

# Spring 2023 Flood Event

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TEAM 3

# General Timeline

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- **Friday, March 10**
  - City staff began monitoring the first of several atmospheric river events to impact Tulare County.
- **Monday, March 13**
  - Declared a local stated of emergency.
  - Officially opened the Visalia Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
  - Outside the City of Visalia, flood event being managed by a Tulare County Type III incident management team (IMT).
- **Tuesday, March 14**
  - The Cities of Visalia and Porterville entered into unified command with Tulare County Type III Team.
- **Wednesday, March 15**
  - Flood event command was transitioned from the Tulare County Type III Team to CalFire Team 3, Type I IMT. City of Visalia remained in unified command.
- **Wednesday, March 22**
  - City of Visalia EOC activities de-escalated yet remained in stand-by status.
- **Friday, March 24**
  - The Cities of Visalia and Porterville withdrew from unified command with CalFire Team 3.

# Visalia EOC Efforts

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The critical functions of the EOC were staffed for research, analysis, planning, and potential response.

- Operations
- Planning
- Logistics/Finance
- Administration

# Operations

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- Monitored and maintained Visalia's waterways.
- Established evacuation zones/plans.
- Evaluated critical infrastructure.
- Evaluated for special risk facilities.
- Maintained public sandbag locations.

# Planning

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- Tracked Kaweah Reservoir levels and flows.
- Tracked flows between the Sierras to Visalia.
- Identified vulnerable waterways and points along Visalia's waterways.
- Researched historical data and studies for application to current situation.
- Created GIS mapping for planning, monitoring, and response.

# Logistics/Finance

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- Identified and secured collection points and emergency shelters.
- Ensured city staff assigned to flood related details were properly equipped and supported.
- Gave direction for cost tracking of flood related expenses for potential reimbursement.

# Administration

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- Participated in various briefings to collect and analyze current information and forecasts.
- Communicated pertinent information and updates to appropriate stakeholders.
- Prioritized and managed a communication plan to update the community with current information and relevant guidance.

# Unified Command with CalFire

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- County-wide incident command transition to CalFire Team 3, Type I incident management team on Wednesday, March 15th and the City of Visalia remained in unified command.
- Type I teams are comprised of personnel experienced in managing large-scale incidents.
- Type I teams come with a large pool of responders and resources for incident support and response.
- Being in unified command allowed the City a role in incident planning and establishing incident priorities.
- Incident information, resources, and materials were readily available in the event the City had a request or a need.
- Visalia Fire had personnel assigned to the Type I Team.

# Challenges

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- Planning for unknown, yet significant, potential impacts with incomplete or imperfect information.
  - Local government enhanced
  - Planning/response strategy
- Knowing what information and the appropriate time to relay information to the community.
  - Prioritized being proactive with relaying information determined to be valid and necessary guidance to the community.

# Opportunities

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- Identified areas for future training.
- Continue interagency communication and cooperation.
- Developed analysis to be archived for future use.
- Emergency Operations Plan to be updated with current, relevant information.

# Conclusion

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- Recognize the impacts in Tulare County.
- Acknowledge the interagency cooperation within the community.
- Acknowledge the efforts of city staff.

Comments by Billy See, Incident Commander Cal Fire Team 3