



Dealing with Emergencies From Natural Disasters

Cold Spring Elementary School District

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Montecito, California

Cold Spring Elementary School District

- ▶ Transitional Kindergarten through Sixth Grade
- ▶ Single School District
- ▶ Basic Aid
- ▶ High Performing Student Achievement



Thomas Fire

December 4, 2017 -
January 12, 2018

School Closed December 6,
2017 - January 2, 2018.



In this photo provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, fire burns canyons and ridges above Bella Vista Drive near Romero Canyon as the fight to contain a wildfire continues in Montecito, Calif., Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017.



Santa Barbara County Firefighters rescue a 14-year-old girl after she was trapped inside a destroyed home during heavy rains in Montecito. Photo provided KING5.com

Montecito Debris Flow

January 9, 2018

School Closed January 8, 2018
- January 16, 2018

[Click for video](#)

Pre-Disaster Planning

Recommended
Actions Before a
Disaster Strikes

Pre-Disaster Planning/Preparation



Internal/
External
Communication
System -

ParentSquare



Emergency
Communication
System -

Crisis Go
Cell Phones
Two-Way Radios
County Emergency
Alert System



Comprehensive
Safety Plan

30-Second
Safety Plan
Clearly define
roles of key
staff



Emergency
Supplies

*(What do you
have / What do
you need)*



Emergency
Contact
Sheet

*First
Responders*
*Critical
Contacts*



Relationship
with the
County
Office,
Neighboring
Districts and
First
Responders



OEM Meeting

Decision to call a Mandatory
Evacuation

Sunday, January 7, 2018


School Closed

Families ask to evacuate
parts of Montecito

Monday, January 8, 2018

Montecito Debris Flow

Tuesday, January 9, 2018



*Coordinating and Collaborating with the Santa
Barbara County Office of Emergency Management*

Pre-Disaster Planning/Curriculum and Instruction

- ▶ Thresholds for Opening and Closing School
- ▶ Alternative Settings for Longer Term Disasters
- ▶ Staff & Student Mobility
- ▶ Educational material and access to resources
- ▶ Meals
- ▶ Impact on instructional days and minutes
- ▶ Recovery of missed instruction; impact to student achievement
- ▶ Social/Emotional Learning and Trauma Recovery
 - ▶ Training Staff



Cold Spring School campus temporarily relocated to alternate site in the Goleta Union School District during Mandatory Evacuations in March.



Disaster

Immediate considerations
when Disaster Strikes

Disaster and Disaster Response

- ▶ Are you Safe? Can you Communicate?
- ▶ Activate Emergency Plan
- ▶ Safety of Staff and Students
 - ▶ Reporting System
 - ▶ Emergency Response
- ▶ Partner Districts
- ▶ Direct Communication with Director
OEM and Director of County Behavioral
Wellness
- ▶ Distribution of Emergency Supplies and
Resources, Local Assistance Center,
Red Cross
- ▶ Communication Center
- ▶ Communicate
 - ▶ Board, ParentSquare, Twitter,
Facebook, Website, Local News,
Bulletin Boards, Candlelight Vigil





*Lydia Sutthithepa, is still missing
Peerawat 'Pasta' Sutthithepa, killed on January 9th
Pinit 'Ooom' Sutthithep, killed on January 9th
Morgan Baker and Sawyer Baker, killed on January 9th*

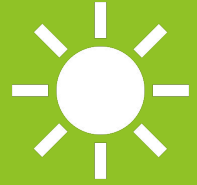


Community - January 10

Montecito Debris Flow Candlelight Vigil

Post Disaster Re-Entry

Restarting School Operations &
Recovery Efforts



Re-Entry/Re-Start of School Post Disaster Response Planning/Preparation

- ▶ Assess the Situation/Identify Priority Needs
- ▶ Call your Insurance Company/Legal Counsel
- ▶ Assess the Financial Impact and Adjust as Needed
- ▶ Identify Sources of Recovery Funding
 - ▶ Local Community
 - ▶ State and Federal Resources
- ▶ Communicate
 - ▶ Board, Parents, Community Forums, Small Groups
- ▶ Be prepared for a subsequent disaster
- ▶ Plan a Re-entry Event - Community BBQ
- ▶ Memorial

