



Humboldt County Agricultural Access Pass Program

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the Humboldt County Agricultural Access Pass Program and the registration process. Following the August Complex in 2020, partner agencies and county departments supported the development of a program to provide options for agricultural producers and/or commercial livestock operators to access restricted areas following a natural disaster in order to provide care for livestock and maintain crops. To that end, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, Agricultural Commissioner's Office and Planning & Building Department established a program through the issuance of an Agricultural Access Pass, which may permit qualifying agricultural producers/cultivators and/or commercial livestock operators to gain emergency entrance to evacuation zones, or other restricted areas, to provide feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to large scale commercial livestock, and/or to tend to crops.

The Agricultural Access Pass does not grant authority to the applicant to stay at their residence and/or business when an evacuation order is issued.

On pages 2-4, you will find an overview of the program, including specific qualifications for the Agricultural Access Pass, application information and terms/conditions of access.

To be issued an Access Pass, you must complete the pass application form by **December 31, 2024**, which is available online at humboldt.gov/3162/Restricted-Area-Access-Pass-Program.

NEW IN 2024: Prior to applying for an Agricultural Access Pass, you must first complete the U.S. Fire Administration [Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior S-190](#) training online.

In order to obtain your physical Agricultural Access Pass card, you will need to come to the Sheriff's Main Station (826 4th Street, Eureka, CA 95501) to have your photo taken.

Non-pass holders cannot accompany you to your property. All persons entering restricted areas must have completed the required training and been issued their own pass to gain entry to restricted areas.

Please make every effort to apply prior to an emergency. The goal of this program is to have businesses/operations pre-register for access before an incident occurs.

At this time, the Agricultural Access Pass will only be valid for approved operations located in Humboldt County. Passes issued in 2024 will remain valid through December 31, 2025.

The passes will be administered and approved through the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, in partnership with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and Planning & Building Department.

Sincerely,

Ryan Derby
Emergency Services Program Manager
Humboldt County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services



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Agricultural Access Pass Program Overview:

Application: To become enrolled in the Access Pass program, you need to provide contact information, APN(s) of your business/operation, and must be able to confirm that your operation is a bona fide agricultural operation by providing the following at the time of application:

- Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office-issued Operator Identification Number (*traditional agriculture access pass applications only*)
- Humboldt County issued Cannabis Cultivation Permit Number (*commercial cannabis access pass applications only*)
- Parcel Number associated with your business (*required for both traditional agriculture and commercial cannabis access pass applications*)

Or two of the following (*traditional agriculture access pass applications only*):

- A redacted "Schedule F" tax form
- Agricultural land lease documentation
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Services Agency (FSA) Farm Number
- California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Bureau of Livestock Identification registered brand
- Proof of membership in local industry association (e.g., Farm Bureau, Cattlemen's Association)

Additionally, to become registered in the Agricultural Access Pass Program, you must provide proof that you've completed an approved training educating you on fire behavior, communications during emergencies, and the incident command structure, as well sign an attestation at the time of application, agreeing to the Terms and Conditions of access.

Agricultural Access Pass: Upon submission and approval of the application, a pass will be issued by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services. The pass must be presented to law enforcement, fire personnel, or other emergency personnel at a point of entry in order to gain entrance to an evacuation zone, or other restricted area, caused by a natural disaster for the purpose of providing feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to large scale commercial agriculture and/or commercial cannabis operations, subject to the discretion of the emergency personnel. The Agricultural Access Pass is only valid until the expiration date printed on the issued card.

Conditional Access: Decisions for 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 emergency personnel. Access will only be granted during daylight hours, and all persons must immediately depart the restricted area by the same route as entry. An escort may be required in any instance and all restricted entry will be dependent on approval of onsite emergency personnel. During initial evacuation phases, do not expect to gain access to restricted areas by presenting/using the Agricultural Access Pass, as during such time all efforts involve the safe removal of people. Once the situation has stabilized, which may take over 24 hours or multiple days, then the Agricultural Access Pass will be considered an option by law enforcement, and fire personnel, or other emergency personnel.



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Applicable Terminology:

Hard Closure: Evacuation Order, no access for any non-emergency personnel, including Agricultural Access Pass holders

Soft Closure: Evacuation Order, potential access for approved Agricultural Access Pass holders

During an emergency, do not contact Humboldt County Animal Control for assistance, or to notify them of your agricultural operation and/or livestock behind fire lines.

