



# HOMELAND SECURITY COMMISSION

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

*This report captures the statewide collaboration of the strategic measures, preparedness initiatives and implementation efforts for homeland security core capabilities and allocated grant funds for Nevada.*





## HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISE

Nevada Commission on Homeland Security is the key to Nevada’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management enterprise. The Commission, as outlined in Nevada Revised Statutes 239C, is essential to synergize all the components together to increase Nevada’s resiliency.

These components may be structural, such as law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical services, healthcare, intelligence sections, Nevada National Guard, and the media. These components work collaboratively through the process of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery to issues affecting our state.



*All 2022 meetings were open and held following the Open Meeting Law.*

## GRANT PROCESS

Nevada is fortunate to receive federal funding for our enterprise. This funding comes through multiple streams to the State or to our Las Vegas Area Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) area. The grant process starts at the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM) with the release of the federal notice of funding opportunity and a request to enterprise members to submit grant requests.

These grant proposals are vetted and ranked through the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) for State projects, or the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) for UASI projects. Once approved by the State Administrative Agent (SAA) and the Urban Area Administrative Agents (UAA), requests are taken to the Homeland Security Commission's Finance Committee for review.

The Finance Committee reviews the recommendations of NRAC and UAWG and brings forward a recommendation to the Nevada Homeland Security Commission. The Commission then provides final recommendations through the Governor to the SAA and UAA Agents for funding priority. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security along with FEMA review the requests for both programmatic and funding requirements. Successful applicants then receive grant training, provide documentation on programmatic and financial process to the DEM for reimbursement. Changes in grants may occur during its lifetime. Changes under \$100,000 are reviewed and approved at the DEM Chief level.



These decisions are daylighted at Finance and Commission meetings by staff. Change requests over \$100,000 are brought forth to the Finance Committee and the Commission for recommendation. A very transparent process is used to select funded projects, so the expectation is a very transparent process is utilized for changes.

Funding for UASI and State Homeland Grant Program (SHGP) programs vary by year. U.S. Department of Homeland Security determines the amount based upon the risk they determine in each state and UASI area. The recent history of this grant program is:

Federal Fiscal Year 2021	\$5,250,000 for Las Vegas Area UASI \$4,602,500 for areas statewide outside the UASI
Federal Fiscal Year 2022	\$5,250,000 for Las Vegas Area UASI \$4,847,500 for areas statewide outside the UASI

Some statewide funds are used within the UASI to support initiatives which serve the state as a whole. UASI funds are processed through the UAWG as indicated, but funds used within the UASI for statewide initiatives remain vetted through the NRAC. Readers are encouraged to also review the NRAC annual report.

None of this could occur if a list of priorities was not pre-determined. Nevada has made investments in many programs to improve our resilience. Priority projects are denoted on a “Strategic Capabilities to be Maintained” list to ensure future funding streams are utilized to continue the project.



Since 2021, these projects included:

<b>FUSION CENTERS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center</li> <li>• Nevada Threat Analysis Center</li> </ul>
<b>CITIZEN CORPS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Las Vegas</li> <li>• Douglas County</li> <li>• Carson City</li> <li>• Washoe County</li> <li>• Elko County</li> <li>• Statewide Tribal</li> </ul>
<b>NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management</li> <li>• Tribal NIMS</li> </ul>
<b>CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND EXPLOSIVE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tahoe-Douglas Bomb Squad</li> <li>• Elko Bomb Squad</li> <li>• Consolidated Bomb Squad (Washoe, Reno, and Sparks)</li> <li>• Las Vegas Bomb Squad</li> <li>• Las Vegas ARMOR</li> <li>• Urban/Frontier Haz Mat (Triad, Quad, Eastern Nevada)</li> </ul>
<b>OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statewide Interoperability Coordinator</li> </ul>
<b>PUBLIC INFORMATION AND WARNING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Alert System</li> </ul>
<b>RECOVERY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nevada Disaster Recovery Framework</li> <li>• Nevada Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Tool</li> </ul>
<b>CYBER SECURITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident Response Plan</li> <li>• Education and Awareness</li> <li>• Threat Identification</li> </ul>
<b>PLANNING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuity of Operations</li> <li>• Mass Fatality</li> <li>• Community Resilience</li> <li>• Metropolitan Medical Response System (UASI)</li> </ul>

Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services were added in 2021 as an emerging strategic capability due to after-action reviews and threat and hazard analysis processes.