Post-Disaster Insurance and Federal/State Grants



SISC

Self-Insured Schools of California

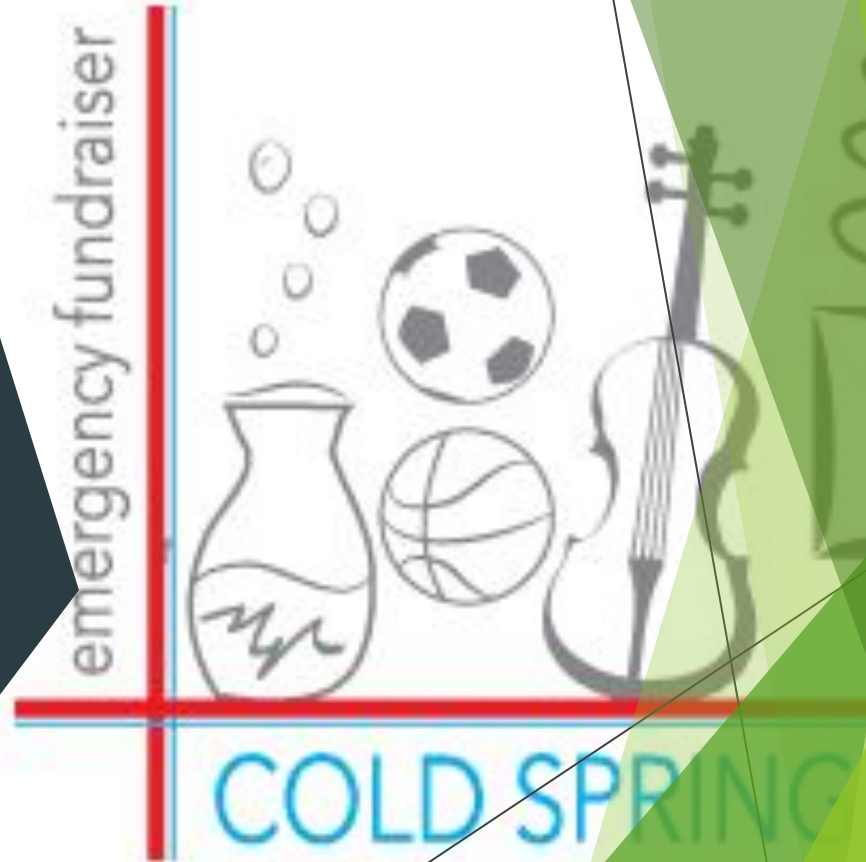
Schools Helping Schools



Clean-up; Repairs; Ash Abatement
Call your Insurance Company or JPA
As Soon As Possible

Financial Loss/Recovery

- ▶ Insurance Proceeds
- ▶ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/CalEMA
- ▶ Project SERV (School Emergency Response to Violence)
- ▶ Restart Grant
- ▶ School and Local Foundations
- ▶ Fundraisers



What is the Restart Grant?

The Restart program is designed to support the provision of immediate services or assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and non-public schools in areas where a major disaster or emergency was declared related to the consequences of the California wildfires in 2017 (“a covered disaster or emergency”). Funds will be used to assist school administrators and personnel in restarting school operations, reopening schools, and re-enrolling students.

