

Disasters Happen

Disasters Happen is a National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) funded grant to help UC ANR staff and academics to better prepare for and respond to disasters in California communities.



ANR Vision - "To positively impact the life of each of California's 40+ million residents"

We harness new scientific and technological innovations to protect our people, our environments and our food. We work in communities throughout the state to provide practical, science-based solutions that people trust.

This project addresses:

Promoting healthy people and communities - Improved community health and wellness

Building climate-resilient communities and ecosystems - Increased preparedness and resilience to extreme weather and climate change

Critical Issues: Disasters including are increasingly impacting communities across California. Because of the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Cooperative Extension (UC ANR) presence in local communities across the state, personnel are finding themselves responding to local disasters in a variety of new ways. When it comes to drought and wildfire in particular, UC ANR has been playing a critical preparation and recovery roll for decades. At the same time, because of the size and geographic spread of UC ANR, disaster approaches and materials have tended to develop piecemeal.

Public Value and Impact: Given the frequency of disasters in California, it is critical that UC ANR personnel feel prepared to engage before, during, and after emergencies. That means not only having our own materials and programs in order, but also having a clear sense of where we fit in the emergency response landscape and ensuring that personnel are equipped to deal with what can often be tense and traumatic times.

Target Audience: The target audience for the project is over 1,400 UC ANR staff and academics. All materials will be made available for personnel to access at any time to better assist their communities.

Project Goals & Objectives: By conducting a census of all UC ANR websites and administering a survey we collect system wide disaster preparedness resources. All UC ANR academics and staff will be invited to complete an online survey, meant to identify disaster preparedness and response activities.

- Gain a clear understanding of the disaster resources that exist across UC ANR programs and initiatives.
- Develop and distribute templates of disaster resources that can be customized for specific disasters.
- Develop a guide to the disaster preparation, response, recovery landscape, and how UC ANR fits.
- Convene UC ANR virtual town hall around disaster preparedness and response.

Statewide Presence and How We Connect: UC ANR is the statewide division of the University of California that administers Cooperative Extension (UCCE). UCCE is a network with a focus on research, education programs, and outreach to solve local and state challenges. Existing units including Central Sierra Cooperative Extension and the California Institute for Water Resources will lead the grant in close collaboration with Risk and Safety Services and the Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Sciences program. In addition to statewide collaboration, UC ANR is also part of the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) <https://eden.lsu.edu/>.

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