

MONTEREY COUNTY

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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This letter is in support of the Red Guide to Recovery book. The last four years we have experienced three wildland fires with property loss. None of the fires reached a federal declaration. As such, the county, with some assistance from the State of California OES has provided local assistance needs for the disaster survivors. We have found that the guide book is a great tool to start the recovery process and provides survivors with a much need reference guide during those critical first weeks.

As an emergency manager, I would love that every resident have one of these in their homes prior to a disaster striking. That they have taken steps to prepare their homes, inventory their possessions, and consulted their insurance agents to ensure that they have the necessary level of insurance protection to cope with the aftermath of a disaster. But I know that most often that is not the case. Families and businesses are caught off-guard, ill prepared to take the steps toward their own recovery.

Red Book of Recovery provides information on the "How To..." and answers to "What Now...?" that survivors may not always think to ask at Local Assistance Center or to government agents. It's a navigation tool for survivors and much needed.

I highly recommend the book for Local Assistance Centers and Emergency Management to share with their residents. Every operational area should customize it with local information on government, nonprofits and support groups. Whether you are impacted by the small loss of a single structural fire, home flooding event or a catastrophic disaster this book can help.

Respectfully,

Sherrie L. Collins, CEM
Emergency Services Manager
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