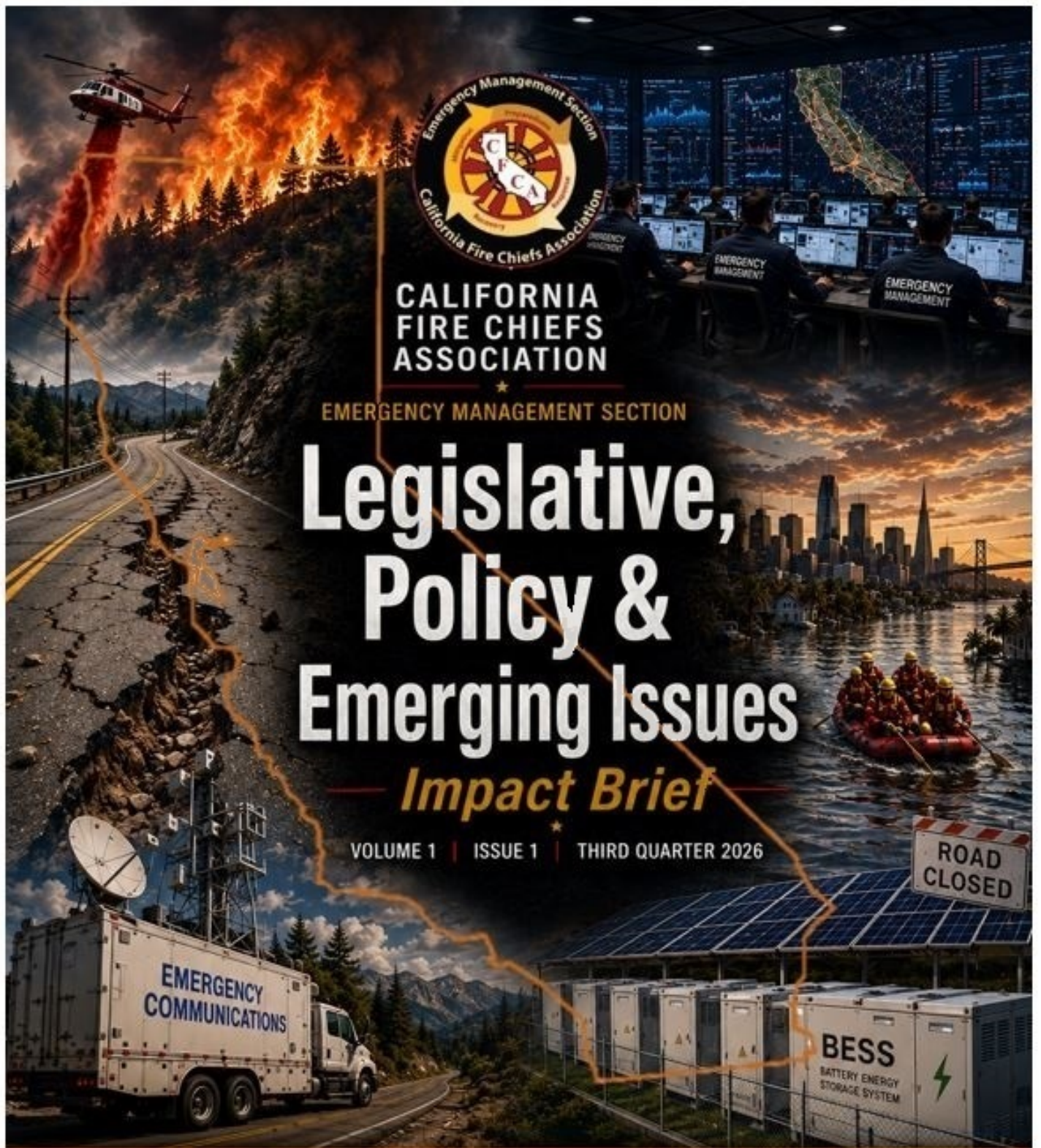




CALIFORNIA
FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SECTION

Legislative, Policy & Emerging Issues

Impact Brief

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1 | THIRD QUARTER 2026

★ *Supporting informed decision-making across
California's emergency management community.* ★

STATEWIDE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WATCH



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Legislative, Policy & Emerging Issues Impact Brief

Third Quarter 2026 | California Fire Chiefs Association - Emergency Management Section

PURPOSE: Provide a shared Emergency Management Section monitoring tool that translates legislative, policy, funding, regulatory, and emerging issues into practical emergency-management implications across California. The brief is informational and does not establish a California Fire Chiefs Association or Emergency Management Section advocacy position.

