

As this storm event developed, by Tuesday our Dispatch center call volume increased due to storm-related calls for service. Call types ranging from reports of standing water on the roadways, trees into power lines and roadways, vehicle accidents and vehicles stuck, residential alarm calls (a lot of which can be triggered by fluctuations in the power supply), power outages, snow plow removal assists (that's where vehicles are parked in county roadways and right of ways and deputies respond to issue citations and tow vehicles that are impeding and delaying snow removal operations), and welfare checks. All of this along with the day-to-day calls unrelated to the storm.

The routine, day-to-day management of government differs greatly from emergency operations. During an emergency; effective decision-making relies on leaders' ability to collect emergency related information, which requires close coordination between key officials from a variety of departments, agencies, and organizations. That wording is right out of FEMA's Emergency Operations Center handbook. When we saw the increased number of calls and as issues that were emerging, the Sheriff's Office working in tandem with County Administration contacted key officials in the county's multi-agency coordinating group and scheduled a meeting.

Our first Cooperators meeting for this event occurred at 3pm on Tuesday when the Sheriff's Office acting in the Operational Area coordinator capacity had been at a Level 3 status of monitoring the countywide impacts of this storm. By facilitating this meeting, the Emergency Operations Center, served as the central hub for situation reporting, resource coordination, and public information. When we review the overall scale of the response; levels are adjusted based on the incident's complexity, allowing for rapid expansion or reduction.

By the conclusion of that meeting we had elevated to a Level 2 activation of the Emergency Operations Center. This equates to a moderate activation with key agencies involved. Based on agency reports and requests, we scheduled re-occurring morning and afternoon twice daily meetings for agency leads; and in between those meetings our staff coordinated resource requests amongst stakeholders. The Sheriff's Office staffed both the OES Duty Officer phone line as well as the OES public phone line and our local dispatch centers fielded hundreds of calls. For public messaging we dedicated the Sheriff's Office PIO to this event. We compiled information from various agencies and released contact information and updated public awareness on critical topics. Many partnering agency key officials were manning their own department operation centers and

coordinating efforts for their departments, so we opted to keep our meetings virtual, allowing resources to remain in the field. Each of these meetings included a briefing from a National Weather Service representative for up to date weather outlook including anticipated rain and snowfall predictions.

The Office of Education was included in the meetings as the storm impact required multi-day school closures and ensuring the superintendents had the up to date information to make their operational decisions emphasizing what is best for student and staff safety. We also coordinated with them throughout this weekend to fill resource requests for generator assistance for some school site operations.

Early in the week, the Sheriff's Office pre-positioned assets including Search and Rescue personnel and tracked equipment assigned to the Ebbetts Pass Fire Station in anticipation of increased weather related calls. As the storm progressed, the Sheriff's Office assigned a supervisor and dedicated team of deputies working in a unified command structure with the Ebbetts Pass Fire Department to handle calls for service. We also deployed our Starlink resource to the EPFD fire station.

As to the timeline of the storm effects, initially there was some concern regarding the rain amounts and monitoring flood levels in our lower elevations. Early in the week, we saw pooling of excessive water on our roadways that were saturated from rainfall. Rivers, such as Cosgrove Creek and others, were actively being monitored. The Sheriff's Office coordinated with Public Works on the availability of sand and sand bags for the public and we ordered more for the county in anticipation of this event and the continued weather. We even sent our own personnel out of county to pick up the additional supply of sand bags. Luckily, the intensity and duration of the rainfall did not elevate this to a flood event. We are still actively monitoring the weather and water levels throughout this week.

We do want to recognize and thank all of the fire chiefs for their coordinated efforts in responding to this event. We received information from local fire agencies that although they were utilizing mutual aide with neighboring districts and had formed task force response teams, they required more assistance from state resources, such as the CalFIRE hand crews ability to help mitigate issues with downed trees. We helped coordinate discussions with CalOES and CalFIRE to mission task this resource. It was at this time that we worked with County Administration to complete an official proclamation declaring the existence of a local emergency, when it was determined that emergency conditions

were beyond the immediate capabilities of some local resources, services, personnel, equipment, and facilities.

Issues arose with the amount of downed power lines in the roadways hindering snow plow operations, so more intense coordination with our power utility provider, PG&E, was facilitated. When I am done with the recap here, I'll let Public Works Director Micah Martin address any specifics to plow operations should the Board require any further information on that topic.

We also discussed what would happen if cell service became disrupted from the long term power outage as can happen sometimes and although our local cell service providers have contingency plans and COWs (which are cellular on wheels base stations) available to deploy, that resource was not necessary in this event. Health and Human Resources does have a local COW asset and although that resource was not needed, it was pre-positioned in the Arnold area if that need had arisen.

