

Gerlach/“Washoe Rural/22 North”

Washoe County, Fire/Emergency Medical Services

Purpose:

To provide a report with findings and recommendations so as to assist with decisions on All Risk Public Safety service delivery options for the area of “**Washoe Rural/22 North.**” Options or recommendations are for the purpose of assisting with County Commission discussions and decisions pertaining to future planning for All Risk public safety service delivery within the area of **Washoe Rural/22 North.**

History and overview of current service delivery Gerlach Washoe Rural/22 North

For many years Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department has operated in the area referred to as 22 North. 22 North is the longitudinal description for Washoe Rural in correlation to Maps supplied within this report. (Page 10)

Most of Washoe Rural can be described as high desert with mixed use residential and some commercial with a medium amount of scattered residences/private land, farming/agricultural lands, and commercial industry.

Gerlach and a large majority of Washoe Rural/22 North are what could be considered an island that relies on self-sufficient emergency response when emergent and non-emergent incidents occur. Below you will find reference and description of the services provided by Tribal agency because of the relationship to closest forces concept for mutual and automatic aid needs. The next closest resources that continue to provide automatic and mutual aid are Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to the south, and Cal-Fire and Cedarville emergency resources both of which are located on the California border to the north and may have extended response times that will exceed one to two hours depending on weather and road conditions.

Gerlach and Washoe Rural/22 North have no fixed medical facilities that would be able to deliver appropriate care in some medical incidents. This situation requires helicopter or ground transportation to receiving medical facilities in Sparks or Reno, often with Gerlach Ambulances rendezvousing and transferring patient care to agencies such as tribal or private ambulance services.

Gerlach is the largest community located within Washoe Rural/22 North with neighboring tribal communities of Nixon and Sutcliff. Tribal lands and residents of Nixon and Sutcliff receive All Risk Public Safety services that include Fire Response, Emergency Medical Services as well as ambulance transport all managed by the tribe and staffed currently with 11 full time or paid staff members and 11 volunteers at various levels of response service capabilities.

Gerlach Fire Department currently provides coverage with all risk Public Safety services that include Fire Response, Emergency Medical Services as well as ambulance transport managed through an agreement with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District staffed currently with 2 paid staff members and 7 volunteers identified as 5 members at the operational level and 2 members at the support level.

Prior to 2014, the Gerlach Volunteers were, and continue to, in many ways be the backbone for service delivery to Gerlach and a large area of **Rural Washoe/22 North.**

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Station #242 Incident response for years 2013-2018

2013	Building Fire	2
	Mobile Property (vehicle) Fire, other	3
	Road Freight or transport fire	2
	Brush, or brush and grass mixture	2
	Outside Rubbish fire, other	1
	EMS	7
Total		17
2014	Cooking fire, confined to container	1
	Passenger vehicle fire	1
	Forest, woods or wildland fire	2
	Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire	2
	EMS	9
Total		15
2015	Passenger vehicle fire	1
	Camper or recreational fire, other	1
	Natural vegetation fire, other	1
	Forest, woods or wildland fire	2
	EMS	13
Total		20
2016	Pub Asst	2
	FALSE	6
	Fire	9
	Good Int	20
	EMS	34
Total		71
2017	Good Int	25
	Weather	1
	False	8
	Pub Asst	5
	Fire	18
	HaxMat	2
Total		137
2018	Good Int	26
	HazMat	2
	False	5
	Pub Asst	9
	Fire	8
	EMS	86
Total		136

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Fixed Facilities and Equipment within Gerlach and Washoe Rural/22 North

Station #242 is located at 420 Cottonwood, Gerlach, NV 89412.

The Fire Station is attached to the Gerlach Community Center which is a manufactured steel building with 4 apparatus bays all with electric roll up doors. The entire building has all associated requirements for utilities that allow it to be staffed and utilized for public events and housing of public safety equipment. (With the exception of an alternative energy source, a generator)



Recommendation

Installation of Exhaust Removal System in coordination with Station/Community Center Generator.

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Fixed Facilities and Equipment within Gerlach and Washoe Rural/22 North

Adjacent to the Fire Station, a Modular Home has been provided from Washoe County for what I believe was future planning in speculation that 24 hour staffing services could be housed within the modular for the needs of emergency and non-emergency responses throughout Gerlach and Washoe Rural/22 North.



