

**STAFF REPORT**

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**Date:** February 6, 2025

**To:** Washoe County Commission, TMFPD Board of Fire Commissioners, Reno City Council, Sparks City Council

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Discussion Only): Presentation and discussion on the collaborative regional emergency management process, including strategic goals, community lifelines, and updates on ongoing efforts related to emergency preparedness and response plans.

**From:** Kelly Echeverria

**Department:** Washoe County Emergency Management

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**Summary:**

Effective emergency management relies on coordinated efforts across multiple jurisdictions. Washoe County Emergency Management and its regional partners lead these efforts by implementing a framework that follows national best practices and strategic planning to mitigate, respond to, and recover from risks.

FEMA's community lifelines, such as safety, health services, energy, and transportation, support disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Local and regional agencies collaborate to identify vulnerabilities, enhance response capabilities, and establish emergency protocols.

Ongoing efforts include testing emergency plans, strengthening regional agreements, integrating new technologies, and engaging the community. Emergency response agencies, utilities, healthcare providers, and communication networks work together to enhance resilience. Staff will provide updates on current initiatives, highlight challenges, and discuss future improvements.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Public Safety

**Background:**

Effective emergency management requires a whole community, all-hazards approach to ensure a timely and efficient disaster response. Washoe County Emergency Management and its regional partners lead this effort by establishing a framework that aligns with national best practices and incorporates strategic planning to address potential risks and hazards.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) developed the concept of community lifelines, which serve as critical components that enable communities to function and recover from disasters effectively. These lifelines include safety and security, food, water, shelter, health and medical services, energy, communications, transportation, and hazardous materials.

Local and regional agencies including emergency management offices, first responders, healthcare providers, and infrastructure partners work together to identify vulnerabilities, streamline response efforts, and establish emergency preparedness protocols. The regional emergency management process aims to strengthen interagency coordination, optimize resource allocation, and improve public safety measures

before, during, and after emergencies.

**Discussion:**

Key elements of the regional emergency management process include strategic goals, integrated preparedness planning, community lifelines, and updates on ongoing efforts. Emergency management strategies focus on the five mission areas (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) and the 32 core capabilities established in the National Preparedness Goal, within those mission areas. Emergency management leads the regional effort in identifying tracking and closing gaps identified in planning, training, exercises, and response. Community lifelines play a crucial role in emergency management by identifying and prioritizing the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society.

Key regional partners include:

- County Emergency Management
- City Emergency Management
- Tribal Emergency Management
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)
- Washoe County Regional Animal Services
- The American Red Cross
- Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
- NV Energy
- Truckee Meadows Fire District
- Washoe County Sheriff's Office and WCSO 911 Dispatch
- Reno Fire Department, Reno Police Department, and Reno 911 Dispatch
- Sparks Fire Department, Sparks Police Department, and Sparks 911 Dispatch
- REMSA & REMSA Dispatch
- Communication Partners
- Interhospital Coordinating Council
- Northern Nevada Public Health
- Transportation Partners (RTAA, NDOT)
- Educational Partners (NSHE, UNR, TMCC, WCSD)
- The National Weather Service
- Other regional emergency management partners

Ongoing emergency preparedness and response efforts include advancing regional emergency management agreements and mutual aid pacts, integrating new technologies and data-driven tools for emergency response, and engaging the community to enhance disaster preparedness awareness. Staff will provide insights into the current state of regional emergency management, highlight successes and challenges, and explore opportunities for future improvements.

**Financial Implications:**

No financial implications are associated with the presentation.

**Legal Implications:**

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Commission/Council/Fire Chief provide feedback and discuss strategies to further strengthen regional resilience and preparedness efforts.

**Proposed Motion:**

None; item is for discussion only.

**Attachments:**