



# Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid Quick Reference Guide



## Mutual Aid Defined

Mutual aid is the voluntary sharing of personnel and resources when a department cannot sufficiently deploy its own resources to respond to an unusual occurrence. Resources are then requested by the affected department through a recognized system established by the Master Mutual Aid Agreement and Emergency Services Act. This cooperative system may be executed on a local, countywide, regional, statewide, and interstate basis. The state has been divided into seven mutual aid regions to more effectively apply, administer and coordinate mutual aid. Mutual aid can become mandatory at the option of the Governor. Generally, there is no reimbursement for providing mutual aid.

## Authorities

The California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System and Plan derives its authority from the CA Emergency Services Act (Govt.Code §8550, §8569, §8615-8619, §8632, §8668) and the Master Mutual Aid Agreement. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC); an interstate mutual aid agreement.

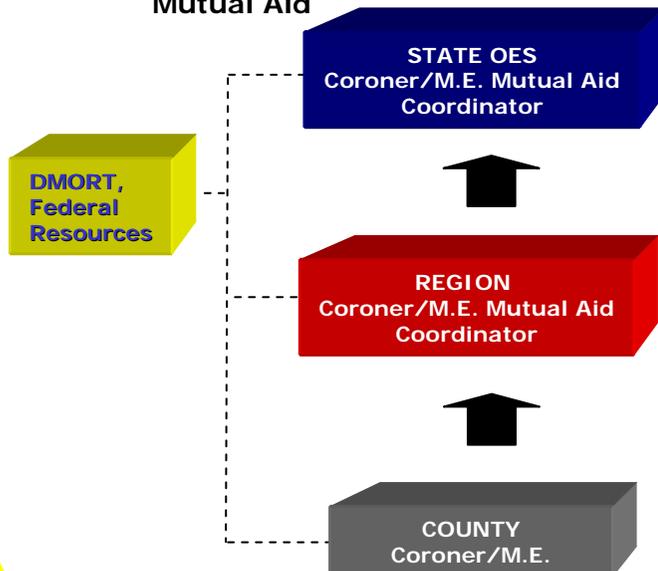
## Mutual Aid Process

**County(Operational Area)** – If event is beyond the resource capability of Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office then the County Coroner/M.E. then requests mutual aid from Regional Coroner/M.E. Mutual Aid Coordinator.

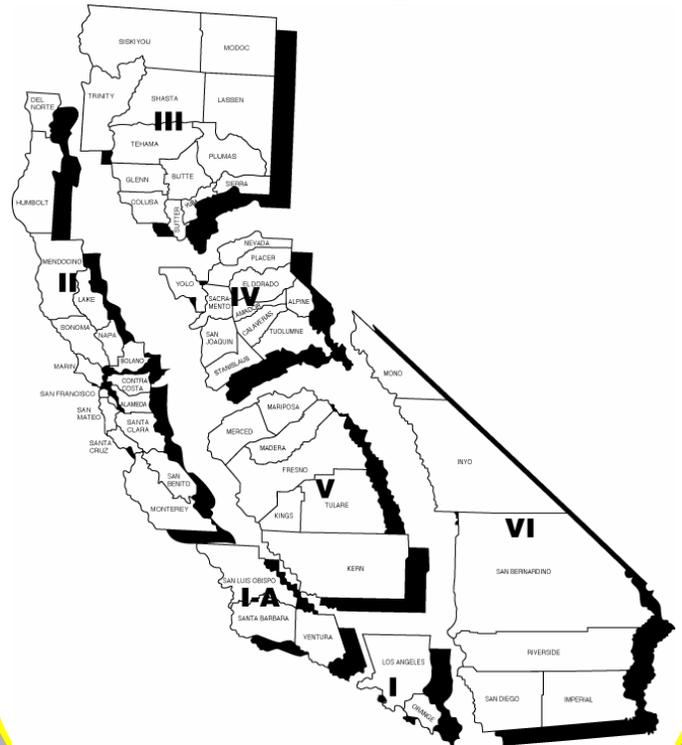
**Region** – A Coroner/M.E. in the region, who has been designated as the "Regional Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid Coordinator", fulfills mutual aid request from other Operational Areas and their respective Coroner/M.E. resources.

**State** – If the Coroner/M.E. resources within the impacted region are not sufficient, the M.A. Regional Coordinator requests additional mutual aid assistance from the State OES Coroner/M.E. Mutual Aid Coordinator. Other mutual aid regions may be called upon to assist.

