



Natural Disaster Preparation Planning and Successful Implementation

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This paper discusses Natural Disaster Preparedness Plans created for ten Research and Extension Centers operated by the University Of California Division Of Natural Resources. The centers are used by researchers and educators to advance the knowledge and understanding of agricultural and natural resources. The centers are located throughout various crop production areas and climate zones within California. Centers are located in the following cities and towns: Tullake, Browns Valley, Hopland, Santa Clara, Parlier, Five Points, Exeter, Shafter, Irvine, Ukiah, and El Centro

The plans are for managing security threats, power failures, seismic events, fires, and other natural disasters. These plans assure the safety of facilities and personnel; minimize potential for hazardous material releases; and identification of critical research programs dependant on controlled environments and/or environmental isolation. The authors will describe planning document preparation and planning efforts as related to vulnerability assessments, risk management, and data gathering.

The resultant plans are based on surveys performed at each of the centers that identified critical systems and environments; potential hazards and failure modes; and emergency response resources. Guidance for plan preparation was obtained, in part, from the University Disaster Preparedness Office.

To demonstrate the beneficial use of the resultant plans, the authors will describe a natural disaster at one center in which a wild fire burned nearly 400 hectares and potentially threatened a town located across a river from the center.