### Chapter 2.68 EMERGENCY SERVICES25

**Parts:**

#### Part 1 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.68.010 Title of provisions.

This chapter shall be known as and may be cited as the "emergency ordinance."

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.020 Purpose.

The declared purposes of this chapter are to provide for the preparation and carrying out of plans for the protection of life and property within the County of Los Angeles in the event of an emergency; the establishment, coordination and direction of the Los Angeles County operational area and emergency organization; the establishment, coordination and direction of the County of Los Angeles Emergency Management Council; the establishment, coordination and direction of the County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management; and the coordination of the preparatory and emergency functions of the County of Los Angeles with all other public agencies, organizations and individuals.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.030 Construction of language.

Unless the provisions or the context require otherwise, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions set forth in this Part 1 shall govern the construction of this chapter.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.040 Officers and deputies powers and duties.

Whenever a power is granted to, or a duty is imposed upon, a public officer, the power may be exercised, or the duty may be performed, by a deputy of the officer or by a person authorized by the officer, pursuant to law or ordinance, unless this chapter expressly provides otherwise.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.050 Definitions.

A. "Board" means the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles;

B. "California Emergency Services Act" means Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, now comprising sections 8550 to 8668, inclusive, and as amended;

C. "Chair" means the Chair of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles;

D. "Chief Executive Officer" means the Chief Executive Officer of the County of Los Angeles or his or her designee;

E. "Sheriff" means the Sheriff of the County of Los Angeles;

F. "Forester and Fire Warden and/or Fire Chief" means the Forester and Fire Warden of the County of Los Angeles and the Fire Chief of the Consolidated Fire Protection District of the County of Los Angeles;

G. "Director of the Office of Emergency Management" means the Director of the County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management;

H. "County" means the County of Los Angeles;

I. "County District" or variant thereof includes the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the Consolidated Fire Protection District within Los Angeles County, every county waterworks district within Los Angeles County, and every other type of district within Los Angeles County whose governing body is the Board;

J. "Emergency" includes a "local emergency," "state of emergency," and a "state of war emergency" as defined in the California Emergency Services Act;

K. "Emergency Operations Center" means the County Emergency Operations Center, which also serves as the operational area Emergency Operations Center;

L. "Operational area" means the Los Angeles County operational area, which is an intermediate level of the State Emergency Services Organization, consisting of the County and all political subdivisions within the County;

M. "Person" includes every person, firm and corporation;

N. "Section" means a section of this chapter unless some other ordinance or statute is specifically mentioned;

O. "Shall" is mandatory and "may" is permissive;

P. "State" or variant thereof means the State of California; and

Q. "Unified Coordination Group" means a variable group of senior County leaders who will be assembled and led by the Chief Executive Officer during a full activation, and potentially during a partial activation, of the Emergency Operations Center. The composition of the Unified Coordination Group will be determined, on a case-by-case basis, by the Chief Executive Officer depending on the particulars of the given emergency.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

#### Part 2 ORGANIZATIONS

2.68.060 County emergency organization.

A. The County emergency organization shall be comprised of all officers and employees of the County, volunteer forces registered to aid the County during a duly proclaimed emergency, and all groups, organizations and persons who may, by agreement or operation of law (including persons impressed into service under the provisions of Section 2.68.270(G) of this chapter), be charged with duties incident to the protection of life and property in the County during such emergency. The County emergency organization includes such organizations and groups as may offer their services to, and have their services accepted by, the County, prior to, during or after an emergency.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.070 Los Angeles County operational area.

Pursuant to the provisions of the California Emergency Services Act, and the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), the County is the lead agency for the operational area, and the Board is its governing body.

The operational area Emergency Operations Center may be activated and SEMS used in accordance with SEMS regulations.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

#### Part 3 BOARD POWERS

2.68.080 Powers.

The Board specifically reserves the power to initiate, coordinate and direct, except as otherwise provided, all activities made necessary by war or as the result of an emergency that directly affects the County government and requires organized community action within the County. Such power may be exercised by the Chair.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.090 Delegation of powers.

The Board hereby specifically reserves the power to delegate any of its powers, functions or duties to the Chief Executive Officer or to any other officer created by authority of this chapter, or to any other County officer, and to revise and change powers, functions and duties so delegated.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.100 Chair designated as operational area coordinator.