## DISCUSSIONS HELD AT HOMELAND SECURITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

### Election integrity

Commission members heard from the Secretary of State's Office and the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on efforts to ensure election integrity. Grants funds were awarded to Secretary of State's Office as well as local election officials within the Las Vegas Area UASI. The Secretary's Office held an integrity taskforce comprised of various entities to ensure protection of the process from nefarious actors. The Division, working with the Secretary's Office, held a tabletop exercise, at the Nevada Operations Center level to discuss various issues which could arise during the election. A policy group of cabinet members was established for use during the election process should any event occur. The Nevada Operations Center was standing at the ready for any needs from the policy group.

### Federal Program and Financial Monitoring

The Division received and reported on numerous site monitoring visits from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security along with FEMA Region IX. These visits reviewed the programs funded through grant funds as well as a fiscal accounting of the dollars. Great discussions were had with various enterprise leaders including those from the Las Vegas Area UASI, Las Vegas Emergency Management, Clark County Emergency Management, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and the Division. No findings were highlighted in the audits other than a quicker response in posting grant funding provided on a federal website. These discussions led to better understanding between all partners, especially on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs.

## Threat and Hazard Risk Identification Analysis (THIRA) Review

Commission members heard about the state THIRA. This is a federal requirement which assists state and local partners in determining their greatest gaps. The intent is this analysis provides focus for use of both homeland security and emergency management enterprise grant funding to buy down the risk. See the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) report for a further explanation of these items year by year.

## Geopolitical Tensions

Nevada was warned via U.S. Department of Homeland Security about geopolitical tension concerns raised with the war in Ukraine. Specifically, the worry of a cyber-attack. Nevada put together a policy group consisting of the Governor, Enterprise Information Technology Systems, Department of Public Safety, Nevada National Guard, and the Division of Emergency Management. A workshop was held with Nevada Operations Center personnel from all state agencies to discuss potential impacts from the intelligence provided by the Nevada Threat Analysis Center and the Office of Cyber Defense and Coordination. Commission members were briefed on these efforts.

## Cybersecurity

The previous administrator for the Department of Public Safety's Office of Cyber Defense and Coordination (OCD) provided an overview of his office's statutory requirements. The Commission also heard about the new U.S. Department of Homeland Security state, local, tribal, and territorial cybersecurity grant program. This program requires a separate and distinct task force to plan for cybersecurity issues with each state.



Through executive order, a task force was created to align the various disparate cybersecurity aspects, create a statewide plan as required, build the Emergency Support Function-17 (ESF-17) within the Nevada Operations Center, and offer grant funding opportunities.

Many agencies have a role in cybersecurity: be it local/state law enforcement/fusion centers, FBI, and CISA with intelligence, OCDC, state information security officer, legislative branch information security officer, NSHE information security officer, DHHS information security officer, and local government information security officers with protection of systems, or the Division leading the consequence management side through a policy group and Nevada Operations Center with these partners and more engaged as ESF-17. Future Commission meetings will show the role of the Cybersecurity Task Force in aligning these efforts for efficiency and effectiveness.

### Tribal Liaison Officers

Division Tribal Liaison Officers, one funded through homeland security funding and the second funded with public health preparedness grant funding, provided a review of their efforts to ensure Nevada's Tribal Nations are engaged in our enterprise. The Nevada Tribal Program was recognized at the FEMA Region IX tribal workshop as a best practice in tribal engagement and participation.

