TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Governing Board Meeting

August 25, 2021

AGENDA ITEM VII.B

Briefing by Lt. Cabral, City of South Lake Police Dept. on Emergency Response/Evacuation Planning

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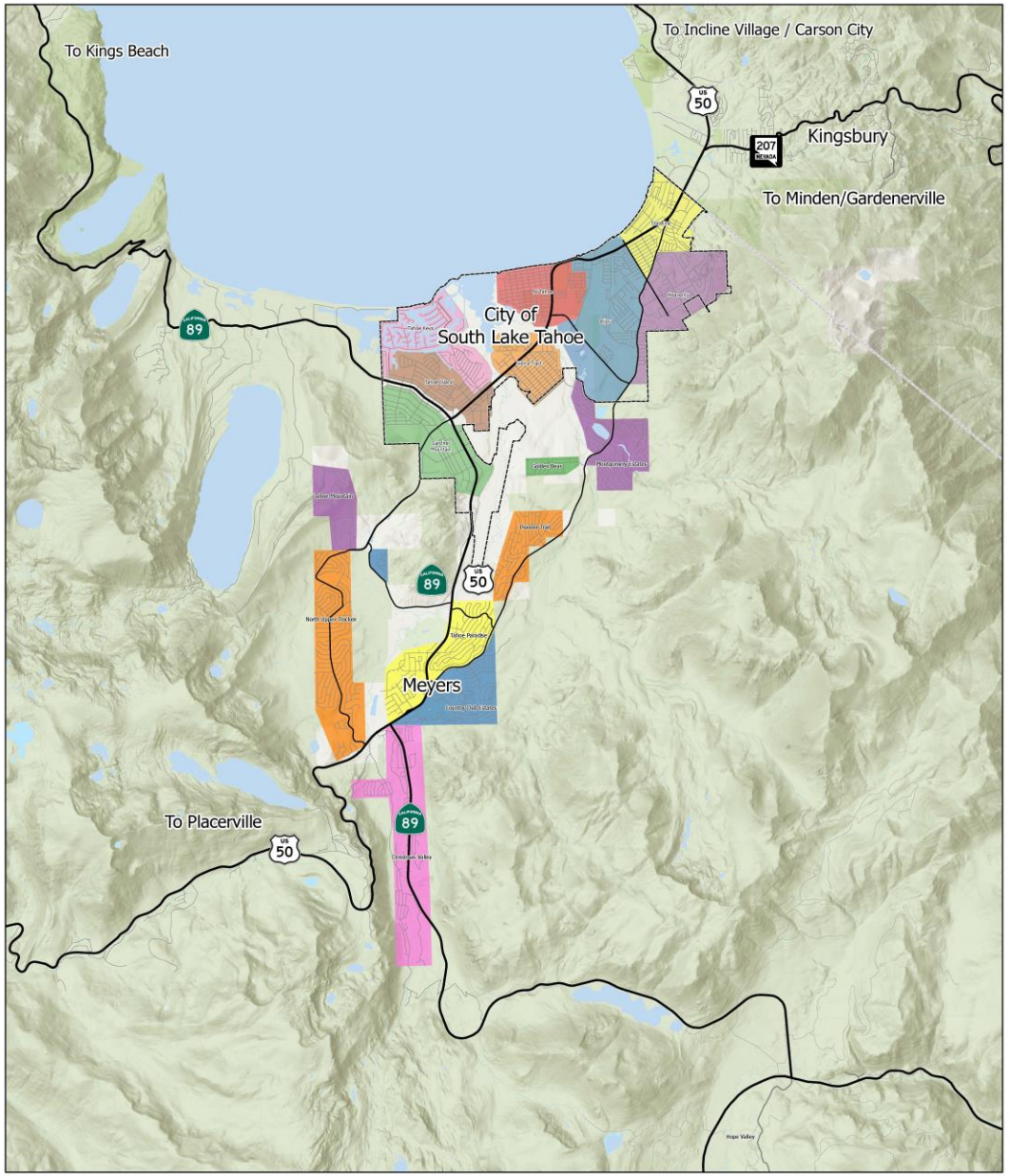

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ALL HAZARD COMMUNITY EVACUATION PLAN

Prepared By:
El Dorado County Sheriff, Office of Emergency Services

In Cooperation with:

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL
CITY OF SOUTH LAKE TAHOE
CAL FIRE SINCE 1885
EL DORADO COUNTY SHERIFF SINCE 1850
FireSafe COUNCIL
American Red Cross

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Be Prepared

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services--water, electricity or telephones--were cut off? Public Safety and disaster workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. Officials might have to prioritize responses to affected communities. For this reason, officials encourage individuals and neighborhoods to prepare to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours (3 days) after a major disaster. Specialized groups and teams, Search and Rescue (SAR), South Tahoe Action Team (STAT), and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), have been organized to assist in times of disaster. If you have questions, or need more information, you can contact the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Services, 530-621-5895. Remember, the best way to make your family and your home safer is to be prepared before disaster strikes.