The Chair is hereby designated the operational area coordinator, with responsibility for activating the operational area to coordinate interjurisdictional emergency operations during a "state-of-war emergency", state of emergency, and local emergency, in accordance with SEMS. In the absence of the Chair, in the following priority order, the Chief Executive Officer or the Sheriff may activate the operational area.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.110 Local emergency—Authority to proclaim—Ratification.

The Board, or if the Board is not in session, in the following priority order, the Chair, the Chief Executive Officer, or the Sheriff may proclaim a local emergency. Pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, whenever a local emergency is proclaimed by an authorized County officer, the local emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Board.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.120 Local emergency—Termination.

Pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, the Board shall review at least every 60 days the need to continue the local emergency until such local emergency is terminated and shall proclaim the termination of such local emergency at the earliest practicable date that conditions warrant.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.130 State of emergency—Authority to request.

The Board, or if the Board is not in session, in the following priority order, the Chair, the Chief Executive Officer, or the Sheriff, may request the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency, as specified in the California Emergency Services Act.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.140 Mobilization of County emergency organization.

The Board, or if the Board is not in session, in the following priority order, the Chair, the Chief Executive Officer, or the Sheriff, following a duly proclaimed local emergency or state of emergency, shall have responsibility for requiring the partial or total mobilization of the County emergency organization, if deemed necessary to afford prompt protection and relief to stricken areas.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.150 Authority for emergency orders and regulations.

To provide prompt response to emergency situations following the proclamation of a local emergency as authorized in this chapter, the proclamation of a state of emergency, or the existence of a state-of-war emergency, the Board specifically delegates, in the following priority order, to the Chair, the Chief Executive Officer, or the Sheriff, authority to promulgate orders and regulations to provide for the protection of life and property, including but not limited to orders and regulations imposing a curfew within designated boundaries, where necessary to preserve the public order and safety. All such orders and regulations to be effective must be in writing and signed by the promulgating official, and must be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Board.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.160 Authority for alerts, warnings, and emergency notifications to the public.

The Chief Executive Officer, the Sheriff, the Fire Chief, and the County Director of Public Health are each authorized to issue, disseminate, and coordinate alerts, warnings, and emergency notifications to the public. With respect to such alerts, warnings, and emergency notifications, the Office of Emergency Management is authorized to coordinate consistency of messaging.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

#### Part 4 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2.68.170 Created—Membership.

The County of Los Angeles Emergency Management Council is created and will consist of the following:

A. The Chief Executive Officer, who shall be chair of the Emergency Management Council;

B. The Sheriff, who shall be vice-chair of the Emergency Management Council;

C. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors, or designee;

D. The Fire Chief;

E. The Director, Department of Public Works;

F. The Director, Department of Health Services;

G. The Director, Internal Services Department;

H. The Director, Department of Public Social Services;

I. The Chief Medical Examiner, Department of the Medical Examiner;

J. The Director, Department of Mental Health;

K. The Director, Department of Animal Care and Control;

L. The Director, Department of Regional Planning;

M. The Director, Department of Public Health;

N. The County Superintendent of Schools, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

O. The County Counsel, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

P. The Chief Probation Officer, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

Q. The Director, Department of Children and Family Services, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

R. The Director, Office of Emergency Management, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

S. The Director, Countywide Communications, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

T. The Director, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

U. The Director, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

V. The Agricultural Commissioner, Department of Weights and Measures, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

W. The Director, Department of Beaches and Harbors, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

X. The Director, Department of Human Resources, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

Y. The Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

Z. The Treasurer and Tax Collector, Department of Treasurer and Tax Collector, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

AA. The Executive Director, Los Angeles County Development Authority, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

BB. One member to be nominated by the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Red Cross, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

CC. One member representing an incorporated city in the County, who shall be an ex officio member and without vote;

DD. One member to be nominated by the Emergency Network Los Angeles (ENLA) who shall be an ex officio member and without vote; and

EE. Such other ex officio nonvoting members appointed by the chair of the Emergency Management Council, as appropriate.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.180 Powers and duties.

