



Caltrans®

**Caltrans Protocols for
Unsheltered Individuals
Experiencing Homelessness
During COVID 19-
Coronavirus**

Partnering with Caltrans

Guidance for Caltrans Landscape Maintenance Staff



Maintenance Policy Directive 20-02R6 (MPD 20-02R6)



Refrain from cleaning an unsheltered encampment unless there is an immediate safety concern



In effect until December 31, 2020, with review on or before



Guidance provided by –Caltrans Headquarters, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), CalHR and others

Treatment of Unsheltered Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

- Unsheltered Individual housing should be made available (i.e. hotel rooms) to ensure we are following guidelines of the CDC, CDPH, CalHR, and others, as well as specific guidance from HQ
 - Individuals cannot be relocated, as it disperses people throughout the community possibly spreading COVID-19
 - Shelter in place with social distancing at current location, unless adequate COVID-19 appropriate accommodations are available

Treatment of Unsheltered Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

- **Caltrans Direct Request for Relocation** - Must be elevated for coordination to HQ through District 7 maintenance chain of command
 - Emergencies are prioritized
 - Location is determined unsafe to unsheltered individual and/or public as assessed by District 7 supervisor/superintendent and elevated to HQ
 - Request can be initiated by other government agency, but must be assessed and elevated through District 7 chain of command to HQ
 - Coordination for requests should be streamlined by city/county POC through CT Liaison on Homelessness

Identify All Government Agencies Responsible for the Health and Safety of Unsheltered Individuals in the Community

Determine

Determine all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility where unsheltered individual is encamped

Ensure

Ensure agencies are notified of specific issues described within their jurisdiction

Meet

Meet with all government agencies to discuss the location

- Develop an independent action plan for jurisdiction
- Create joint plan with all agencies
- All agencies rendezvous to address location

Identify All Government Agencies Responsible for the Health and Safety of Unsheltered Individuals in the Community

Action

- If possible coordinate relocation of unsheltered individuals to safer COVID 19 appropriate accommodations
- Create strategies to decrease the location from being breached in the future

Collaborate

- If relocation not possible create a collaborative action plan to joint clean-up HazMat litter and debris and removal
- Perform outreach to educate unsheltered individuals on safety

Enforce

- Develop a plan with the respective law enforcement agency to relocate reluctant unsheltered individuals to ensure their safety and secure infrastructure

Partnership with Caltrans to Improve City and/or County!

Designate

Designate a point of contact (POC) for city/county to collaborate with CT Liaison on Homelessness

Collaborate

Volunteering with the Adopt-A-Highway Program

Request

Request a three day permit to implement a designated location to clean-up in your city/county

Enter

Enter a Landscape Maintenance Agreement for a designated location in your city/county

COVID 19- Coronavirus Related Impacts on Caltrans Resources

- Funds allocated to Hazmat Contractors for **all** encampment relocation/clean-up is at a very high cost
- Decline of **450+** Community Service Workers (over 8 years) dedicated to assist maintenance landscape crews
- Decline of **140+** additional persons from “Road to Second Chances,” inmate program to assist with landscaping
- **166** Landscape Maintenance Workers to maintain **6,300** Acres across L.A. and Ventura County
- **1500+** Customer Service Request (CSR) in system- with redundancies



Encampment Prioritization

➤ Emergency

- Occupants connected to high voltage wires impacting system operations
- People in travel lanes
- People in confined bridge cells
- Active fires
- Need to perform emergency inspections

Encampment Prioritization

➤ Urgent

- Encampments with combustible materials or unauthorized vehicles such as RVs under structures
- Encampments in gore points or areas where the only access to camps is by crossing live traffic
- Damage to stability of slope or structures by digging campsites into embankments or slopes
- Concealments that block access to structures





Encampment Prioritization

- **Mitigate Before Moving Unsheltered Individuals**
 - Work with CAL FIRE & CHP to monitor severity of safety threats
 - Consider mitigation first
 - Focus on relocation with local governments

Encampment Prioritization

➤ Mitigate Location

- Attempt to mitigate with trash cleanups
- Focus on relocation with local governments
- Work with CoCs to find ways to prevent moving people, increasing sanitation and cleanliness
- Engage people to help people, collectively



Encampment Prioritization



➤ **Abandoned Encampments**

- Locations without unsheltered individuals with only litter and debris
- Location not occupied by unsheltered for over 48-72 hours

Relocating Unsheltered Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

- Relocation of unsheltered individual happens **only** when local partners identify safer spaces for **all** of the unsheltered individuals and the following items below are answered/provided:
 - ✓ Is there a Safety concern?
 - ✓ How was concern identified?
 - ✓ If on a construction project site, what are the specific construction impact costs and timeline?
 - ✓ If possible, please include site photos.

Clean-up in Lieu of Relocation

- **Caltrans HazMat Litter and Debris Removal** – Assessed weekly and elevated through maintenance chain of command to be included for HazMat contractor, and HQ is notified
 - Supervisor assesses locations as he performs regular route inspections
 - Customer Service Request (CSR) system triggers multiple requests and notifies supervisor/superintendent
 - CT Liaison on Homelessness receives direct request through Unified Homelessness Response Center
 - Coordination should be from established city/county with CT Liaison on Homelessness

Partnership with Caltrans to Improve City and/or County!

Implement

Partnership within your jurisdiction, the COC, and Caltrans

Synchronize

Operationalize with city/county to determine jurisdiction plan

Develop

Create action plan to rendezvous with all stakeholders

Best Practices

Use previous successes in city/county model to make a “replicable model” across D7

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A green rectangular sign with rounded corners and a white border, tilted slightly upwards. The sign features the words "Thank You" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The sign is mounted on a silver metal post. The background is a clear blue sky with a few wispy white clouds. The sign is set against a blue and white gradient background that has a 3D effect with a blue border and a grey shadow.

Thank You