Recommendation

Modular will require completion of skirting around lower modular, potential mold removal/repair and other essential needs for staffing or use for the community.

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Fixed Facilities and Equipment within Gerlach and Washoe Rural/22 North

- 1-Type II, 2006 International/Pierce Structure Firefighting Engine
- 1-Type III, 1997 International/Pierce Wildland Firefighting Engine
- 1-Type I, 2005 International/Pierce Water Tender
- 1-Type 6, 1999 Ford F-550
- 1-Type I, 2009 Ford F-450/Horton Ambulance 4 wheel drive
- 1-Type I, 1992 F-350/Wheeled Coach Ambulance 4 Wheel Drive (Reserve)
- 1-UTV, 2009 Polaris 800 6X6
- Associated mixture of Firefighting Appliances
- Associated required Structure Gear for firefighters
- Associated medical equipment and supplies for rendering medical care to the sick/injured
- Communication equipment necessary/required for initiation of incident response and daily communications with Public Safety Answering Point and neighboring agencies

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Service Delivery Standards/Expectations

Washoe County Commissioners will need to evaluate and decide on the level of service delivery standards that will best serve the area of Gerlach Washoe/Rural 22 North.

Recommendation 1

- Creation of Fire District NRS 474.460-474.495
- Fire Board-County Commissioners
- Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District retains management and oversight
- Budget, establish ad valorem that would reflect all properties associated with Washoe Rural/22 North
- Establish Ambulance Transport fees concurrent with acceptable and customary rates for Northern Nevada
- Recommend that all residents be provided with ambulance subscription service. Resident members of subscription service will be provided with insurance only services
- Allow for ambulance reimbursement provided by Government Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) cost reimbursement program
- Establish minimum requirements for Community Associate firefighter, Ambulance Transport Technicians, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Support Service Associate
- Establish monetary incentive program for Community Associate Members
- Fire Prevention

NRS 474.460 Organization of district in unincorporated areas; powers, governing body and officers of district.

1. All territory in each county or consolidated municipality not included in any other fire protection district, except incorporated areas other than consolidated municipalities, may be organized by ordinance by the board of county commissioners of the county in which that territory lies into as many fire protection districts as necessary to provide for the prevention and extinguishment of fires in the county, until such time as that territory may be included in another fire protection district formed in accordance with the provisions of NRS 474.010 to 474.450, inclusive, or 474.532 and 474.533.

2. Each such district:

- (a) Is a political subdivision of the State; and
- (b) Has perpetual existence unless dissolved as provided in this chapter.

3. Each such district may:

- (a) Sue and be sued, and be a party to suits, actions and proceedings;
- (b) Arbitrate claims; and
- (c) Contract and be contracted with.

4. The board of county commissioners organizing each such district is ex officio the governing body of each such district. The governing body must be known as the board of fire commissioners.

5. The chair of the board of county commissioners is ex officio the chair of each such district.

6. The county clerk is ex officio the clerk of each such district.

7. Unless the board of fire commissioners employs a treasurer, the county treasurer is ex officio the treasurer of each such district.

(Added to NRS by 1963, 324; A 1967, 964; 1975, 1635; 2007, 1306; 2015, 180, 2228)

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NRS 474.495 Provision of emergency medical services; acquisition and operation of ambulances; purchase of insurance; employment of trained personnel. The board of fire commissioners of a district organized pursuant to NRS 474.460 or 474.533 may:

1. Provide emergency medical services within the district; and
2. Purchase, acquire by donation or otherwise, lease, operate and maintain ambulances if necessary, and may take out liability and other insurance therefor. The board of fire commissioners may employ trained personnel to operate those vehicles.

(Added to NRS by 2007, 1301; A 2015, 181)

Service Delivery Standards/Expectations

Washoe County Commissioners will need to evaluate and decide on the level of service delivery standards that will best serve the area of Gerlach Washoe/Rural 22 North.