Leadership Review identifies issues that may warrant elevation to agency executives, fire chiefs, councils, Tribal Councils, governing boards, or other organizational leadership for awareness and possible engagement.

1. Executive Summary - Top Issues to Watch

SB 1001 - Critical Infrastructure Disaster Access Credentialing: Would establish a Cal OES-administered PIV-I credentialing program, beginning July 1, 2028, for eligible local agency, public utility, and mutual water company personnel responsible for public works and critical infrastructure. The bill remains active but was held in Senate Appropriations under submission on May 14, 2026.

AB 1069 - Older Adults: Emergency Shelters: Chaptered law creates local coordination duties so aging and disability service partners can access emergency shelters during active events to support continuity of services.

AB 1285 - Lithium-Ion Battery Facilities: Chaptered law requires the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with Cal OES, to develop prevention, response, and recovery measures for utility-grade lithium-ion battery storage facilities, including responder safety and timely information sharing with local emergency managers.

AB 1805 - State 911 Advisory Board / Next Generation 9-1-1: Would revise State 911 Advisory Board governance and strengthen oversight, reporting, audit, and accountability requirements associated with California's NG 9-1-1 implementation. The bill remains active in the Senate committee process.

AB 1068 - AFN / Long-Term Care Evacuation & Sheltering: Would establish a state working group to recommend best practices for evacuation and sheltering of older adults and persons with disabilities living in long-term care facilities. The bill remains active but has been held under submission in Senate Appropriations.

AB 1795 - Smoke Damage Recovery Act: Would establish statewide health and insurance standards addressing wildfire smoke-damaged residential property. As of August 18, 2026, the bill is in the Senate floor process and ordered to third reading.

AB 1832 - 2-1-1 Information and Referral Response System: Would strengthen California's 2-1-1 system as statewide emergency and community-information infrastructure. As of August 18, 2026, the bill is in the Senate floor process and ordered to third reading.

AB 299 - Disaster Lodging: Chaptered urgency law allows qualifying disaster-displaced guests to remain in hotels, motels, or eligible short-term lodging for up to 270 days before specified tenancy provisions apply.

S. 372 - Investing in Community Resilience Act: Federal proposal would expand FEMA Public Assistance cost-share incentives to include qualifying preparedness and resilience measures and support for viable CERT or equivalent disaster-assistance organizations.

H.R. 4669 - FEMA Act of 2025: Would make broad changes to FEMA and federal disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery programs; the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee ordered the measure favorably reported, as amended.

2. California EM At-a-Glance Dashboard

Issue	Status	Primary EM Impact	Leadership
SB 1001	ACTIVE - HELD / MONITOR	Critical infrastructure restoration; disaster-area access	🛡️
AB 1069	LAW - IMPLEMENTATION	AFN shelter coordination; continuity of services	
AB 1285	LAW - IMPLEMENTATION	BESS responder safety; information sharing	
AB 1805	ACTIVE - MONITOR	NG 9-1-1 governance; oversight; continuity	🛡️
AB 1068	ACTIVE - HELD / MONITOR	AFN evacuation; LTC; mutual aid	
AB 1795	ACTIVE - SENATE FLOOR	Wildfire recovery; habitability/remediation	
AB 1832	ACTIVE - SENATE FLOOR	2-1-1; emergency information; recovery coordination	🛡️
AB 299	LAW - IMPLEMENTATION	Disaster lodging; temporary housing; recovery	
H.R. 4669	FEDERAL - MONITOR	Potential FEMA/disaster program reform	
S. 372	FEDERAL - MONITOR	Preparedness/resilience incentives; CERT support	

