

FAQ for the LAUSD Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

1. What is an Emergency Operations Center?

An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a physical location designed to support emergency response, business continuity and crisis communications activities. LAUSD staff coordinates resources and information at the EOC to manage the response to an ongoing incident or a large event. By gathering the decision makers together and supplying them with the most current information, better decisions can be made.

2. When was the LAUSD Main EOC opened?

The LAUSD main EOC was opened in the fall of 2013. It was custom-built as an EOC for LAUSD. Dr. Lucy Jones, earthquake expert for the United States Geological Survey, gave the keynote speech at the grand opening.

3. What are the key capacities of the LAUSD EOC?

The Main EOC can host 60 responders on main floor; includes direct access to District systems and hard back-up copy of student data districtwide; radio operations to School Police, Transportation, and other units; map-making capability; video and audio conferencing; cot rooms and shower facilities; multiple media screens. The Los Angeles School Police Department Communications Center and Watch Commander's office is also located in the building.

4. For what kinds of incidents has the LAUSD EOC been activated?

Recent activations include wildfires, employee strike, civil unrest relating to national police activities, community demonstrations, rain storms, wind storms, May Day protests, the District threat shutdown in December 2015, and the fatal northern California bus crash in April 2014. The EOC is also used for EOC-related trainings and exercises.

5. What incident created the LAUSD EOC activation with the largest number of responders?

In December 2015, all LAUSD schools were closed as a result of a threat received by the District. The EOC was activated at a Level 3, with a total of 83 people staffing the EOC from critical District departments and agency liaisons, including five federal agencies.

6. What is the longest-running EOC activation?

The October 2019 fire season necessitated eight non-consecutive days of activation, at times around the clock, in response to three back-to-back-to-back local wildfires. Multiple schools were closed due to mandatory evacuations, road closures, and other conditions, and some were closed due to the presence of smoke and ash.

7. How many EOCs are there in LAUSD?

There are four EOC facilities in the District; the centrally-located Main EOC and three back-up facilities located in downtown Los Angeles, LD North West, and LD South. Only one EOC facility is activated at a time.

8. Who maintains LAUSD EOCs?

The Office of Emergency Services, District Operations maintains staffing, training of responders, policy, and manages activations. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety manages a monthly checklist of the facilities and equipment, in coordination with ITD and Facilities.

9. Who responds to the EOC?

EOC responders are compiled from all divisions/departments in LAUSD. Each position is assigned to an EOC section and has three responders who rotate in and out of the EOC in shifts during activations of multiple operating periods. An extensive EOC call-out list is maintained by the Office of Emergency Services.

10. What training do EOC responders receive?

The EOC team exercises at least twice each school year, and holds regular trainings. In the spring of 2015, nearly 100 EOC responders attended a 12-hour LAUSD *EOC Essentials* course and received certificates. Section-specific EOC training was held in the spring of 2017. EOC Responders are also trained in the Incident Command System (ICS), Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), and National Incident Management System (NIMS).

11. Where can I get more information about the LAUSD EOC?

<http://achieve.lausd.net/eoc>

Contact: Jill M. Barnes, Ed.D., CEM

Executive Emergency Strategist

Office of Emergency Services, District Operations