### Statewide New Year's Eve

Commission members were briefed on the DEM and Nevada National Guard mission to support the New Year's Eve events statewide. Special funding provided through the Legislative Interim Finance Committee was obtained in response to a request from Clark County for assistance. Working the request through channels provided the state administrative agent, the Division's Chief, an opportunity to provide for a statewide mission as opposed to a Clark County specific mission. While Nevada National Guard troops were deployed in support of Clark County, plans were made for support to Northern and Eastern Nevada should the need arise. Division staff were also deployed to support the Clark and State need during New Year's Eve.





## *Statewide New Year's Eve (cont.)*

This support is needed as Clark County, as with many statewide entities, are at drawdown for New Year's Eve, the state's largest collective event. No additional local resource is available to support. The state has a large tie to ensure a safe tourist event for our economy. The state also has a tie should an event escalate requiring additional assistance. These efforts of leaning forward demonstrate the partnerships across the emergency management and homeland security enterprise.

## **National Incident Management System**

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was initially utilized by firefighters in California during the 1970's to manage large wildland fire incidents. Following September 11, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security, through Presidential Policy Directive-8 requires the use of NIMS. Homeland Security Grant Program funds are used to provide for the planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises (POETE) needed to field incident



management teams required under NRS414.080. During 2021, Nevada and our local governments utilized personnel educated through this process to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, many planned major events including Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC) Las Vegas, Hot August Nights Reno, Day N Vegas, Reno Air Races, statewide New Year's Eve events, as well as the everyday incident to which fire, emergency medical services, law enforcement, public works, and emergency management responds.

The Commission receives an update at each meeting regarding NIMS. Major accomplishments in 2022 include the addition of six tribal nations to the state mutual aid system under NRS 414A. All local and state government agencies are included by statute but tribal nations must opt in to the agreement. The following tribal nations are now parties to the agreement expressed within NRS 414A:

**Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe • Ely Shoshone Paiute Tribe • Reno Sparks Indian Colony  
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California • Las Vegas Paiute Tribe • Yerington Paiute Tribe**

## Commission Membership

Commission membership is outlined by Nevada Revised Statutes Section 239C.120 and appointed by the Governor, Senate Majority Leader, and Speaker of the Assembly, depending upon the seat. Calendar year 2022 Commission members were:

<b>Current Voting Membership</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Organization</b>
Steve Sisolak	Governor, State of Nevada – Commission Chair
Joseph Lombardo	Sheriff, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department – Commission Vice Chair
Darin Balaam	Sheriff, Washoe County Sheriff's Office
Lisa Christensen Harriet Parker (Sept 2022)	Police Officer, Washoe Tribe of Nevada/California Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
Todd Fasulo	Vice President, Security and Crisis Management, Wynn Resorts
Mitchell Fox	President and Chief Executive Officer, Nevada Broadcasters Association
Frank Gonzales Brett Compston	General (Ret.), Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Nevada Colonel, Nevada National Guard
Ikram Khan, M.D.	President, Quality Care Consultants
Charles Moore	Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District
Richard Perkins	President, The Perkins Company
John Steinbeck	Fire Chief, Clark County Fire Department
Rosemary Vassiliadis	Director of Aviation, Clark County, McCarran International Airport
Patricia Wade	President, Wade Development
Bill Welch	President and Chief Executive Officer, Nevada Hospital Association
<b>Current Non-Voting Membership</b>	
Karen Burke	Federal Security Director, Transportation Safety Administration
Gonzalo Cordova	Protective Security Advisor, Department of Homeland Security
Christopher Ipsen	(Ret.) Assistant Vice President of Technology, Chief Information Officer, Desert Research Institute
David Fogerson	Chief, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Shaun Rahmeyer Aakin Patel (Dec 2022)	Administrator, Nevada Office of Cyber Defense Coordination
Aaron Rouse Spencer Evans (July 2022)	Special Agent in Charge, Nevada, Federal Bureau of Investigation

## SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Our emergency management and homeland security enterprise work through diligence: of our partners and of our communities. If you see something suspicious, please say something about it. Visit <https://snctc.org/intake/createreport> or email [KeepNevadaSafe@dps.state.nv.us](mailto:KeepNevadaSafe@dps.state.nv.us)