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County of Tulare



Jean Rousseau
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To All Tulare County Employees:

One of the highest priorities for all County employees is to provide for the safety and security of the residents of Tulare County. As stated in our Strategic Business Plan, this includes planning and providing coordinated emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation capabilities for all disasters. As the Director of Emergency Services, I want to ensure that each County employee is aware that they play a significant role in this initiative. In fact, all employees of the County are considered Disaster Service Workers (DSW) and may be called to duty in the event of a disaster.

Part I, Chapter 15 of the Tulare County Ordinance Code states that, "All officers and employees of the County, together with those volunteer forces enrolled to aid them during an emergency, and all [others who may] be charged with duties incident to the protection of life and property in this County during such emergency, shall constitute the Emergency Service Organization of the County of Tulare Operational Area." As a part of our hiring process, all County employees are required to take an oath affirming their understanding that as a public employee they may be called to serve as a DSW in times of need. So what does that mean? Below are some answers to commonly asked questions to help give you a better understanding of your role as a DSW:

Who is included in the Disaster Service Worker status? All public employees are included in the Disaster Service Worker status which are all persons employed by any county, city, state agency or public district.

What is the scope of duties of employee Disaster Service Workers? Any public employees performing duties as a Disaster Service Worker shall be considered to be acting within the scope of disaster service duties while assisting any unit of the organization or performing any act contributing to the protection of life or property or mitigating the affects of an emergency.

How are public employees assigned disaster service activities? Public employees are assigned disaster service activities by their superiors or by law to assist the agency in carrying out its responsibilities during times of disaster.

If you would like more information about your role as a DSW, go to www.tularehhsa.org and click on the Office of Emergency Services link. Thank you for your continued service and for joining me in this effort to make Tulare County a safe place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Rousseau".

Jean Rousseau
County Administrative Officer