



Livestock Agricultural Pass Program Process



California is prone to various disasters, most notably wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and drought. Climate change has been cited as causing the frequency of record-breaking wildfires in California. Public safety officials may order an evacuation to ensure public safety. Agricultural producers may choose not to evacuate to protect their property and livelihoods, or if they evacuate, they may not wait until the evacuation order is lifted and risk re-entry. Both choices are a safety risk. The Livestock Agricultural Pass Program saves lives and ensures the safety of first responders. The program helps to fill the gap in the protection of California's valued agricultural commodities.



- During or following a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, or other natural disaster, local public safety officials initiate alerts and warnings **sign up for alerts in your county** requiring the need to evacuate within 2 hours or less, shelter in place, or return home. Evacuation advisories may affect the producers' ability to re-enter their properties.



- The Livestock Agricultural Pass Program allows commercial farmers and ranchers limited access to their properties located in restricted areas to conduct essential commercial agricultural activities such as tending to their crops or livestock during or following a natural disaster. Search online for active programs in your county or programs in development.

LIVESTOCK AGRICULTURAL PASS PROGRAM

- If your county has this program authorized by the county office of the agricultural commissioner or other designated agency, an application is required. The application is vetted for eligibility based on program requirements established in the county where the farm or ranch is located.



Program Qualifications

- Pass holders must participate in training offered by the county program administrator that aligns with the State Fire Marshal "Incident Safety for Agricultural Lands and Livestock Producers" curriculum. This is a training course that can be up to 4 hours, covering fire behavior, entrapment avoidance, evacuation, communications, and incident command.

- Agricultural operator owners and managerial employee(s) will need to meet county specific eligibility requirements.



- Even when the county program issues an agricultural pass granting the qualifying agricultural producer, or a managerial employee of the qualifying producer access to their farm or ranch during or following a natural disaster, the pass does not guarantee automatic re-entry. The passholder must request access from public safety officials during or following the natural disaster.



- Safety is the number one priority and participation in the program does not guarantee access during a natural disaster even when the risk has been stabilized, which may take days. Public safety officials will review the agricultural passholder's request to re-enter, assess the risk and may grant access. Typically, you cannot re-enter until the evacuation order is lifted but the agricultural pass allows public safety officials discretionary authority to grant access.

