

Emergency Food

The following is guidance to assist Area Agencies on Aging to develop policies and procedures as part of their disaster planning process:

If conditions allow, it is the responsibility of the Area Agency on Aging to assist Elderly Nutrition Program providers in continuing to provide meals to older individuals during major natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, freezes, fires, heat waves, droughts, and medical disasters such as a chemical spill or infectious disease epidemic. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22 section 7636.1(8) states in part, where feasible and appropriate, make arrangements for the availability of meals to participants during a major disaster, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 5122(2)

The California Department of Aging Area Plan Contract (Additional Provisions Exhibit E Area Plan Article 1 Assurances to Title III and Community Based Service Programs, Number 19) states that the contractor shall participate in the preparation and implementation of a disaster plan that ensures provision of critical services to meet the emergency needs of consumers they are charged to serve during medical or natural disasters, such as earthquakes or floods. This plan must be coordinated with the overall county Office of Emergency Services Plan and shall conform to any statewide requirements issued by the Department or any other appropriate federal agency

If conditions allow, it is expected that during medical and natural disasters congregate and home-delivered meal services will continue without disruption. In order to assure continuation of services, providers **may** need to have emergency shelf stable meals available for use during a power outage or any disruption of regular service. Unless other arrangements have been made to provide services, it is recommended that providers have emergency meals available to ensure that nutrition services are available to older individuals.

Emergency meals are reimbursable and should be claimed at the time of service (for congregate meals), or when delivered (for home-delivered meals participants). Instructions on how and when to use and rotate the food should be included when they are distributed to home-delivered meal participants. Each meal must be approved by the provider or AAA dietitian and meet Older Americans Act and CCR Title 22 section 7638.5 meal requirements.