DR-4353

California Wildfires,
Flooding, Mudflows, And
Debris Flows

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4353>

- Incident Period:
December 04, 2017 -
January 31, 2018
- Major Disaster
Declaration declared
on January 02, 2018
- Santa Barbara,
Ventura, Los Angeles,
San Diego Counties

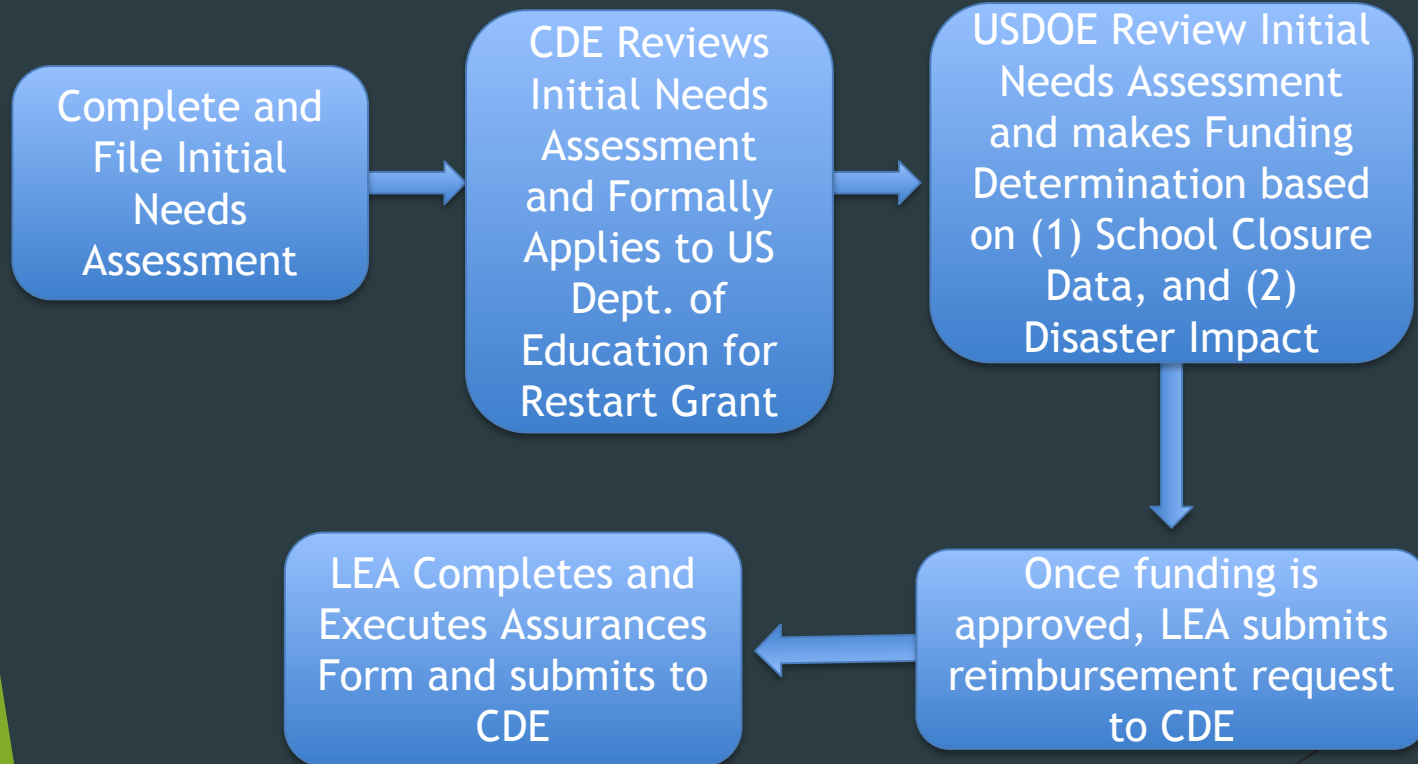
Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations

Grant is a Federal Grant through the
California Department of Education

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Restart Application Process



Restart Grant Allowable Expenses

- ▶ Recovery of student and personnel data
- ▶ Replacement of school district information systems, including hardware and software
- ▶ Financial operations (i.e. supporting off-site electronic data storage of financial data)
- ▶ Hiring additional staff for psychological, social, behavioral, and nursing services for students
- ▶ Reasonable transportation costs
- ▶ Minor remodeling and repairs
- ▶ Funding of temporary counselors to provide trauma based services
- ▶ Remedial programs and tutoring
- ▶ Redeveloping instructional plans, including curriculum development

Community Partners



Post Disaster Curriculum & Education Program



Re-Entry/Re-Start of School Post Disaster Response Curriculum and Instruction



Connect with Director of County Behavioral Wellness and Hospice to support staff and train staff.