The need to stand up a micro grid to support critical infrastructure in Arnold was also discussed amongst stakeholders and the utility provider.

CCWD initially reported a main water line break due to a downed tree in the Lakemont Pines area and expressed concerns about refueling of generators to critical infrastructure; so partner agencies coordinated resources to address access and repair issues. CCWD ended up mitigating two water line damages throughout the storm and also refueled generators at their remote sites to remain operational.

With road access issues, extended power outages, and increased requests for welfare checks and extractions, the Sheriff's Office requested law enforcement mutual aid. We ordered and received four additional tracked vehicles manned with law enforcement officers to assist in emergency responses, along with our fire department partners and PG&E assets that were assisting. A lot of the initial requests for emergency extractions included visitors staying at short-term rentals that were unprepared for this weather event and lacked food supply, alternative power or heat sources, and vehicles incapable of operating in four wheel drive or vehicles that were unable to be utilized due to closed roadways. Other requests for extraction included subjects who sustained damage to their dwellings from down trees, those who would have otherwise been able to care for themselves or caregivers who could have helped; but the extended power outage and blocked roadways led to them requesting assistance.

We had initially coordinated with Health and Human Services to open and staff the warming center in Murphys and after the number of emergency extractions and need for sheltering increased, we coordinated with the Red Cross to transition that to an overnight shelter. That shelter operated throughout the weekend and was closed as of yesterday.

The way the emergency extractions were accomplished is that fire, law enforcement, search and rescue, and PG&E resources utilized tracked vehicles to assist people from locations and transport them out to the main roadways that were open. The Calaveras Connect transit buses were utilized to transport those requiring further assistance down to the shelter. We are still in the process of gathering statistics so any estimates that I provide today are rough, but around 140 individuals (that includes adults and children) were assisted at their request to evacuate or be extracted from locations. When I provide the overall number of evacuation calls, you will see that the number is lower and that is due to some large groups of subjects together at single locations that were staying in short term rental properties.

In addition, PG&E assisted with the opening of a Community Resiliency Center in West Point. This included a warm dry place for community members to go, charge their devices, and receive “go bags” that included food and supplies. As of Monday morning, 210 people had utilized the West Point Community Resiliency Center and PG&E remained committed to keeping that resource open until greater reduction of the power outages was obtained.

There are still a number of residents without power in our county and the response and restoration efforts are ongoing. There was major damage to utility infrastructure during this event from heavy snow and downed trees.

As we start planning for the recovery phase, there are two areas where we are actively capturing statistics. This includes the response costs and damage to infrastructure sustained from this event in the public sector. All cooperating agencies are compiling those costs. Our local Building Department and inspectors, the Assessor’s Office, the Auditor’s Office, our Information Technology and GIS department, and our Economic Development Department are all working towards capturing initial damage estimate statistics. We provided a preliminary list to the Building Department of 60 possible locations where it was reported that trees may have damaged dwellings, outbuildings, or commercial structures. There could be some duplicates on that list. This is just the initial steps in the damage assessment process and our staff is actively working with the

Building Department to push out more information to the public regarding self-reporting options of damage.

At this time, I am just going to review some figures (hand to Stacy). This event is ongoing, our county acted swiftly with the local proclamation and ratification to the Board this morning, so these are just preliminary estimates reflecting storm-related response activity across the county. These numbers represent documented calls for service but may not capture additional requests handled directly by fire departments, utility providers, elected officials, or other county departments.

2/17/2026 - 2/23/2026 (West Point, Avery, Arnold Dorington)	
Evacuations	58
11-25 Roads blocked (Snow/Trees/Powerlines)	96
Storm calls (issues related to storm similar to 11-25)	118
Snow removal vehicle calls (0- towed by CCSO)	9
Welfare checks	76
Citizen assists (snow related issues/requests for info)	62
911 misdials (related to storm)	28
Smoke check calls	3
Medical aid calls in the affected area.	26
Total Calls	476

The graphics that we have provided for the board show the breakdown of the calls for service by day with the highest increase in calls occurring on the 18th and 19th. The next graph shows the volume of types of calls. And the final graph separates the calls per community with the Arnold area having the highest concentration of calls for service.

We have also already identified a number of items for After Action Review and bolstering of plans that will be addressed down the road. There are always going to be polarized public opinions on how the response was handled, and that ranges from the opinion that this storm wasn't that bad and people should have been prepared to handle a weeklong event, to the opinions that more should have been done ahead of time and throughout the response efforts. Frustration is understandable. Placing blame is understandable and expected in emergency response to disaster events. Part of our AAR process is conducted to foster continuous improvement by analyzing what was intended, what actually occurred, why it happened, and how to improve future performance.

I will delay my comments regarding local OES structure, budget, and staffing for the subsequent Board item on today's agenda.

That concludes my comments on this proclamation if the board has any questions for me.