



FIRESCOPE QUARTERLY BRIEF APRIL 2026

TULARE / KERN COUNTY MULTI-VEHICLE INCIDENT



Photo Credit: ABC 7 News

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS



Congratulations!

Chief Dustin Gardner (VNC)
Now serving as the
FIRESCOPE Board of Directors Chairman

Chief Dan Muncey (BDC)
Now serving as the
FIRESCOPE Board of Directors
Vice-Chairman

WELCOME NEW CAL OES DIRECTOR



Welcome!

Director Caroline Thomas Jacobs
Cal OES Director
Appointed by Governor Newsom on
March 3rd, 2026

DEPARTING ACCOLADES



John Goss
National Park Service
Deputy Fire Management Officer



Nate Gogna
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Fire Manager



Jebediah Koons
Regional Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife

FIRESCOPE would like to thank all Department of Interior Chiefs that have served on the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors. We look forward to continue working with Chief Peter Kelly as the USWFS Board of Directors Representative.

DEPARTING ACCOLADES



Photo Credit: Cal OES Ops Team



Chief Chad Cook
Ventura County Fire
38 years in the fire service
10 years of combined work on
FIRESCOPE

FIRESCOPE would like to thank Chief Cook, for his leadership, commitment, and contributions to the fire service in California! His selfless dedication embodies the spirit and mission of FIRESCOPE.

NEW MEMBERS



James "Whit" MacDonald
Contra Costa County Fire
Protection District
Now serving as the Task Force
representative to Fire Districts North



Bob Counts
CAL FIRE Staff Chief
Now Serving on the Ops Team
representative for CAL FIRE

FIREScope would like to thank Chief James "Whit" MacDonald and Chief Bob Counts for their continued contributions to the fire service in California and the mission of FIREScope.

Task Force Members in Action



The Fire Operations Technology Summit is a three-day exclusive event that brought together fire operations chiefs from across the state, along with emerging technology partners servicing fire and EMS industries, with the goal of improving operations and firefighter safety.

APRIL 2026

Ontario Mutual Aid Response 6-Alarm Commercial Structure Fire



INCIDENT

- The Six-alarm Hellman Incident activated the California Mutual Aid System, bringing twelve assisting agencies to support Ontario Fire Department.
- This coordination enabled rapid deployment of engines, trucks, chiefs officers, and support staff into a unified command structure.
- Resources integrated seamlessly into ICS, reinforcing standardized FIRESCOPE operations and interagency cooperation.
- Hazardous Materials units and the Assistant Fire Marshal addressed environmental and air-quality concerns under public health authority.