Secure adequate Psychologists/Trauma Counselors to support ALL classroom teachers as needed.



Identify a Trauma counselor to support parents



Create a Compassion Center



Implement Trauma Recovery Curriculum



Small Group Grade Level Meetings to Support Trauma Recovery BEFORE start of school



Create a sense of unity among staff, students and parents

Morning Greeting,
School Shirts

Re-Entry/ Re-Start of School

Post Disaster Response Curriculum and Instruction

- ▶ Assess staff needs
- ▶ Provide staff with time to debrief collectively before students arrive: Determine which teachers may need more support in debriefing with students
- ▶ Provide staff with resources for coping and recovery
- ▶ Create a system to identify students who may need more support.
- ▶ Track absences and connect with families
- ▶ Provide on-going opportunities for staff to support each other
- ▶ Provide information to families





Provide Art and
Music as an Outlet



Re-Entry/Re-Start of School

Post Disaster Response Curriculum and Instruction

- ▶ Maintain structure and routine
- ▶ Shorter lesson plans
 - ▶ attention/concentration may be impacted
- ▶ Slower pace
- ▶ Increase time for personal expression and discussions (e.g., community circles)
- ▶ Plan hands-on activities
- ▶ Structured opportunities for positive social connections
- ▶ Reduce homework
- ▶ Expect an overall performance decline
- ▶ Model positive coping skills
- ▶ Stick to the facts
- ▶ Limit media exposure



“Sage” The Cold Spring School Therapy Dog

Re-Entry/ Re-Start of School

Post Disaster Response Curriculum and Instruction

- ▶ Maintain daily, weekly, monthly routine
 - ▶ i.e. Scheduled Residency
- ▶ Maintain District assessment calendar to identify gaps in critical standards
- ▶ Collaborate with teachers to refocus instruction on areas of need
- ▶ Extend the school day to make up for lost instruction
 - ▶ Before/After School
 - ▶ Saturday School
 - ▶ Summer School
- ▶ File J-13 waiver and consider all impacts of lost instruction
- ▶ Connect with ACSA, SSDA, CDE - advocate for your district



Re-Entry Point:
Monday, January 15
All School BBQ



Compassion Center and the Art Gazebo





Moving Forward



Cold Spring School District Memorial Bench for
Peerawat 'Pasta' Sutthithepa, Kindergarten Student, and
Sawyer Baker-Corey, Sixth Grade Student

Life Goes On. . .





On January 9th of this year, we commemorated the one-year anniversary of the deadly debris flow by holding a candlelight vigil and procession





Our collaborative efforts are teaching our children one of life's greatest lessons; how essential it is to love one another!

Resources

- ▶ National Association of School Psychologists. (2015). *Helping children after a natural disaster: Information for families and educators* [handout]. Bethesda, MD: Author.
- ▶ <http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/wildfire.aspx>
- ▶ <http://www.nctsn.org/trauma-types/natural-disasters/fires/wildfires#q6>
- ▶ <https://www.ready.gov/coping-with-disaster>
- ▶ http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/pfa/english/appendix_e3_when_terrible_things_happen.pdf
- ▶ <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/crisis/crisis.pdf>
- ▶ <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/afterfire.html>
- ▶ <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors/professional-development/learn-more/helping-kids-during-crisis>
- ▶ <https://www.tacanow.org/family-resources/helping-children-with-asd-adjust-to-the-major-fires/>



THANK YOU!