Prior Notification: If your operation/business is located in an evacuation zone, you will need to notify your interest in using the Agricultural Access Pass to gain entrance by contacting the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) at 707-268-2500, or the Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 707-441-5620. There will be a coordinated effort to consolidate communication with the Sheriff's Office and/or other emergency personnel; once access has been approved by law enforcement or other emergency personnel, the Agricultural Access Pass holder will be notified. **DO NOT GO TO A ROAD BLOCK AND ATTEMPT TO USE THE AGRICULTURAL ACCESS PASS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION.**

Removal of Livestock: If you intend to remove livestock from the evacuation zone (e.g., veterinary care, alternative location), please provide prior notification to the OES or Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The intent of this term is to prevent theft of livestock during an emergency.

Pass Database: The Agricultural Access Pass registration database will be maintained and updated by the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services and Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Data will be available, but not limited to, Cal-Fire Humboldt/Del-Norte Unit, California Highway Patrol, and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. The Agricultural Access Pass database may also be used for other emergency issues, e.g., cattle out on the road.

During an emergency, law enforcement or other emergency personnel at the point of entry to an evacuation zone will be provided a current list of valid Agricultural Access Pass Holders, permit numbers, along with a sample valid pass.

Violations of Pass: Approved Agricultural Access Pass program activities are limited to:

1. Evacuating, transporting, sheltering, feeding, watering, administering veterinary care to livestock.
2. Irrigating crops.
3. Fueling emergency generators or providing auxiliary support to peace officers and emergency personnel (such as identifying access roads and water points).

Activities not currently allowed include harvesting or sowing crops, food processing, and facility repairs. Thus, if you are found outside of the scope of this purpose, then your Agricultural Access Pass may be permanently revoked.

Issuance and Risk: Access in an area closed to the public during a disaster may affect the coverage of your property liability insurance, vehicle or equipment insurance, and worker's compensation coverage. As you re-enter your property be aware that hazardous conditions may still exist.



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Agricultural Access Pass Terms and Conditions:

Each requester will agree to these terms and conditions of entry by signing a virtual attestation at the time of the initial application.

1. The protection of life is at all times the priority of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and the Office of Emergency Services (OES).
2. Access will not be permitted if conditions are unsafe – this will be determined daily by incident command personnel and the Emergency Operations Center will keep a daily updated list of which pass holders will be permitted entry by zone.
3. All decisions made by OES and incident command personnel pertaining to the entry into a restricted area are based upon the protection of human life which shall be prioritized over agricultural production.
4. Access is restricted to the date and time(s) identified to be safe by incident command personnel and Emergency Operations Center leadership, and will be limited to fulfilling the activity listed by the requester in the Application.
5. Requester acknowledges the inherent risks and hazards associated with accessing restricted areas subject to official road closure as the result of a local emergency.
6. Requester acknowledges and understands that access to restricted areas is subject to orders of law enforcement, fire services, emergency services and the California National Guard.
7. Requester agrees that requester and any other individuals who access restricted areas will follow all orders of those agencies regarding entry and exit from the property.
8. Requester is solely responsible for the safety of those individuals included in this request and is solely responsible for any damage to property or equipment arising from restricted access.
9. Requester shall hold harmless, defend and indemnify the County of Humboldt and its agents, officers, officials, employees and volunteers from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, liabilities, expenses and costs of any kind or nature, including, without limitation, attorney's fees and other costs of litigation, arising out of, or in connection with, Requester's access to the restricted area.
10. Requester is solely responsible for the actions or omissions of the requester, its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, contractors and subcontractors.
11. Requester understands and agrees, if access is granted it is only to the location and activities described by the requester in the Application form.
12. Requester further understands that access is limited to the direct route to and from the location listed by the requester. The requester, his or her officers, agents, employees, volunteers, contractors and subcontractors are not to stop, wander, loiter or otherwise meander from the location, or perform activities other than those specified by the requester.
13. Requester acknowledges that only one (1) vehicle will be granted access to restricted areas per access pass.
14. Failure to adhere to these terms and conditions will result in the revocation of access and may subject the requester, his or her officers, agents, employees, volunteers, contractors and subcontractors to criminal prosecution under California Penal Code section 409.5.

Modifications: This is a new program and will be reviewed annually. To improve the program, modifications may be made annually and during the course of the year – in which case, any changes will be provided to the annual Agricultural Access Pass holder via email.