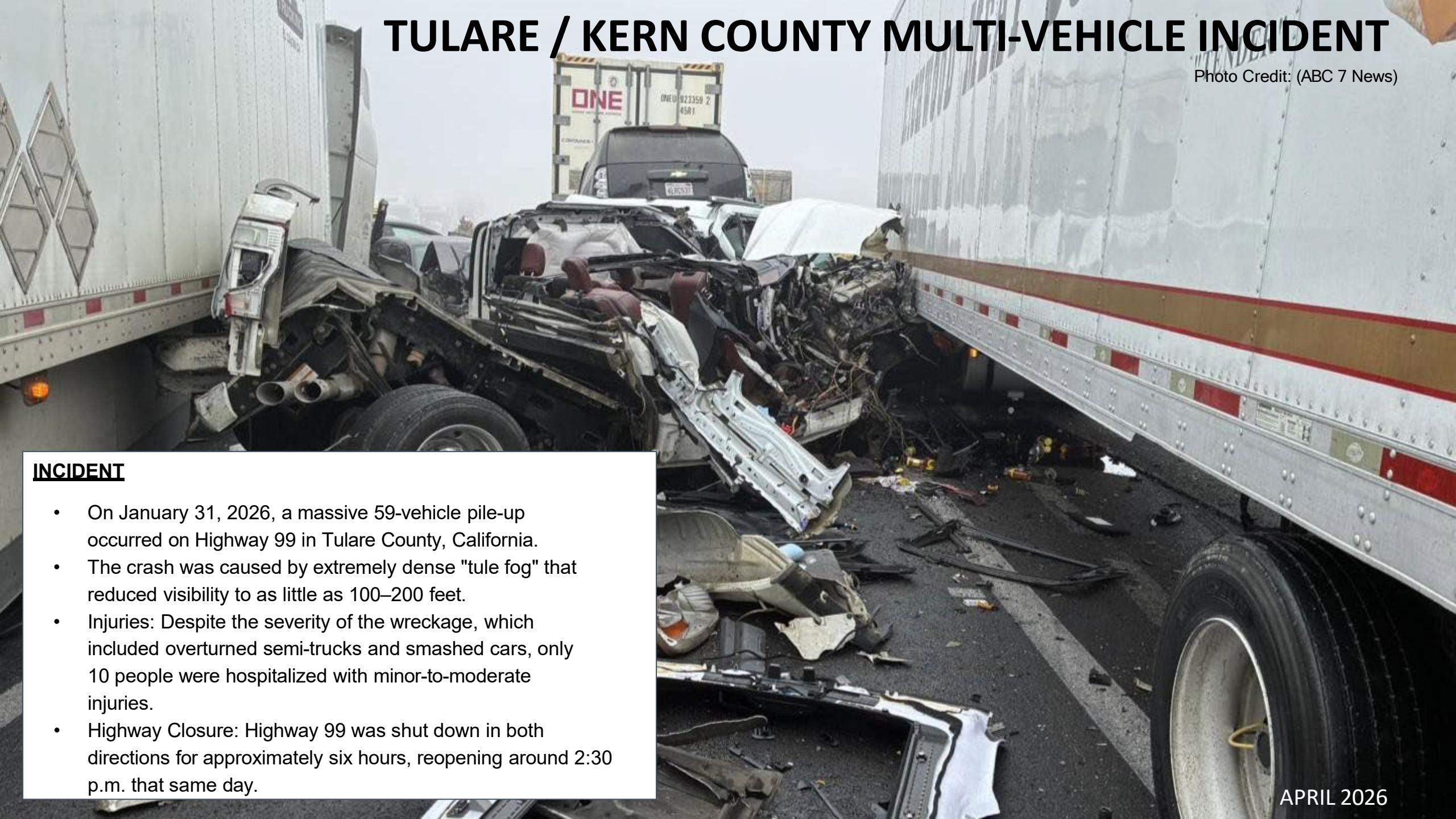
Photo Credit: San Bernardino Co. FD



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TULARE / KERN COUNTY MULTI-VEHICLE INCIDENT

Photo Credit: (ABC 7 News)



INCIDENT

- On January 31, 2026, a massive 59-vehicle pile-up occurred on Highway 99 in Tulare County, California.
- The crash was caused by extremely dense "tule fog" that reduced visibility to as little as 100–200 feet.
- Injuries: Despite the severity of the wreckage, which included overturned semi-trucks and smashed cars, only 10 people were hospitalized with minor-to-moderate injuries.
- Highway Closure: Highway 99 was shut down in both directions for approximately six hours, reopening around 2:30 p.m. that same day.

