

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

EXTERNAL MEMO

To: Leon Page, County Counsel
From: Lee R. Kaser, Deputy Director *LRK*
Date: June 15, 2026
RE: Status Report, Item 59 for Agenda: Review the Need for Continuing the Local Emergency



The Garden Grove Hazardous Materials incident occurred on Thursday, May 21 at approximately 3:22PM, when a tank holding the chemical Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) was in danger of a boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion (BLEVE), affecting the cities of Garden Grove, Stanton, Anaheim, Cypress, Buena Park, and Westminster. Unified Command was established initially between the Orange County Fire Authority, Garden Grove Police Department, and the Orange County Health Care Agency and included throughout the incident the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Anaheim Police Department, Anaheim Fire, and the Cypress Police Department.

The City of Anaheim proclaimed a Local Emergency on May 22, 2026; the City Council ratified the proclamation on May 27, 2026. The City of Buena Park proclaimed a Local Emergency on May 23, 2026. The City of Garden Grove proclaimed a local emergency on May 22, 2026; the City Council ratified the proclamation on May 26, 2026. The City of Stanton proclaimed a local emergency on May 22, 2026; the City Council ratified the proclamation on May 26, 2026. The City of Westminster proclaimed a local emergency on May 22, 2026; the City Council ratified the proclamation on May 27, 2026. The Orange County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a Local Emergency on May 22, 2026; a resolution ratifying the proclamation was on May 28, 2026. The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on May 23, 2026. A Presidential Emergency Declaration was declared on May 25, 2026.

Orange County Impacts:

- Emergency Operations Centers were activated for: the County, the Cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Los Alamitos, Westminster, and the Coast Community and North Coast Community College Districts.
- Evacuation Orders were issued for: Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Garden Grove, Stanton, and Westminster.
- Schools closed in multiple districts which included: Barker, Bryant, Carver, Enders, Garden Park, Lawrence, Wakeham, Patton, Bell, Alamitos, Pacifica, Rancho Alamitos, Skylark, Hansen, Frank Vessels, and Juliet Morris. Some schools also relocated students to others in various districts.
- Reception centers were established at: Garden Grove Sports and Recreation Center, Cypress Community Center, Ehlers Park in Buena Park, and the Westminster Senior Center.
- Mass Care Shelters were established at: Freedom Hall Fountain Valley, Golden West College, John F. Kennedy High School, Los Alamitos High School, Los Amigos High School, Ocean View High School, and Savannah High School. Additional RV shelter was provided at the OC Fairgrounds.
- Animal sheltering was provided by OC Animal Care including AKC disaster supply trailers at both Freedom Hall and John F. Kennedy High School shelter sites.
- Water and wastewater agencies affected: Garden Grove, Golden State Water, Anaheim, Buena Park, and Westminster.
- A Business Recovery Center has been established in Garden Grove to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program and assist in the application process.

Costs:

- Estimated response costs and damages for public agencies include:

City/District	Estimated Response Costs & Damages
Orange County Fire Authority	\$2,795,331.45
OCCR - OC Animal Care	\$34,052.97
OCCR - OC Parks	\$110,297.85
Orange County Health Care Agency	\$179,000.68
Orange County Public Works	\$193,968.97
Orange County Sheriff-Coroner	\$1,566,045.00
Orange County Social Services Agency	\$37,755.00
Orange County Waste and Recycling	\$18,524.00
Anaheim	\$698,453.00
Buena Park	\$34,103.00
Coast Community College District	\$17,895.55
Cypress	\$144,109.00
Department of Education	\$29,942.86
Fullerton	\$33,800.00
Garden Grove	\$1,722,925.26
Garden Grove Unified School District	\$298,000.00
Irvine	\$48,710.00
La Palma	\$11,575.00
Los Alamitos	\$15,000.00
Orange	\$69,762.00
Seal Beach	\$15,500.00
Stanton	\$76,500.00
WEROC	\$9,418.41
Westminster	\$181,735.06
Operational Total	\$8,342,405.06

The Emergency Management Division is actively facilitating the submission of these costs and supporting documentation from each agency to the California Office of Emergency Services Recovery Unit in pursuit of California Disaster Assistance Act funding or Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance. No eligibility determination has been made at the time of this status report submission.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced low-interest federal disaster loans are now available to small businesses and private nonprofit organizations to offset economic losses caused by the Garden Grove Hazmat Incident. The County has received over 170 submissions for SBA and have forwarded these to the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES).

Recommended Action: Continue the local emergency proclamation; set review to determine need for continuing local emergency for August 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. and every 60 days thereafter until terminated.

cc: County Executive Officer Michelle Aguirre
Clerk of the Board Robin Stieler
Undersheriff Jeff Hallock, Sheriff-Coroner Department

