



NORTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
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North Orange College District Focuses on Serving Community During Emergencies

ANAHEIM, Calif. - Community colleges fill many roles, and recently the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD) Board of Trustees participated in a training session to learn more about the important roles the District and its employees will fill in the event of a declared emergency.

The NOCCCD Board is the first community college board in the state to complete the awareness training for elected officials. The Board also renewed its commitment for all District employees to complete a basic training session as well.

The training provides background on state and federal mandates for multi-agency coordination, communications, and use of resources during emergencies that range from natural disasters to terrorist incidents. These mandates fall within the Standardized Emergency Management System and National Incident Management System – more commonly known as SEMS and NIMS.

“The North Orange College District Board of Trustees has shown extraordinary leadership in completing the state emergency and national incident overview course,” said Peter Wright, Director of Emergency Preparedness for the California Community Colleges System Office. “Through its collaborative involvement, the Board has elevated the importance of preparing for emergencies on its campuses as well as its communities.”

Board President Leonard Lahtinen explained that the entire NOCCCD Board answered the call for training because of the potential for emergency situations in Southern California.

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“Some of our District staff already have begun work on emergency operations planning,” he said. “We have directed the Chancellor to expand emergency training to all District employees.

“We must be prepared to safeguard the lives of our students and employees, and assist with community responses in an emergency crisis,” President Lahtinen said.

Chancellor Ned Doffoney added, “Much has been done in the area of emergency preparation in the District during the past few years. But much more needs to be done so that all staff members are well informed and comfortable about the roles they may fill during an emergency.

He emphasized, “We want to be ready, should we ever be called upon to serve as disaster service workers.”

As provided by California law, NOCCCD employees and other public employees in the state may be called upon to serve as disaster service workers in the event of a declared emergency. In preparation for this possibility, each of the main campuses in the NOCCCD has established an organizational chart, with assigned duties for individuals in a variety of emergency response functions. These Incident Command Teams follow the standards set by SEMS and NIMS.

The main campuses in the NOCCCD are Cypress College, Fullerton College, and the Anaheim Campus. The latter houses the main offices and many classes of the School of Continuing Education as well as the main offices of the District.

NOCCCD Background

Two of the state’s premiere colleges and most extensive continuing education program combine to provide the quality educational programming of the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD). Nearly 70,000 students enroll each term at Cypress College, Fullerton College, and the School of Continuing Education. College students are able to shape their futures in programs leading to associate degrees, vocational certificates, and transfer opportunities. Life-long learning also is possible in continuing education programs that range from high school completion and basic skills mastery through an array of vocational training and self-development courses. The NOCCCD campuses serve an area of over one million diverse people – each pursuing their own, unique ambitions. *The NOCCCD – Greatness. Achieved.*