APRIL 2026

Super Bowl LX Support

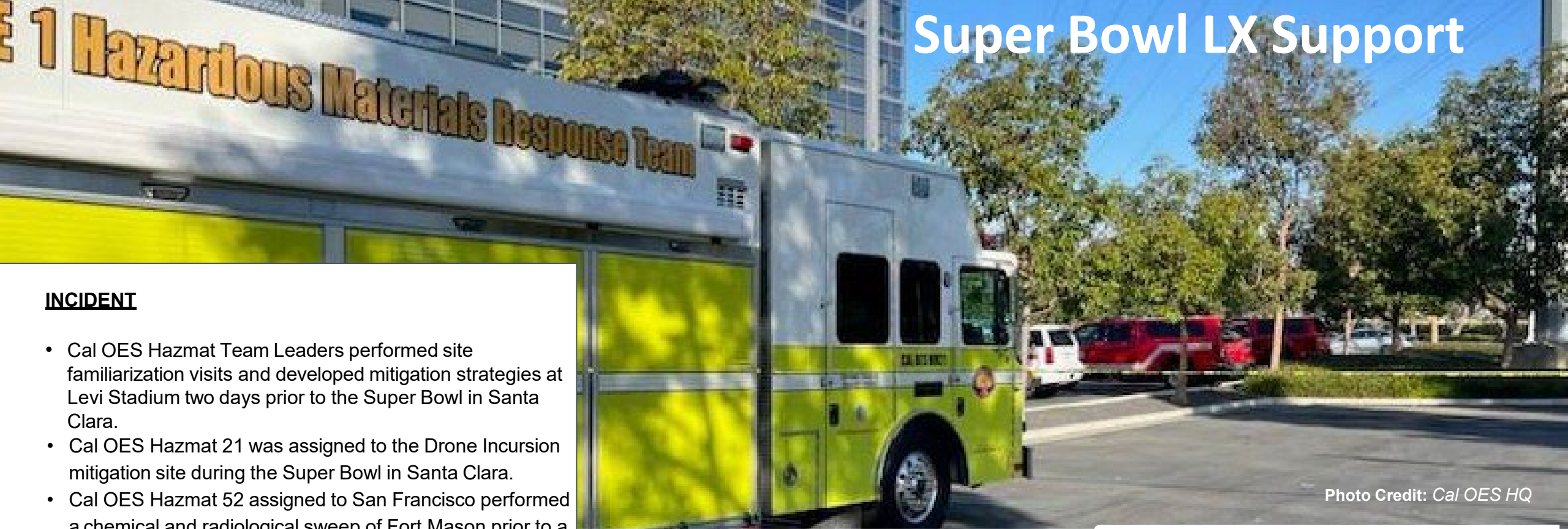


Photo Credit: Cal OES HQ

INCIDENT

- Cal OES Hazmat Team Leaders performed site familiarization visits and developed mitigation strategies at Levi Stadium two days prior to the Super Bowl in Santa Clara.
- Cal OES Hazmat 21 was assigned to the Drone Incursion mitigation site during the Super Bowl in Santa Clara.
- Cal OES Hazmat 52 assigned to San Francisco performed a chemical and radiological sweep of Fort Mason prior to a Post Malone concert.
- Cal OES Hazmat 52 staff performed site familiarization visits and developed mitigation strategies at numerous SEAR 1 sites in San Francisco.
- Cal OES Hazmat 52 Team Leaders interfaced San Francisco EOC and DOC operational sites to discuss capabilities and to network with City Fire and Law staff.



Photo Credit: Cal OES HQ



Photo Credit: Cal OES HQ

APRIL 2026

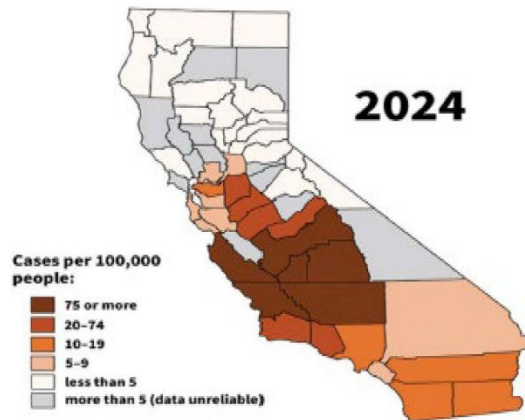


SAFETY BULLETIN

Date: March 26, 2026

Subject: Actions Required if Contact to Valley Fever Dust Is Detected or Reported

Valley Fever is on the Rise in California



Issue:

Required Action: Managers and supervisors must ensure that all employees, volunteers, and emergency personnel under their oversight receive and understand this Safety Alert.

You may not see it but it's there

Evacuate Immediately

- o Leave the area at once.
- o Move upwind to a safe location away from the structure.

Avoid Tainted Sources

- o Do not operate heavy equipment.
- o Do not dig in the affected area.
- o Do not operate rotor wing aircraft in areas.

Valley Fever Safety Bulletin

Joint effort collaboration
FIRESCOPE & CWCG
 Safety Subcommittees



Facts about Valley Fever

Valley fever, or coccidioidomycosis, is an illness caused by fungal spores found in the soil in the southwestern United States and south-central Washington. Valley fever is contracted by breathing in spores from soil or airborne dust particles. Valley fever is typically not contagious (cannot spread person-to-person).

