



## TYPES OF DISASTERS WE ARE LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER

### Fires

We have large population centers in Kern County that are in rural areas and are often threatened by wild land fires. In our rural and forested areas large wild land fires are likely. We also have Santa Ana winds that will push a fire into firestorm conditions on a large scale. Fires are the most common emergency in the area, and therefore, the chances of one becoming a wide spread disaster is more likely. More information is available at <http://www.kerncountyfire.org/index.php>

### Railway and Vehicle Accident

Major rail lines, regional railway operators, and vehicles often carry highly toxic or flammable substances through urban and rural areas. A major spill would create immediate threat to life and property. The numbers of daily trains and trucks make this the second most likely disaster to occur. The Hazardous Material Guidebook is downloadable from <http://www.ehso.com/hmerg.php>

### Flooding

We live in an area that is prone to periodic flooding. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers dam at Lake Isabella has recently been in the news. The County of Kern has recently completed a plan should the dam fail. That plan is available at <http://www.kerncountyfire.org/isbelladam.php>  
Other drainages, basins, and creeks in Kern County can also pose a threat due to a variety of weather events.

### Earthquake

We know it's coming, sooner or later. There are major fault lines in Kern County. Large quakes on any of the faults would have a serious impact. There are large buildings, bridges, and canals in the area that could sustain major damage. This poses serious complications for travel creating massive survivor isolation. Disruption of utility and communication infrastructure would add to this problem. The occurrence of large earthquakes is infrequent, but when it happens it will test all the resources. More information is available at <http://www.usgs.gov/> or <http://www.usgs.gov/pubprod/>

### Tornado

Don't laugh! We have had a few here.

### Prolonged Power failure

#### Tasks that might require communications assistance:

- ✓ Evacuations
- ✓ Assessment
- ✓ Survivor supplies - food, water, and medicine, etc.

Western Kern County ARES®  
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- ✓ Health and Welfare Messages
- ✓ Neighborhood isolation – KCCVARC Neighborhood HamWatch
- ✓ Shelters
- ✓ Hospitals and/or medical supplies
- ✓ Fire and EMS
- ✓ Fire camp operations
- ✓ Communication and coordination between volunteer groups (VOAD)