter: Commander Edward Bómbita, California Cybersecurity Integration Center (Cal-CSIC)

Commander Bómbita outlined the role of the Cal-CSIC and how it ties into emergency management. Established by Executive Order B-34-15, Cal-CSIC serves as a one-stop hub for statewide cybersecurity efforts, coordinating information sharing, providing advisory services, and supporting incident response preparation. The organization works with partners like Cal OES, the Department of Technology, and California Highway Patrol and collaborate with five California Fusion Centers to facilitate intelligence flow across regions. Cal-CSIC operates in three branches: Cyber Operations (digital forensics, incident response, and advisory services), Cyber Threat Intelligence (including monitoring, reporting, and incident support), and Mission Support (technical and business support, policy development, and training). They also play a role in the State Local Cyber Grants Program, reviewing 425 proposals this year. The center emphasizes cyber integration into emergency management, noting that all real-life incidents have an IT/OT/cyber component. Their involvement in emergency planning includes the CA-ESF 18 Annex and ongoing work on frameworks that align with emergency management phases: preparation, response, and recovery. The Commander also discussed the "Dark Skies" tabletop exercise, which simulates a cyber incident disrupting state power.

### **Agenda Item 4: Emergency Repatriation**

Presenter: -Kasmira Kit, Program Manager II, California Department of Social Services

Kit provided an overview of emergency repatriation operations, highlighting the distinction between routine and emergency repatriation, the latter involving the return of large groups of United States citizens and eligible individuals during crises such as pandemics, natural disasters, or political unrest. She reviewed the response during the early stages of COVID-19, where California activated its State Emergency Repatriation Plan (SERP) but did not fully execute it due to last-

minute federal intervention. The process involves coordination among federal, state, and local partners to manage repatriates through Emergency Repatriation Centers (ERCs), where services like medical care, onward travel assistance, and crisis counseling are provided. The planning assumptions include short notice, concurrent disasters, and the need for 24-hour operations. A series of exercises, including a recent tabletop and an upcoming full-scale simulation, are vital for refining preparedness, given the theoretical nature of the plan. The presentation emphasized the importance of interagency collaboration, addressing evacuee needs, and ensuring readiness for future emergencies.

### **Agenda Item 5: Roundtable Discussion**

California Department of Transportation holds two exercises annually (Great ShakeOut and hybrid DOC/District), with a winter event-focused exercise in April. Monthly drills are ongoing, and an Emergency Modal Work Group is developing an emergency guide for multi-modal transportation.

Cal OES Private Sector and Non-governmental Organization Coordination launched the California Donation Portal, allowing private sector donations during disasters. It is currently in beta testing.

Department of General Services is developing agreements for emergency transportation of goods and a bottled water contract renewal. Agencies are encouraged to reach out with needs.

California Government Operations Agency (GovOps) is developing an energy emergency alert system for state facilities. Interested agencies can contact Jake Wolf@govops.ca.gov for details.

Cal OES Tribal Coordination invites state agencies to share tools and programs with tribes on bi-monthly calls. Contact Alex Shariatmadari@caloes.ca.gov for participation.

California Veterans Affairs is rolling out Everbridge on January 30, 2025. They are seeking examples of acceptable-use guidance from other agencies.

California Department of Education (CDE) is working on SB 153 guidance for school districts, focusing on instructional continuity after disasters. CDE may need help with rigid mandates.

### **Next Meeting Dates**

- Tentatively late April 2025
- Contact Abigayle.Tirapelle@caloes.com or Noele.Richmond@caloes.ca.gov if there are specific presentations you would like to see at the next meeting or if you would like to present.