Many people exposed to Valley fever never have symptoms. Others may develop symptoms one to three weeks following exposure to contaminated soil or dust.

Symptoms

- Fatigue (extreme tiredness)
- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Night sweats
- Muscle aches or joint pain
- Rash on upper body or legs

Symptoms usually last for a few weeks to a few months, while severe cases may extend beyond this. Individuals who develop symptoms consistent with Valley fever and seek medical care may be asked by their healthcare providers to complete a medical and travel history, to provide information about their symptoms, and to undergo physical examinations and laboratory tests to accurately diagnose Valley fever. In some cases, Valley fever can cause severe illness. This is more common in individuals with certain risk factors.

For more information visit
 CWCG Website:



Cough and fever are common symptoms of Valley fever.

Recruiting for the New **FIRESCOPE Energy Subcommittee**



Join us in addressing the complex intersection of modern energy systems and emergency response

Why Join the Energy Subcommittee?

- Tackle emerging hazards from electric vehicles, battery storage, hydrogen systems, renewables, and more. Improve multi-agency for grid resilience and energy emergencies.
- Develop best practices for first responders facing complex energy incidents.

Contact Robert Rezende, rrezende@sandiego.gov





THE CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER CANCER RESEARCH STUDY

There are over 3,000 firefighters from over 60 fire departments participating in the California Firefighter Cancer Research Study (CAFF-CRS) and the study remains open for enrollment.

Additional information is available at:
<https://studypages.com/s/california-firefighter-cancer-research-study-215220/>

U.S. WOMEN 18-65

Half of U.S. women aged 18-65 had less than 5.84 ng/ml of the NASEM sum of 7 PFAS in samples tested by NHANES in 2017-2020

U.S. MEN 18-65

Half of U.S. men aged 18-65 had less than 9.28 ng/ml of the NASEM sum of 7 PFAS in samples tested by NHANES in 2017-2020

not detected

0.1
ng/mL

1

10

100

SERUM PFAS DATA

Each blue circle shows the sum of 7 PFAS chemicals measured in the blood of a firefighter participating in CAFF-CRS. This data is reported back to CAFF-CRS participants individually through the Digital Exposure Report Back Interface (DERBI).

The 7 PFAS in this measurement are specified by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and include: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFDA, PFUnDA, PFNA, and Me-PFOSA-AcOH.

Additional information is available at:
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/publications/26156>

Additional analyses including metals, whole genome DNA methylation, RNA transcriptomics, and proteomics are underway.

STUDY MEDIAN

Half of firefighters participating in CAFF-CRS had less than 5.8 ng/ml of the NASEM sum of 7 PFAS in samples tested in 2025

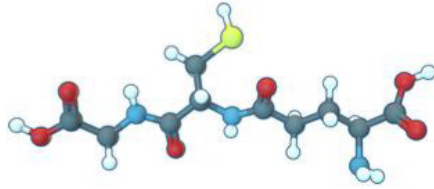
MEDICAL MONITORING GUIDELINE

According to the NASEM, levels above 20 ng/ml may increase risk for adverse health outcomes and clinical guidance for follow up is recommended.

Additional information is available at:
<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/26156/PFAS%20Guidance%20Highlights.pdf>

Glutathione

What you should know



1

What is Glutathione?



A naturally occurring substance in the body



It is produced by the liver



Glutathione is one of multiple antioxidants our bodies create and use to remove waste



2

Addressing Common Misconceptions

Misconception:

Glutathione supplements are an effective treatment option to reduce PFAS in the body.

Clarification:

Very little research exists. Only a small number of firefighters have been researched in a study where much of the data is not publicly available. Without knowing baseline levels, interpreting reported reductions is difficult.

Misconception:

Glutathione is an effective treatment option to decrease oxidative stress in the body.

Clarification:

The effect of glutathione on reducing oxidative stress is different in everyone, depending on factors such as genetics and other health conditions.

Misconception:

Glutathione supplements can increase levels in the body leading to positive health effects.