A. Powers and Duties—Emergency Management Council. The County Emergency Management Council is responsible for overseeing the emergency preparedness activities of the various County departments and coordinating such activities for the operational area to enhance unity of purpose. This includes approving specified emergency management plans, facilitating training of County employees for emergency and disaster-related functions, and organizing related emergency preparedness activities.

B. Powers and Duties—Chair of the Emergency Management Council. The chair of the Emergency Management Council or designee shall:

1. Coordinate the activities of the Emergency Management Council;

2. Establish and maintain liaison with County departments and districts not directly represented on the Emergency Management Council regarding emergency preparedness activities;

3. Coordinate and provide for dissemination of public information relating to emergency preparedness activities, as may be required; and

4. Review and recommend to the Board adoption of the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Plan.

C. Powers and Duties—Emergency Management Council Member Department Heads. Member department heads shall:

1. Formulate and maintain department emergency plans for departmental operations during emergency conditions, including a written plan for activation of the department;

2. Ensure that their department emergency plans are consistent with the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Plan; and

3. Ensure that their department personnel are trained in emergency management/operations and that their designated department personnel participate in regular refresher training and emergency exercises.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.190 Meetings.

The County Emergency Management Council shall meet upon call of the chair of the Emergency Management Council, or in his or her absence or inability to call such meeting, upon call of the vice-chair.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

#### Part 5 EMERGENCY AND DISASTER ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS—ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.68.200 Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for coordinating the County's activities and operations relating to emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.210 Powers and duties.

The Chief Executive Officer shall have the following duties:

A. To maintain, manage, activate, and operate the County Emergency Operations Center at all times, including during an emergency;

B. To assemble and lead a Unified Coordination Group during a full activation of the Emergency Operations Center and, at the Chief Executive Officer's election, during a partial activation of the Emergency Operations Center;

C. To coordinate the utilization of County, other local government, State and federal resources within the operational area;

D. To coordinate operations conducted by the local governments in the Los Angeles County operational area in accordance with approved mutual aid and operations plans;

E. To collect and disseminate information and instructions to other jurisdictions, agencies, and the public;

F. To establish and maintain a recovery coordination center, as warranted, to: (1) coordinate the recovery operations of County departments; and (2) coordinate with State and federal agencies, impacted cities, and other agencies that are part of the County emergency organization; and

G. To respect insofar as possible, in carrying out the above duties, the integrity of local government entities and the unity of their service forces.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.220 Sheriff.

The Sheriff is responsible for operational command and control, direction, and deployment of public safety resources relating to law enforcement.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.230 Powers and duties.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the Sheriff shall have the following duties:

A. To exercise operational command and control, direction, and deployment of public safety resources relating to law enforcement, including during full or partial activation of the Emergency Operations Center;

B. To coordinate law enforcement mutual aid for the County.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.240 Fire Chief.

The Fire Chief is responsible for operational command and control, direction, and deployment of public safety resources relating to fire and rescue services.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.250 Powers and duties.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the Fire Chief shall have the following duties:

A. To exercise operational command and control, direction, and deployment of public safety resources relating to fire and rescue services, including during full or partial activation of the Emergency Operations Center; and

B. To coordinate fire and rescue services mutual aid for the County.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.260 Office of Emergency Management.

A. The County Office of Emergency Management is created within the County Chief Executive Office.

B. The Chief Executive Officer shall appoint the Director of the Office of Emergency Management.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.270 Powers and duties.

The Director of the County Office of Emergency Management shall have the following duties:

A. To organize and coordinate the emergency organization of the County, including coordinating: (1) training, (2) the development and review of the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Plan and Board-ordered departmental emergency plans, and (3) County emergency preparedness activities;

B. To establish and maintain liaison with city governments within Los Angeles County and other governmental and quasi-governmental agencies and volunteer organizations relating to emergency preparedness;

C. To develop appropriate plans, standard operating procedures, and planning guidance in collaboration with other County departments;

D. To prepare and process program papers and applications for federal and State funds;

E. To coordinate: (1) initial disaster recovery services to the public, including the administration of local/federal/State financial aid programs, which may include one-stop disaster assistance centers; (2) applicants' briefing for State and federal grant programs; and (3) provision of County services to expedite recovery;

