



PRESS RELEASE

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Governor Schwarzenegger Signs Legislation to Improve Emergency Response for Animals

Governor Schwarzenegger announced today that he has signed Assembly Bill 450 by Assemblymember Yee (D-San Francisco) that will help improve emergency planning and evacuation procedures for animals during disasters. The bill requires the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) to work with local officials to implement the procedures into the statewide standardized emergency management system.

"California has seen more than its share of natural disasters, such as fires, floods and earthquakes. Thorough emergency planning is critical for the safety of all Californians, including our pets and livestock," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "This legislation will help protect animals in times of disaster."

Assembly Bill 450 requires the OES to incorporate the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) program into the standardized emergency management system. The CARES program, developed in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, will ensure that California is prepared to respond effectively to the myriad of animal-related issues and needs resulting from a disaster.

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