Clarification:

Raising glutathione levels with supplementation may be helpful in some cases, like for those who have non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. In this case, it has shown beneficial effects. But there is no clarity on how helpful supplements are in individuals without liver disease.

3 Things to Keep in Mind:

There is currently insufficient evidence about the long-term lung or overall health effects of glutathione interventions, including how long-term health effects can be impacted by job exposures.

There are no peer-reviewed, published, scientific studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of using glutathione supplements to cleanse the body.

Glutathione therapy methods are not approved by the FDA. All prescription drugs must pass a rigorous review process to prove safety and efficacy.

4 Increase Your Antioxidants:

Antioxidants play an important role in the body to remove waste, like byproducts of metabolism, and other environmental factors, like pollutants.

Here are some ways evidence shows us you can increase your antioxidant levels:

↓ Limit alcohol consumption

↑ Eat foods rich in antioxidants:

• salmon



• apples



• spinach



• whole grains



• avocado



• carrots



• strawberries



Created by the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center Office of Outreach and Education

• National Cancer Institute. Definition of glutathione. NCI Drug Dictionary. <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-drug/def/glutathione>. Accessed October 14, 2025.
• UCLA Health. Ask the Doctors: What do glutathione supplements do? <https://www.uclahealth.org/news/article/ask-the-doctors-what-do-glutathione-supplements-do>. Accessed October 14, 2025.
• Soliman M, Whelan C. Glutathione benefits for your health and body. Healthline. September 26, 2024. <https://www.healthline.com/health/glutathione-benefits>. Accessed October 14, 2025.
• Rahaman MM, Hossain R, Herrera-Bravo J, et al. Natural antioxidants from some fruits, seeds, foods, natural products, and associated health benefits: an update. Food Sci Nutr. 2023;11(4):1657-1670. doi:10.1002/fsn3.3217. PMID: PMC10084981.

FIRESCOPE / GACC MAC Group Exercise - May 13, 2026

Orange County Fire Authority Headquarters – Irvine, CA



Southern California

Orange County Fire Authority

1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602

This exercise is a great opportunity for participants to experience the value in completing high quality ICS 209's and understanding of mutual aid resource allocation.

Exercise starts at 0830

Use QR-Code to RSVP



APRIL 2026

NEWLY APPROVED DOCUMENTS AND UPDATES



[ICS 162-5](#)
[FIRESCOPE Arbor](#)
[Technical Rescue OSD](#)



[ICS 500](#)
[FIRESCOPE Structure](#)
[Fire Operations](#)



[ICS 510](#)
[FIRESCOPE Structure Fire](#)
[Incident Commander Job Aid](#)



[MACS 400-1](#)
[FIRESCOPE](#)
[Document Control](#)
[System](#)



[MACS 441](#)
[FIRESCOPE Radio](#)
[Communications](#)
[Guidelines](#)



[FIRESCOPE CAD-TO-CAD](#)
[Typing Recommendation](#)
[Executive Summary](#)
[Whitepaper](#)



[Legacy BK Radio Phase Out](#)
[and Minimum Radio](#)
[Standards Whitepaper](#)

IROC / IQS integration

California Fire Chiefs Association hosted an IQS webinar on February 18, with over 250 participants. The link to the webinar and quick start guide can be found on the Cal Chiefs website.

We just completed 2 days of IQS training in Sacramento for departments on March 4-5.

We continue to integrate several departments into IQS, with 2700 records moved to IQS and 72 departments complete. We have 7015 records to complete. We have 127 departments in process, so more than half the departments have begun or completed the process.





Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



FEMA

FMAG Resource Information



[FEMA FMAG Webpage](#)



[Cal OES FMAG Webpage](#)



San Diego Fire-Rescue - January Flooding
Photo Credit: SDFD PIO



LA County Fire – January Flooding
Photo Credit: LA County Fire

FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE (FOG) – ICS 420-1 APPLICATION



Very few hard copies left! Purchase here:

Providing crucial information to first responders since 1983, FIRESCOPE is proud to present the interactive Field Operations Guide ICS 420-1. Easily access valuable information such as Wildland Fire Management Guiding Principles, Tactical Engagement, Levels of Engagement, Powerline Safety, and a Structure Assessment Checklist.