3. California Legislative Update

🛡️ [SB 1001 - Local Agency, Public Utility, or Mutual Water Company: Personnel Access: PIV-I](#) [🔗](#)

STATUS	ACTIVE - HELD / MONITOR
WHAT CHANGED	Beginning July 1, 2028, would require Cal OES, upon request, to issue PIV-I credentials for eligible local agency, public utility, or mutual water company personnel responsible for public works and critical infrastructure. Access remains subject to incident commander/law-enforcement safety control. The bill was held in Senate Appropriations under submission on May 14, 2026.
WHY EM CARES	Restoration of water, power, wastewater, and other lifelines often depends on getting qualified personnel into controlled areas quickly while preserving responder and public safety.
EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION	Review disaster-area access, credentialing, re-entry, and critical-infrastructure restoration procedures and how they interface with law enforcement, incident command, EOCs, mutual aid, and lifeline partners.

[AB 1069 - Older Adults: Emergency Shelters](#) [🔗](#)

STATUS	LAW - IMPLEMENTATION (Chapter 445, Statutes of 2025)
WHAT CHANGED	Requires a county welfare director representative, coordinated with the lead local sheltering agency, to initiate an MOU with an Area Agency on Aging, Independent Living Center, or ADRC program so those partners can access emergency shelters during active events.
WHY EM CARES	Places continuity of services for older adults and persons with disabilities directly into shelter planning and operations.
EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION	Assess how local shelter plans, mass care operations, AFN procedures, and partner-agency access implement the new requirement.

[AB 1285 - State Fire Marshal: Lithium-Ion Battery Facilities: Guidance](#)**STATUS****WHAT CHANGED****WHY EM CARES****EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION****LAW - IMPLEMENTATION (Chapter 637, Statutes of 2025)**

Requires the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with Cal OES, to develop fire prevention, response, and recovery measures for utility-grade lithium-ion battery storage facilities, including responder-safety practices and timely information sharing with local emergency managers and public safety agencies.

BESS incidents can require prolonged fire/hazmat operations, air monitoring, protective-action decisions, public messaging, facility coordination, and recovery.

Watch for state guidance and verify BESS preplans, EOP/ERP interfaces, notification protocols, evacuation/shelter considerations, responder safety information, and operator contacts.

 [AB 1805 - Emergency Services: State 911 Advisory Board](#)**STATUS****WHAT CHANGED****WHY EM CARES****EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION****ACTIVE - MONITOR**

Would revise State 911 Advisory Board membership and oversight, add Department of Technology oversight for specified 911 functions, require quarterly Cal OES reporting on NG 9-1-1 implementation, impose conditions on future NG 9-1-1 contracting, and require a State Auditor review. The bill passed the Assembly and remains in the Senate committee process.

9-1-1 and NG 9-1-1 are foundational emergency communications infrastructure. Governance, reliability, cybersecurity, statewide deployment, and PSAP transition directly affect public access to emergency services and continuity.

Monitor NG 9-1-1 implementation, PSAP transition, system resiliency, interoperability, cybersecurity, and connections among 9-1-1, emergency alerting, public information, and broader communications planning.

[AB 1068 - Emergency Services Available During Natural Disasters](#)**STATUS****WHAT CHANGED****WHY EM CARES****EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION****ACTIVE - HELD / MONITOR**

Would establish a state working group to recommend best practices for evacuation and sheltering of older adults and persons with disabilities living in long-term care facilities, including mutual-aid evacuation issues. The bill has been held under submission in Senate Appropriations since August 29, 2025.

Large-scale care-facility evacuations require accessible transportation, medical support, receiving facilities, tracking, communications, and continuity of care.

Monitor for future movement and implications for AFN annexes, healthcare coalition coordination, transportation, sheltering, mutual aid, and facility evacuation planning.

[AB 1795 - Smoke Damage Recovery Act](#)**STATUS****WHAT CHANGED****WHY EM CARES****EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION****ACTIVE - SENATE FLOOR**

Would establish statewide health and insurance standards related to inspection, testing, remediation, habitability, and claims handling for wildfire smoke-damaged residential property. The Senate Appropriations Committee passed the bill August 13, 2026, and it was ordered to third reading.

