

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2472 (Committee on Emergency Management) – As Amended March 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Emergency Management

Vote: 6 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to develop seven catastrophic plans.

Specifically, this bill requires OES to consult with relevant state and local agencies to develop the following plans, which may also include such plans developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): (1) Northern California Catastrophic Flood Response Plan, (2) Bay Area Earthquake Plan, (3) California Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake and Tsunami Response Plan, (4) Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan, (5) Catastrophic Wildfires in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), (6) Pandemic Incident Plan, and (7) Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) Incident Plan.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Costs of approximately \$1.8 million annually to OES for seven positions, as well as contract costs, to create the specified catastrophic plans and update the plans every three to five years (General Fund).

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** The author notes that “the state has already developed four catastrophic disaster plans to supplement the State Emergency Plan (SEP),” but “other significant threats face California” as evidenced by the Palisades and Eaton fires and COVID-19 pandemic. According to the author:

These disasters underscore the urgent need to integrate catastrophic planning for Wildfires in the [WUI], Pandemic Incidents, and [CBRNE] Incidents. Additionally, this bill will ensure the pandemic and CBRNE plans recommended by [OES] and FEMA in the California Catastrophic Incident Base Plan: Concept of Operations (CONOP) report will finally be implemented. This bill will ensure our emergency management systems are prepared to swiftly and effectively prepare, respond, and recover from future catastrophes.

- 2) **Catastrophic Plans.** Existing law tasks OES with the state's emergency and disaster response services for natural, technological, or man-made disasters and emergencies, including responsibility for activities necessary to prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters to people and property. To fulfill this charge, OES undertakes numerous activities, including preparation and maintenance of the SEP, which describes methods for conducting emergency operations, the process for rendering mutual aid, emergency services of government agencies, how resources are mobilized, how the public is informed, and how continuity of government is maintained during an emergency.

OES also has a Catastrophic Incident Base Plan, which establishes the concept of operations for how state and federal officials will coordinate for all types of catastrophic disasters, in addition to four specific catastrophic plans: (a) Northern California Catastrophic Flood Response Plan, (b) Bay Area Earthquake Plan, (c) California Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake and Tsunami Response Plan, and (c) Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan. This bill codifies the existence of these four catastrophic plans in statute, thus requiring OES to continuously update the plans, and requires OES to develop three new catastrophic plans: (a) Catastrophic Wildfires in the WUI, (b) Pandemic Incident Plan, and (c) CBRNE Incident Plan.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 1284 (Committee on Emergency Management) requires OES and local agencies to develop state and regional recovery frameworks for California's catastrophic plans, including a new plan for Catastrophic Wildfires in the WUI. AB 1284 was held on this committee's suspense file.
- 4) **Prior Legislation.** AB 1567 (Rodriguez), of the 2021-22 Legislative Session, was substantively similar to AB 1284. AB 1567 was held on this committee's suspense file.

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