F. To obtain (for operational and administrative purposes) vital supplies, equipment, and such other properties found lacking and needed for the protection of life and property, and to bind the County for the fair value thereof and, if required immediately, to commandeer the same for public use;

G. To require emergency services of any County officer or employee, and to command the aid of as many citizens of the County as the Director of the Office of Emergency Management deems necessary; and in such event, said persons shall be entitled to all privileges, benefits, and immunities as are provided by State law, including, as applicable, those that apply to registered disaster service workers;

H. To coordinate emergency management mutual aid for the County;

I. To enter into no-cost emergency management agreements;

J. To provide staff support to the Emergency Management Council, as necessary; and

K. To perform such other emergency-related actions as may be assigned or delegated by the Chief Executive Officer.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

#### Part 6 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

2.68.280 Operational area emergency plan—Department and employee responsibilities.

County departments, commissions, agencies, boards, districts, officers, and employees shall have emergency duties, responsibilities, and assignments for war and nonwar emergencies as prescribed in the Los Angeles Operational Area Emergency Plan.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.285 Delegation and succession.

Wherever in this chapter, or by other law, duties or authority for emergency management are designated to the Chief Executive Officer or the Sheriff, both shall designate a chain of succession in the event either officer is not available to immediately act in an emergency and shall file such designation with the executive officer-clerk of the Board. If an emergency occurs in the absence of the principal, the first-level individual on such lists that can be contacted and is able to act shall have the full responsibility and authority to act for the principal officer until relieved by the principal or a person with higher priority on such list.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.290 Volunteers.

Volunteers who perform service in the County emergency organization or for the operational area in accordance with provisions of this chapter shall so serve without compensation. Volunteers performing duties on behalf of the County shall be registered with the Emergency Management Council as "disaster service workers" in order to be eligible for worker's compensation benefits, as provided for starting with section 3201 of Part 1 of Division 4 of the State Labor Code.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.295 Training.

The head of each County department and County District shall ensure that the appropriate level of SEMS training is conducted:

1. For managerial personnel relative to the emergency operations responsibilities of the respective County department and the County emergency organization;

2. For Emergency Operations Center team members, initially upon such assignment and, thereafter as (refresher training), at least annually and as required to maintain essential skills; and

3. For all "field" responders.

Training may be accomplished within the respective department, collectively with other County departments, or by attendance at appropriate training institutions.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.300 Services, supplies, and equipment for special districts.

As consideration for the furnishing of emergency services by any Los Angeles County District, as provided in County and operational area emergency plans, when the emergency period or potential emergency does not arise from conditions the response to which is the responsibility of the County District, the services, supplies, and equipment of every department, agency, board, commission, officer, and employee of the County, and of every other County District, shall be available to said County District during an emergency or threatened emergency arising from conditions within the purview of said County District.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.310 Expenditures.

Any expenditures made in connection with emergency activities, including mutual aid activities, shall be deemed conclusively to be for the direct protection and benefit of the inhabitants of and property in the County.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)

2.68.320 Unlawful acts designated—Penalty for violations.

It is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not to exceed $1,000 or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both, for any person, during an emergency, to:

A. Willfully obstruct, hinder, or delay any member of the County emergency organization in the enforcement of any lawful rule or regulation issued pursuant to this chapter, or in the performance of any responsibility or duty authorized or imposed by virtue of this chapter;

B. Do any act forbidden by any lawful rule or regulation issued pursuant to this chapter, if such act is of such a nature as to give or be likely to give assistance to the enemy or to imperil the lives or property of inhabitants of the County, or to prevent, hinder, or delay the defense or protection thereof; and

C. Wear, carry, or display, without authority, any means of identification specified by the emergency agency of the State, the County, a County District, or any city in the County.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, it shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000 or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both, for any person to violate any curfew or other emergency order or regulation established by any lawful rule, regulation, order, or directive issued pursuant to this chapter. It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of a curfew order that, at the time of such violation, a person was: (1) traveling to or from work or school, (2) experiencing homelessness and without access to a viable shelter, or (3) seeking medical treatment.

( Ord. 2020-0015U § 1, 2020 .)