### Channels For Requesting Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid



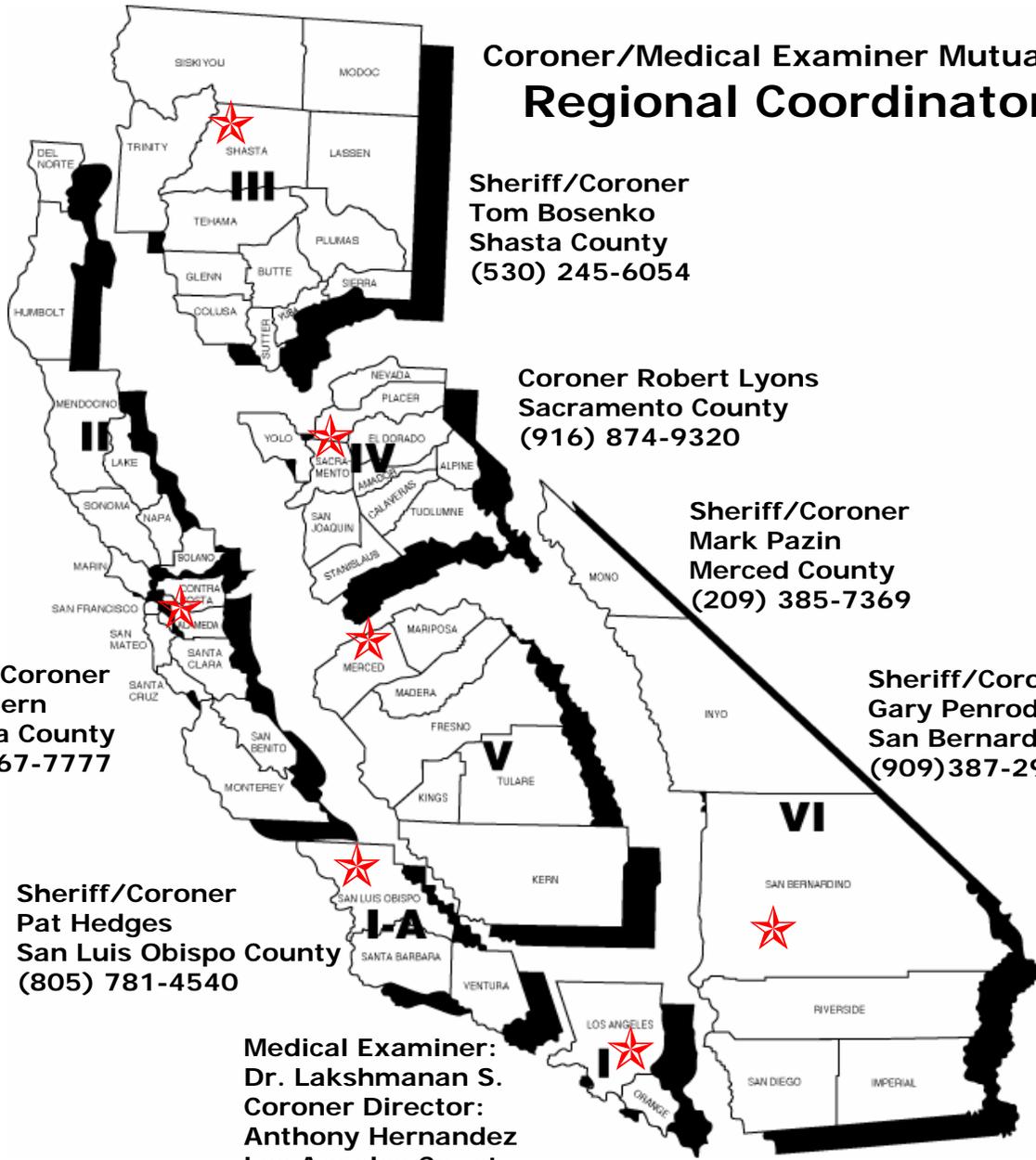
## Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid Regions



## Mutual Aid Considerations

- ★ State declaration of emergency not necessary to request and provide Coroner/M.E. mutual aid.
- ★ No jurisdiction is required to unnecessarily deplete their own personnel, equipment, and capabilities in order to provide mutual aid.
- ★ Mutual aid reimbursement costs *may* be applicable under state and federal disaster declarations. Otherwise, all mutual aid costs are the responsibility of individual agencies participating.
- ★ OES may assign mission numbers to mutual aid events in order to track and coordinate resources and for potential liability or financial purposes.
- ★ Out-of state mutual aid is coordinated through OES and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) unless as already specified in interstate agreements and MOUs.
- ★ Upon consultation with the Coroners Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator and State OES Law Enforcement Branch, federal resources, including the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), may be requested at any time during the emergency.
- ★ Adhere to the CA Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

# Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid Regional Coordinators



**Sheriff/Coroner**  
**Tom Bosenko**  
**Shasta County**  
**(530) 245-6054**

**Coroner Robert Lyons**  
**Sacramento County**  
**(916) 874-9320**

**Sheriff/Coroner**  
**Mark Pazin**  
**Merced County**  
**(209) 385-7369**

**Sheriff/Coroner**  
**Greg Ahern**  
**Alameda County**  
**(510) 667-7777**

**Sheriff/Coroner**  
**Gary Penrod**  
**San Bernardino County**  
**(909) 387-2978**

**Sheriff/Coroner**  
**Pat Hedges**  
**San Luis Obispo County**  
**(805) 781-4540**

**Medical Examiner:**  
**Dr. Lakshmanan S.**  
**Coroner Director:**  
**Anthony Hernandez**  
**Los Angeles County**  
**(323) 343-0714**

## Key Contacts

-  OES Warning/Communications Center (916) 845-8911
-  CA State Coroners Association (951) 788-2656
-  CA DOJ Bureau of Forensic Services, Missing/Unidentified Persons Unit (916) 227-3244 Cmnd. Ctr. 24-hr
-  Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team Region IX Commander (760) 497-6255
-  CA Funeral Directors Association (800) 255-2332
-  CalDIT California Dental Identification Team (619) 444-6196
-  FBI Disaster Squad (Forensic Analysis Unit) (703) 632-7100
- Sacramento Division (916) 481-9110
- San Francisco Division (415) 553-7400
- Los Angeles Division (310) 477-6565
- San Diego Division (858) 565-1255

## OES Law Enforcement Branch

OES Law Enforcement Branch peace officers are available 24 hours/day to assist your department with Coroner/M.E. mutual aid planning and coordination.

Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Law Enforcement Branch  
3650 Schriever Ave.  
Mather, CA 95655  
(916) 845-8700  
24-hr (916) 845-8911

