

Notes from the Emergency Preparedness Evacuation Class given on: October 17, 2024

Attendance: 97 in-person + 21 zoom = 118

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[Emergency Management \(washoecounty.gov\)](https://www.washoecounty.gov/em/)

- Potential Hazards Our Area Hazards
 - Wildfire
 - Earthquake
 - Flood
 - Transportation Incident
 - Extreme Weather
 - Drought
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Radiological Waste Transport
 - Volcano
 - Avalanche/Landside
- Video on evacuations <https://youtu.be/HxM2ee2aajU>
 - Threat determined/incident occurs
 - Evacuation area determined
 - Request sent for evacuation
 - Evacuation point identified
 - Evacuation alert sent
 - EAS (Emergency Alert System)
 - WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts)
 - Social Media
 - Email
 - Text
 - Voicemail
 - Alerts and Information provided
 - Factors in selecting an evacuation area
 - Phase evacuation to avoid traffic

- Expect to see responders
- Common questions
 - Do not need to wait for evacuation alert
 - May or may not have time to pack
 - Have a plan – practice plan
 - Once area is evacuated, no one cannot return until evacuation lifted
 - Plan for pets
- www.readywashoe.com
- www.perimetermap.com
- Evacuating
 - Evacuate when told to do so
 - You do not need to wait until told to evacuate
 - Roads can become congested, so its best to get out early
 - **Do not** usually close opposing traffic lanes so all lanes evacuate – need to have access for first responders
 - If pet left behind, notify 9-1-1
 - Listen to alerts for directions as to where to go – there are no preset evacuation centers
 - Shelters may be libraries, community centers, gyms, churches, etc.
 - Large evacuations usually the Convention Center or downtown ballroom
 - Redcross will provide water, snacks, meals, cots
 - Animal evacuation trailers are available
- What can we do:
 - Have an evacuation kit
 - Make a plan
 - Meeting place inside and outside neighborhood
 - Local Person of Contact (POC) & long distance
 - Methods of communication
 - Places for pets
 - Stay informed
 - Check verified social media accounts
 - Traditional News Media
 - www.emergencywashoe.com
- Kit/Go Bag (96-hours)
 - Water
 - Food
 - Chargers
 - Clothes
 - Toiletries

- Medications
- Important documents
 - Title to house/cars
 - Passports
 - Social Security Card
 - Identification
 - Insurance
- Comfort items
- Activities for kids
- Medical equipment
- Pets
 - Food
 - Water
 - Bowls
 - Waste bags
 - Cat litter
 - Toys
 - Medications
- Questions
 - What bridges retrofitted to sustain a 6+ Earthquake?
 - None
 - Virginia Street was replaced and is at code
 - Sierra & Arlington under replacement construction
 - Keystone under evaluation
 - Concerns with nuclear waste?
 - No concern but could happen
 - Local agencies well prepared
 - Are we downwind from any nuclear facilities?
 - No
 - Yucca Mountain
 - San Francisco
 - What are the effects if the Tank Farm exploded?
 - Large fire the most like event, not an explosion of the tank farm
 - May or may not cause evacuations
 - Would cause fuel shortages
 - Any recommendations for satellite communication sources?
 - Starlink
 - [Starlink](#)
 - Recommendations for being prepared with gasoline?

- Try to have a tank full of gas stored- between ½ to ¾ full at all times
- Enough gas to get to next town
- Once alert issued, how often is map updated?
 - Instantaneously – as issues change
- Considerations for volunteers during an emergency
 - VOAD – Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
 - [Homepage | VOAD \(nvoad.org\)](http://nvoad.org)
 - CERT – Community Emergency Response Team
 - [Community Emergency Response Team - CERT \(washoesheriff.com\)](http://washoesheriff.com)
 - 93 Emergency Plans in Washoe County
 - Volunteer and Management Plan
 - Depends on type of disaster
- Often during a disaster there are many in community that want to make donations. Agency working on how to handle influx of donations and volunteers
- If a major disaster affects I-80, what are plans or timing to get food and water?
 - We have multiple roads – I-80 East and West; US 395 North and South
 - During Davis fire, State authorized National Guard to assist
 - All disasters are managed locally, then by State, then Federal
 - Declarations of ‘disaster’ open up funding and resources
- If evacuated, should we leave doors unlocked?
 - Depends on who you ask
 - Fire department would indicate o.k.
 - If unlocked, emergency responders have easy access. But they will break down door if needed
 - If unlocked, open for looters
 - In the end, life more important than property
- Most reliable way of communication?
 - Land lines
 - Cell phones are spotty at best
 - AM Radio often stays on air when FM fails
 - Nothing is perfect
 - Search and Rescue/CERT go door to door