Recommendation 2

- Creation of Fire District NRS 474 or NRS 318.1181-318.1185 General Improvement District
- Fire Board-County Commissioners
- Establish leadership and management structure for oversight and direction
- Institute minimum requirements for Community Associate Firefighter, Ambulance Transport Technicians, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Support Service Associate
- Endorse that all residents be provided with ambulance subscription service. Resident members of subscription service will be provided with insurance only services.
- Create Request for Proposal (RFP) that would encompass Service delivery Standards/Expectations
- Enter into discussions for **contract services** that would reflect Service Delivery Standards and associated abilities for Ambulance Transport Fees and State Approved Government Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) Cost Reimbursement Program.
- Establish monetary incentive program for Community Associate Members
- **Enter into discussions with neighboring Tribal Emergency Services to establish possible Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for services for Gerlach/Washoe Rural/22 North**
- Fire Prevention

NRS 318.1181 Protection from fire. In the case of a district created wholly or in part for the purpose of furnishing fire protection, the board may:

1. Acquire fire protection equipment and acquire, construct or improve fire protection facilities and make improvements necessary and incidental thereto;
2. Eliminate fire hazards existing within the district in the manner prescribed in NRS 474.580 for districts created pursuant to chapter 474 of NRS;

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3. Clear public highways and private lands of dry grass, stubble, bushes, rubbish and other inflammable material which in its judgment constitute a fire hazard;
4. Coordinate fire protection activities with the State Forester Firewarden; and
5. Cooperate with the State Forester Firewarden in formulating a statewide plan for the prevention and control of fires.

(Added to NRS by 1977, 525; A 1991, 382; 1993, 1554; 2011, 2477)

NRS 318.1185 Emergency medical services. In the case of a district created wholly or in part for furnishing emergency medical services, the board may:

1. Acquire any equipment and property necessary for those services;
2. Hire and supervise emergency medical technicians certified pursuant to chapter 450B of NRS and other personnel necessary to carry out the functions of the district; and
3. Fix rates or charges for the use of the services furnished by the district and change those rates or charges as it considers necessary.

(Added to NRS by 1985, 1798)

Service Delivery Standards/Expectations

Washoe County Commissioners will need to evaluate and decide on the level of service delivery standards that will best serve the area of Gerlach Washoe/Rural 22 North.

Recommendation 3

- Maintain Current level of service, Current Staffing Matrix, Associate Emergency/Support Staff (VFD)
- Provide for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to continue Management Responsibility (ILA) maintain Mutual Aid, Auto Aid, WFPP and Fire Prevention agreements
- Budgetary responsibility (Washoe County)
- Establish minimum requirements for Community Associate Firefighter, Ambulance Transport Technicians, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Support Service Associate
- Establish Ambulance Transport fees concurrent with acceptable and customary rates for Northern Nevada
- Endorse that all residents be provided with ambulance subscription service. Resident members of subscription service will be provided with insurance only services
- Allow for ambulance reimbursement provided by Government Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) cost reimbursement program.

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Glossary of Terms:

Ambulance Subscription Service: Only people residing within the service area of Gerlach/Washoe Rural/22 North are eligible to enroll themselves and their dependents in the program. Insurance will only be billed for services rendered to people who reside in the service area of Gerlach/Washoe 22 North.

Community Associate Firefighter: Volunteer Qualified Firefighter

Community Associate Ambulance Attendant: Volunteer Ambulance Attendant Driver

Community Associate Emergency Medical Technician Basic: Volunteer Ambulance Attendant with EMT Certification

Community Associate Emergency Medical Technician Advanced: Volunteer Ambulance Attendant with EMT Advanced Certification

Community Associate Paramedic: Volunteer Ambulance Attendant with Paramedic certification

Community Associate Support Services: Volunteer members who provide support services to incidents and community

Government Emergency Medical Transport: State of Nevada Medicaid authorized Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Services (GEMT) supplemental reimbursement program. This voluntary Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) based program provides additional funding to eligible governmental entities that provide GEMT services to Medicaid beneficiaries. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved State Plan Amendment authorizing the federal share of the supplemental reimbursement payments based on uncompensated costs for Medicaid fee-for-service transports.

Service Delivery Standards/Expectations: Standards and expectations derived from the representatives of the Washoe County Commission for emergency response and mitigation. Example: that Gerlach /Washoe rural 22/North has an expectation that emergencies of any type will receive upon time of report of any incident, an activation of the closest fire station. Personal committed to emergency and non-emergency incidents including community associate members will respond and mitigate incidents in a safe and timely fashion as dictated by availability of resources.