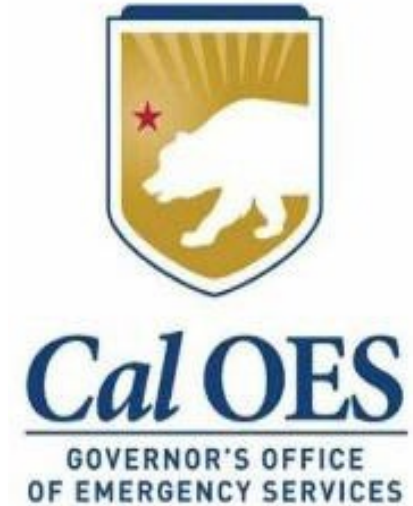
Download the Free App

The 2022 FOG is available as a free download on the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play App Store](#). View the [2022 FOG App privacy policy here](#).

Android



Apple iOS



Fire Asset Status Tracker (FAST)



FAST was developed and will be implemented as a modern, mobile application to optimize the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System resource order filling and mobilization processes. The application will allow local fire agencies to provide real-time resource status updates while streamlining communication, improving coordination, and easing decision-making across the fire service to expedite all-hazard resources assignments and minimize losses to life and property.

FAST proactive Impacts to the California Fire Service: Provide a primarily mobile application

- Simplify the user experience
- Allow real-time status updates

Track statewide all-hazard fire resources

- Cal OES Fire & Rescue Assignments
- Local Government Apparatus and Overhead
- Track Resource Statuses

Rapidly onboard agencies via [Mutual Aid Reimbursement \(Mars\)](#)

- Primary and Secondary User Access

Provide intel with robust data collection

- Inventory Tracker survey
- Fleet Management & Out of Service process
- Real-time dashboards and MACS 405 reports

Enable integration capabilities

- Slack

FAST Project Status and Rollout:

- Completed Final UAT feedback with Program Team on February 1, 2024.
- Finished development and deployed to production on February 5, 2024.
- Presented Production Release Overview and Demo on February 15, 2024.
- Presented to Cal OES Fire and Rescue Chiefs on February 28, 2024.
- Enabled production environment access to Cal OES in March 2024
- Rolled out to the California Fire Service through an enhanced training plan.



[FAST Link](#)



FIRESCOPE RECRUITMENT

FIRESCOPE is always looking for subject matter experts to participate in the FIRESCOPE Subcommittees.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

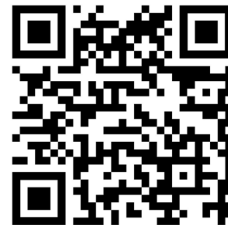
A full description of the duties and responsibilities of Subcommittee members can be found on the FIRESCOPE website under the MACS 410-9 Document, [or by clicking here.](#)

INTEREST FORM

This [FORM](#) is designed to capture members that are interested in filling available FIRESCOPE Subcommittee positions.



[MACS 410-9](#)



[WHAT IS FIRESCOPE?](#)



[INTEREST FORM](#)



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of FIRESCOPE is to provide recommendations and technical guidance to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) on matters involving mutual aid; to maintain the FIRESCOPE decision process; and to continue the operation, development, and maintenance of the FIRESCOPE Incident Command System (ICS) and the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS)

FIRESCOPE VISION STATEMENT

The FIRESCOPE vision is to continue national leadership in the development of all-hazard incident and multi-agency coordination systems, to enhance and encourage full participation by the California fire service in the statewide Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, and to provide a common voice for the California fire service relating to these issues.

FIRESCOPE ADVISORY MESSAGE



Deputy Chief Jim Johnstone
James.johnstone@caloes.ca.gov
951.312.8966



The Quarterly Brief is intended to be widely shared among the California fire service, its federal partners, and affected stakeholders.

Agency Administrators, or responsible representatives, should ensure that this material is thoroughly reviewed and communicated within their respective organizations.

VISIT THE FIRESCOPE WEBSITE:
<https://firescope.caloes.ca.gov>