Your Community

Most neighborhoods contain a surprising number of resources that can be utilized after a disaster. There is a misconception that some survivors of a disaster will immediately begin looting and terrorizing the unwitting. Experience has shown that the opposite happens. While some people may be dazed and confused after a disaster, experience has shown that disasters tend to bring people closer together. Many of the people who were rescued from the Cypress Structure in Oakland, after the Loma Prieta Earthquake, were rescued by residents of the neighborhood using ladders and other tools that people brought from their homes and businesses. In short, your own neighborhood could be your best resource after or during a disaster. Know your neighbors and be there for each other.

Disaster Preparation

Personal and family disaster preparedness consists of a number of planning and preparation steps designed to allow individuals and families to minimize the impact of a disaster and recover quickly. These processes include:

Identify Hazards

Learn about your community's hazards along with possible hazards at your own home. Ask your local fire department and your local emergency management officials about any other possible hazards they are aware of. Ask what types of disasters are most likely to happen in your community. Mitigate those hazards in your community and at your home. Establishing your neighborhood as a FireWise community can assist with preparing your home, identifying hazards, and building community relationships that will be valuable during a major disaster. More information on becoming a FireWise community can be found on the National Fire Protection Agency website, nfpa.org.

Create a Family Disaster Plan

Create your individual or family disaster plan. This includes knowing what to do during and after the disaster, as well as where to reunite, and what steps each family member should take. This includes training family members, gathering supplies and tools, and practicing your plan. Prepare your home to minimize hazards in the home, as well as steps you can take to protect the building. Be sure to include financial preparations including, insurance and inventory issues (including photographs) which are frequently overlooked. Be sure to utilize special resources like CERT, STAT, Red Cross, and any other non-governmental agencies for assistance. Make sure the plan includes steps for children, seniors, disabled persons, and pets.

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Preparing an Evacuation Plan

An evacuation plan has two parts: evacuation from your house, and evacuation from your neighborhood. An evacuation plan for your home is useful not only for disasters, but also for fires or other incidents in your home. Important points to remember when creating an evacuation plan for your home are as follows:

1. Have at least two (2) escape routes from each room.

2. Mark the locations of any escape ladders, or other special equipment

3. Mark locations of fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, first aid kits, and disaster supply kit.

4. Mark the locations of the shutoffs for gas, water, and electricity.

* For people with medical conditions or disabilities, mark their location as well as the location of any special equipment they will immediately need.

Know alternate routes from your home or location to the main roads

Prepare your home for potential emergencies every time you leave

If there is a need to evacuate from your house or location, you may have as little as 10 minutes. Under these circumstances, trying to think of what to save is very difficult. Take some time now to think about what items you would try to take with you and write those items down as a list so you will remember those items. Also think about those steps needed to secure your house and put those on your list as well.

Remember that cellular service, internet providers, and typical media outlets may be unavailable during an emergency, plan ahead by knowing your escape route(s) and download needed information before an emergency occurs.

The Evacuation Process

Public safety officials in conjunction with law enforcement will determine areas to be evacuated and the routes to be used, depending on the location of the incident and its behavior. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Affected residents will be advised of potential evacuation requirements as soon as possible. El Dorado County Sheriffs Office is responsible for carrying out the evacuation. Residents should follow their instructions and routes of travel. Other law enforcement, fire agencies, or even search and rescue units may assist them. Evacuees may be directed to an evacuation point and shelter if needed. Remember, due to health issues, pets will not be allowed in the shelters. When possible, a pet shelter area will be set up as close as possible. When incident conditions cause visibility concerns, movement may be limited to escorted convoys. Routes will be selected based on the incident and the best available knowledge of the incident and other adverse concerns for public safety (such as downed power lines and incoming emergency personnel).