Post-wildfire recovery increasingly includes standing homes affected by smoke and ash contamination, creating public-health, habitability, re-entry, public-information, insurance, and recovery-assistance issues.

Monitor impacts to post-fire messaging, re-entry/repopulation, environmental/public-health coordination, survivor assistance, insurance interfaces, and long-term community recovery.

[AB 1832 - 2-1-1 Information and Referral Response System](#)**STATUS****WHAT CHANGED****WHY EM CARES****EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION****ACTIVE - SENATE FLOOR**

Would establish a statewide framework supporting 2-1-1 coverage, staffing, multilingual and multichannel access, emergency operations planning, mutual-aid readiness, disaster activation, community-needs information, and recovery support. The bill was amended August 13 and ordered to third reading August 17, 2026.

2-1-1 can provide disaster information and referrals, identify community needs, support mass-care and recovery information, and reduce non-emergency demand on 9-1-1.

Consider 2-1-1 within Joint Information System procedures, EOC coordination, call-center planning, shelter/resource messaging, unmet-needs identification, disaster activation, mutual aid, and recovery referrals.

[AB 299 - Motels, Hotels, and Short-Term Lodging: Disasters](#)**STATUS****WHAT CHANGED****WHY EM CARES****EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION****LAW - IMPLEMENTATION (Chapter 531, Statutes of 2025)**

Allows qualifying disaster-displaced guests to remain in hotels, motels, or eligible short-term lodging for up to 270 days before the stay is treated as a tenancy under specified provisions. The urgency law took effect October 10, 2025 and sunsets January 1, 2031.

Temporary lodging is a major bridge between immediate mass care and longer-term housing after disasters.

Understand how disaster lodging may support interim housing strategies and coordinate messaging with mass care, housing, human services, lodging partners, and recovery organizations.

4. Federal Legislative & FEMA Watch

[H.R. 4669 - Fixing Emergency Management for Americans Act of 2025 \(FEMA Act of 2025\)](#)**STATUS: FEDERAL - MONITOR**

Would authorize and revise FEMA and federal disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery programs. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee ordered the measure favorably reported, as amended, on September 3, 2025. Major FEMA restructuring or program reform can affect declarations, mitigation, preparedness grants, recovery administration, local workload, and federal-state-local-Tribal relationships.

EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION: Continue monitoring rather than assuming proposed reforms are final. Significant movement may warrant Leadership Review for agencies that rely heavily on FEMA preparedness, mitigation, PA/IA, or recovery programs.

[S. 372 - Investing in Community Resilience Act of 2025](#)**STATUS: FEDERAL - MONITOR**

Would expand activities eligible for increased FEMA Public Assistance federal cost-share incentives to include specified preparedness and resilience investments and support for viable CERTs or equivalent disaster-assistance organizations. The bill remains introduced and referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

EM IMPACT / CONSIDERATION: Worth monitoring because it directly connects preparedness and community resilience investments to post-disaster Public Assistance incentives.

5. Policy & Regulatory Watch

[California SEMS](#) - Monitor SEMS maintenance, EOC organization, mutual aid, resource ordering, credentialing, and local/Tribal interfaces.

[Next Generation 9-1-1](#)  - Continue monitoring statewide deployment, PSAP transition, governance, system resiliency, interoperability, cybersecurity, and continuity as California modernizes its emergency communications infrastructure.

[FEMA Tribal Declarations Guidance](#)  - Maintain awareness of direct Tribal declaration options, federal assistance processes, and government-to-government coordination.

6. AFN / Evacuation / Sheltering

AB 1069 is now an implementation issue and directly affects how aging/disability partners can support people in active emergency shelters.

AB 1068 remains the forward-looking AFN item, although held in Senate Appropriations, and may influence future evacuation and sheltering requirements for long-term care populations.

