

# Board takes a look at county's Office of Emergency Services

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Calaveras County's Office of Emergency Services was in the spotlight Tuesday as the Board of Supervisors had a special meeting to review the operation in light of last year's Butte Fire.

OES is responsible, recovery, planning and training for major disasters and emergencies.

Most of those duties have resided with the Sheriff's Office, but budget cuts the past several years have left the office under-funded and understaffed.

The downsizing was a combination of tight budgets during the recession and loss of Homeland Security grants, said Sheriff's Capt. Jim Macedo.

County administration and the Sheriff's Office have been in the process of gathering information to present a comprehensive plan and recommendation to the board. Those efforts include researching other counties of similar size or larger that have a record of successful emergency services operations and determining best practices that can be applied to Calaveras to further support and enhance the local OES.

However, most of that research needs to be conducted in the fall after the fire season.

Sheriff Rick DiBasilio prefaced Tuesday's discussion by saying he would like to see most of the OES duties stay within his office.

District 2 Supervisor Chris Wright, which covers the Butte Fire-ravaged communities of Mokelumne Hill and Mountain Ranch, said he looked forward to county officials gathering more details in the next few months and the county eventually having a fully functional OES.

The county needs to find solutions, said District 1 Supervisor and Board Chairman Cliff Edson.