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How Citizens Will Be Notified

During an emergency, public safety officials may be overwhelmed with many different and separate incidents. Citizens are encouraged to use common sense when they are faced with immediate danger and move away from the cause. We encourage the community to monitor several sources of information to get the best possible information to make informed decisions on their well being. Sources of information include:

Public Safety Officials
County OES, Emergency Phone Notification System, CodeRed
WEA, Emergency Alert System (KFBK 1530 AM & Television)
official government social media pages and websites

During an Evacuation

Be prepared to be directed by law enforcement personnel. Follow their directions! Be patient and stay with the flow of traffic. Speeding or passing may lead to an accident with emergency personnel focused on the incident. Be alert for downed power lines, loose animals, incoming emergency personnel, rocks, and other roadway hazards. Watch for emergency personnel working in or near the roadway, they will be difficult to see in the smoke and chaos. **Drive carefully with your headlights on. DO NOT PANIC!**

For areas near lakes, the beach and/or lakes are not ideal escape areas, consider early evacuation or sheltering in place. Watercraft may not be a good escape method, cold water and rough lake conditions can create challenges.

Shelter in Place

Depending on the incident, you may find yourself unable to evacuate or authorities may advise you to shelter in place. Sheltering in place is done when conditions outside of the home could be dangerous to attempt evacuation. Consider sheltering in place when you notice any of the following:

1. An unusual smell or sound, such as an explosion
2. Visible smoke, fire, or a vapor cloud
3. Skin or eye irritation
4. Breathing difficulty

You can use your entire house or only a few rooms. Make sure you choose an area that has a telephone, water, a toilet, and someplace you can seal off easily. A bedroom is an excellent choice. When sheltering in place, you should:

1. Seek shelter in your residence
2. Call 911 and notify authorities of your location
3. Turn off heaters and air conditioners and close fire dampers
4. Close and seal all doors and windows
5. Cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth if necessary
6. Listen to emergency notifications, your radio, or T.V. for information
7. Wait for the ALL-CLEAR signal before you move outside

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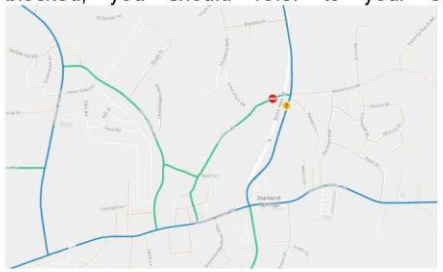
If Things Go Badly

If you are in an isolated location with no clear direction from authorities on where to go, you should evacuate early to ensure that you have a clear route to safety. If you find your evacuation route blocked, you should refer to your evacuation planning map for an alternate route.



El Dorado County Road, Parks, & Trail Status Map
www.edcgov.us
Click on Interactive Roads, Parks, and Trails Map Link

After the Incident / Coming Home

Remain calm. Pace yourself. You may find yourself in the position of taking charge of other people. Listen carefully to what people are telling you and deal patiently with urgent situations first. If you had to leave your home, return only when local authorities advise that it is safe to do so. Also, be sure to have photo identification available, as sometimes local authorities will only permit people who own property in a disaster-affected area back into the area. Avoid driving during the immediate post-disaster period except in extreme emergencies or unless told to do so by emergency officials. Keep roads clear for rescue and emergency vehicles. If you must drive, do not drive on roads covered with water. They could be damaged or eroded.

Emergency Management Officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. This will be done as soon as possible. When you return home, be alert for downed power lines and damaged trees ready to fall down. Check propane tanks, regulators, lines and make sure all appliances have been turned off before turning gas back on. You may want to consult your gas or propane company prior to lighting gas appliances.

If the disaster was widespread, listen to your radio or television station for instructions from local authorities. Local news stations, official government websites and social media are additional sources of information.

Information may change rapidly after a widespread disaster, so continue to listen regularly for updates. If the power is still out, listen to a battery- powered radio, television, mobile phone resources, or a car radio. Do not leave a car running while in an enclosed space such as a garage to charge the cars battery, however.

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Further Information

Your El Dorado County Sheriff's, Office of Emergency Services encourages you to seek out additional information on how you can prepare yourself for future emergencies. We encourage you to organize your neighborhood into a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Information on these programs can be obtained from the Sheriffs Office. Other sources of information are listed below.

El Dorado County Sheriff' Office, Office of Emergency Services
530-621-5895
CodeRed Self Registration Portal
ready.edso.org

City of South Lake Tahoe
City Emergency Alerts
www.cityofslt.us/lists.aspx

State of California, Office of Emergency Services
www.oes.ca.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

Ready
www.Ready.gov

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
www.ready.gov/cert

El Dorado County Emergency Preparedness
www.edcgov.us/Government/PublicHealth/PublicHealthPreparedness

El Dorado County Animal Services
www.edcgov.us/Government/AnimalServices/pages/disaster_preparedness_-_pet_and_animal_emergency_planning.aspx#

Tahoe Living with fire
https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/

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GB Member Comments/Questions

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Public Comment