



Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | **John Reilly** - Undersheriff

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org



Date: July 12, 2023
To: All Ventura County Law Enforcement Agencies
From: Patrick Maynard, Director, Sheriff Emergency Services
Re: Agriculture Pass Program & Evacuation Terminology

In 2022, the California Legislature approved changes to the Penal Code authorizing local jurisdictions to establish an Agriculture Pass Program. This new law permits Counties to issue identification documents granting any qualifying ag producer, access to their ranch property, during or following a natural disaster.

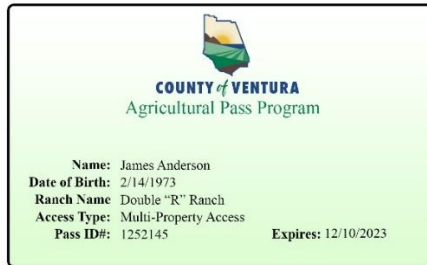
In response to this new legislation, the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Ventura County Fire Department, and the Ventura County Sheriff's Office has established a local application and training program. This program provides a streamlined process for Agricultural Operators to obtain training and identification that may permit them to travel through roadblocks or evacuation zones.

The decision to provide access can rapidly change during a fire or other natural disaster and will be dependent on safety conditions at the time and upon approval of public safety personnel. Safety is the number one priority and participation in the program does not guarantee access during an incident. During the initial evacuation phase of an expanding incident, access will likely be restricted to all individuals, including Agricultural Pass Holders. Once the situation has stabilized, Agricultural Passes will be considered by Incident Commanders and that information will be shared with law enforcement personnel assigned to the incident.

Under the new Agricultural Pass Program, there are two options for qualifying individuals to apply to:

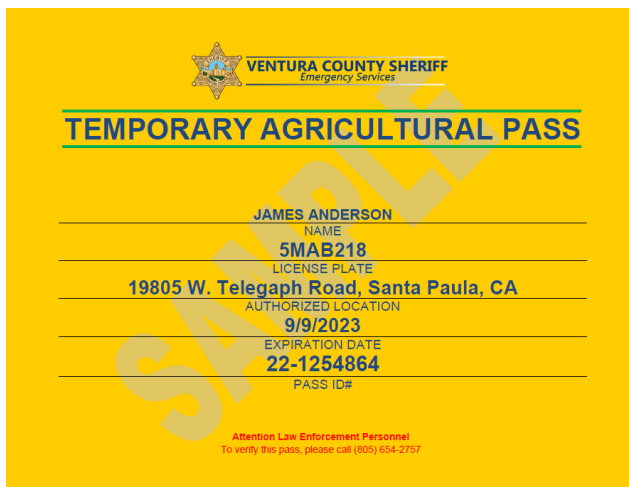
Pre-Incident Pass

Issued to qualifying individuals in advance of an incident. To be issued this pass, agriculture operators must submit the required documentation, complete the necessary in-person training, complete the application process, and be issued a pre-incident agriculture pass.



One-time Pass

One-time passes may be issued to qualifying individuals during an incident. Temporary passes may be obtained from Sheriff's Emergency Services at Temporary Evacuation Points (TEPs) or by applying online at VCEmergency.com. Temporary Evacuation Points are centers activated during an emergency incident requiring prolonged evacuation of residential structures. In the event of an evacuation, information will be published on the location of all active TEPs.



8.5" x 11" Pass will be emailed to the applicant and printed at the applicant's home residence.



Hanging temporary pass issued by Sheriff Emergency Services during an incident.

To verify an Agricultural Pass, please call Sheriff's Emergency Services at 805-654-2757

EVACUATION TERMINOLOGY

The use of common evacuation terminology is an important aspect of any emergency response. It is essential that law enforcement officials understand the different types of evacuation notices and what they mean, in order to ensure the safety of residents during evacuations.

EVACUATION ORDER

- Immediate threat to life. The danger is IMMEDIATE!
- Conditions exist that SERIOUSLY IMPERIL or ENDANGER the lives of those in the defined area.
- This is a lawful order to leave now.
- The area is lawfully closed to public access.

EVACUATION WARNING

- Potential threat to life and/or property. The threat to lives is NOT YET IMMEDIATE.
- Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.
- Due to the potential for rapidly changing conditions to develop into a serious threat, residents are advised to prepare for the issuance of an evacuation order.

SHELTER IN PLACE

- Conditions exist that may ENDANGER the lives of those in a defined area.
- Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows.
- Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.
- Access to the area under a shelter in place order may or may not be restricted by a soft or hard closure.

HARD ROAD CLOSURE

- Law enforcement will prevent the general public from entering the area on foot or by vehicle.
- In the case of a long-term closure, barricades may be used to maintain the closure in lieu of law enforcement personnel.

SOFT ROAD CLOSURE

- Law enforcement will prevent the general public from entering the area.
- Those residents who reside in the impacted area will be allowed access with ID.

TEMPORARY EVACUATION POINT (TEP)

Temporary evacuation points are used as evacuee collection areas during an emergency. Upon arriving at a temporary evacuation point, evacuees will be met by a mass care and shelter representative who will evaluate the individual's sheltering needs.

EMERGENCY ALERTS & VCEMERGENCY.COM

During an expanding emergency incident, the Sheriff's Emergency Services Duty Officer will respond to the incident command post and assist with coordinating emergency evacuations, issuing alert and warning messages on VC Alert and VCEmergency.com, and notifying other key stakeholders, including City Emergency Management Personnel. Sheriff Emergency Services is notified of all significant incidents by the Ventura County Fire Department and will automatically respond to the incident command post to assist with coordination. The Sheriff's Emergency Services Duty Officer can be reached 24/7/365 by calling 805-947-8210.

EMERGENCY SHELTERING

The Ventura County Human Services Agency (HSA) is the lead organization responsible for Mass Care & Shelter. HSA works in close coordination with Sheriff's Emergency Services and the American Red Cross to activate and operate emergency shelters. Should the need to activate an emergency shelter arise, the initial point of coordination will be the Sheriff's Emergency Services Duty Officer. Sheriff's Emergency Services will work with City Emergency Management personnel to staff and operate the shelter.

If you have any questions or concerns related to this information, please do not hesitate to call Patrick Maynard at (805) 654-3843 or email Patrick.Maynard@ventura.org. Thank you in advance for your assistance!