Statewide value: emergency managers, healthcare partners, transportation providers, fire agencies, Tribal Nations, and other partners can compare assumptions before an evacuation exposes gaps in accessible transportation, receiving sites, power-dependent medical equipment support, or continuity of services.

7. Wildfire, BESS & Critical Infrastructure

- AB 1285 moves BESS preparedness from an emerging issue toward formal state guidance and implementation.
- SB 1001 addresses the practical challenge of restoring critical infrastructure inside controlled disaster areas.
- AB 1805 connects NG 9-1-1 governance, statewide implementation, system accountability, cybersecurity, and continuity of emergency communications to California's broader emergency-management communications environment.
- AB 1795 highlights the recovery side of wildfire: smoke contamination, habitability, remediation, public health, insurance, and survivor recovery.

8. Funding & Grant Watch

- Preparedness reporting and grant requirements continue to shape state, local, and Tribal preparedness capacity.
- Mitigation eligibility remains tied in many programs to current FEMA-approved state, local, or Tribal hazard mitigation plans.
- Track grant changes as an operational-capacity issue: staffing, EOC capability, planning, training/exercises, communications, cybersecurity, mitigation, and recovery all depend on stable and accessible funding.

9. Tribal / Intergovernmental Considerations

- California emergency management operates across state, county, municipal, Tribal, special district, fire-service, and other public-sector governance structures. Legislative and policy changes may affect these organizations differently based on authorities, eligibility, jurisdiction, and operational responsibilities.
- Tribal Nations maintain sovereign governmental authorities and may interact directly with federal agencies or participate within state and regional emergency-management structures depending on the program or incident. Coordination should preserve government-to-government relationships and Tribal sovereignty.
- Special districts and other lifeline partners are critical to water, infrastructure, utilities, healthcare, and restoration. Legislation affecting access, communications, and grant eligibility can have statewide operational consequences.
-  Leadership Review flags are intentionally neutral. They indicate that an issue may be worth elevating internally; each member agency determines its own position and engagement.

10. Emerging Issues for Emergency Managers

- Artificial Intelligence in Emergency Management - governance, data protection, misinformation, warning, decision support, documentation, and procurement standards.
- Communications Dependency - NG 9-1-1, wireless resiliency, alerting platforms, PSPS, backup power, satellite capability, and cyber resilience as one interconnected emergency communications problem.
- BESS / Energy Transition Hazards - cross-discipline planning among emergency management, fire/hazmat, environmental health, utilities, planning/building, facility operators, public health, and public information.
- Recovery Readiness - AB 299, AB 1795, and other recovery policy developments reinforce the need to plan for temporary housing, survivor services, insurance, habitability, infrastructure restoration, and continuity of community services before a disaster.

11. What California Emergency Managers Should Watch Next

- Movement on AB 1805, AB 1795, AB 1832, and other emergency-management-relevant measures as the 2025-2026 California legislative session approaches its conclusion; continue monitoring held measures including SB 1001 and AB 1068 for any further action.
- Any significant federal movement on H.R. 4669, S. 372, or FEMA authorities, grant structures, disaster declarations, mitigation, preparedness incentives, or recovery programs.
- State Fire Marshal/Cal OES implementation guidance stemming from AB 1285.
- Local implementation of AB 1069 and AB 299, including shelter/AFN partner access, continuity of services, temporary lodging, and longer-term survivor housing coordination.
- California NG 9-1-1 deployment and implementation developments, including PSAP transition, system governance, resiliency, cybersecurity, and continuity.
- Preparedness and mitigation funding notices, allocations, eligibility changes, match requirements, and reporting requirements.
- SEMS, cybersecurity, emergency communications, and AI policy developments with statewide operational consequences.

Official Sources & Monitoring Links

Bill and policy titles throughout this brief are hyperlinked to official legislative, regulatory, or program sources whenever available. Use the embedded links for current bill text, amendments, status, votes, guidance, and implementation information. This brief intentionally prioritizes issues with clear emergency-management relevance rather than attempting to catalog every disaster-related measure.

- [California Legislative Information](#) 
- [California Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) 
- [FEMA](#) 
- [Congress.gov](#) 

Legislative and policy status verified August 18, 2026.