



Nevada Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management

September 2016

Nevada Division of Emergency Management's August News & Highlights...

In this Issue:

The Division of Emergency Management's monthly newsletter for September.

We hope that you find these newsletters helpful and we welcome any feedback to help us to support you in our overall mission.

- * DEM News and Events for August
- * Update on the Tule Fire on the Lake Pyramid Paiute Tribe Reservation
- * FEMA Travels to Nevada in Preparation of for Vigilant Guard 17
- * Nevada Submissions to the National Special Events Data Call
- * State Operational Communications Assessment Interoperability Workshop
- * The Nevada Emergency Preparation Association

- DEM Planner attended the National Mass Care and Sheltering Exercise in Missouri, sponsored by FEMA. As the DEM ESF 6 Representative, Lori DeGristina is involved with a wide variety of sheltering requirements and issues, and is working with counterparts from across the country in looking at best practices and shelter operations in the event of a large scale event.
- DEM officially received and distributed notification regarding the FFY2016 Homeland Security Grants Program awards.
- DEM Operations Officer coordinated local government fire resources to eight (8) out-of-state Wildland Fires, and the Duty Officer coordinated a Civil Support Team (CST) request for the Presidential Visit to South Lake Tahoe.
- The Exercise Officer worked with the NVNG to fine tune the MSEL for the VG-17 exercise. All injects were reviewed and clarified prior to finalization of the MSEL.
- The Washoe County Emergency Manager has produced a first draft of the Nevada Recovery Framework. The final draft will be published on December 6, 2016.
- DEM hosted its first of two Board of Search and Rescue (BSAR) meetings for this calendar year. The Chair and Vice Chair were appointed, as was the SAR Training Committee. At the next meeting, the BSAR will approve the state SAR plan.

Time to get ready!



September is
**NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS
MONTH**



The Tule Fire on the Lake Pyramid Paiute Tribe Reservation

Beginning on July 28, 2016, fires began to spark throughout Washoe County and on Saturday, July 30, the Tule fire burned in the Sutcliffe area and community which is located on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Reservation. The five fires burning were termed the Virginia Mountains Complex fires, including the Rock, Anderson, Sage, Seven Lakes and Tule fires. These fires determined to be caused by lightning strikes. The Tule Fire on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Reservation was the biggest and caused the most damage.



Major firefighting operations forced the closure of Pyramid Lake for recreational use, and remained closed for several days.

On July 30, 2016, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Leadership declared a State of Disaster on the Reservation due to the wildfire. Mandatory evacuations for Sutcliffe were ordered due to shifting wind patterns and the intensity of the fire, which totaled about 350 homes and 600 people. The Tribal leadership reported evacuations for beaches at Pyramid Lake numbered about 200. Late Sunday afternoon, Tribal police also conducted a mandatory evacuation of Big Canyon drainage area.



The Reservation experienced several hours of power, water, and sewer service outages. Additionally, cell services were lost as an ATT cell phone tower was destroyed.

The Pyramid Highway State Route 445 and 446 were shut down for several days while fire resources battled the fires. Tribal officials reported that three mobile homes, two vehicles, and one home were destroyed. The fire also destroyed six unoccupied historic structures at the Hardscrabble Ranch. Tribal families and friends were encouraged to seek shelter at the gymnasium in Nixon, Nevada and approximately 40 families were sheltered by the American Red Cross with the help of local churches.

On August 1, the County Manager of Washoe County declared a State of Emergency due to the fires that posed a threat to the life, safety, health, and welfare of persons and property in the county. On August 8, the Governor signed a Declaration of Emergency for Virginia Mountains Complex Fire to include Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

The Tribal Council requested assistance from the Nevada State Technical Assistance and Response Team (START). The DEM Chief activated the Team and the Team coordinated a FEMA, Small Business Administration, State of Nevada, Tribal and BIA Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation.

The Joint Team surveyed the damaged areas and estimated the costs to return the affected community to pre-disaster conditions. Additionally, the Team's mission was to determine if the damages were sufficient to warrant a request a federal disaster declaration.



The Tule Fire on the Lake Pyramid Paiute Tribe Reservation Continued...

After reviewing all of the information reported by the Tribe and the State agencies, it was determined by the Joint Damage Assessment Team that requesting a FEMA or SBA Declaration was not warranted. The estimated damage, repair or replacement cost for public infrastructure is approximately \$46,404.75 which is below the federal indicator for Tribal Nations of \$1,000,000 for Federal Fiscal Year 2016.

During this assessment a total of one unoccupied home and six structures on the same property were reported as damaged/destroyed. The home and structures were covered by insurance and the adjusters had already assessed the area. The Tribe has a deductible of \$25,000 which could be eligible for FEMA reimbursement if there were a FEMA presidential declaration.



The Team recognized that the Tribe was greatly impacted, therefore, it recommended the State assist in seeking other options for assistance which may include: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S Department of Agriculture - Rural Development Program, Nevada Rural Development Programs, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), Nevada Health and Human Services, Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grants, etc.

A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team was coordinated immediately to assist the Tribe with restoration of the burned area(s). The first priority was emergency stabilization in order to prevent further damage to life, property or natural/cultural resources. Several federal and state agencies participated in developing a restoration plan to help bring needed resources to the Tribe.

On July 29, a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) was declared for this fire. Eligible firefighting costs may include expenses for emergency protective measures and fire fighting activities such as field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities. This grant provides a 75 percent Federal cost share and the Tribe pays the remaining 25 percent for actual costs.



FEMA Travels to Nevada in Preparation for Vigilant Guard 17

On August 16 and 17 a FEMA Region IX Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), representatives from the FEMA Region IX Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT), and representatives from the FEMA National IMAT West visited the Division of Emergency Management to provide training in their processes and capabilities, as well as to learn how DEM manages the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) during an activation. This visit is in preparation for the Vigilant Guard 17 Full Scale exercise coming up in November.

For the first day of their visit, the IMAT teams held presentations on the processes they use when they assist jurisdictions, and the capabilities and resources they are able to bring when activated. Presentations included information on the planning processes used in an incident, Resource Requests and Mission Assignments, and establishing a Joint Field Office. On the second day, they were able to stay and observe an exercise being held in the SEOC and to provide feedback on how to improve DEM's processes and procedures.

DEM is highly grateful for the opportunity to get to know and work with the IMAT team members prior to the November exercise, or a real event. It is important to take advantage of these opportunities to improve coordination between FEMA Region IX and the State by facilitating the integration of the IMAT team into our SEOC operations when a major event occurs. DEM would like to thank FEMA Region IX for making this possible.



Nevada Submits 238 Events to National Data Call

In response to the 2017 National Special Events Data Call, Nevada has successfully submitted 238 separate events occurring throughout the state between December 1, 2016, and November 30, 2017.

This Data Call is an annual event relying on the voluntary participation of local, state, tribal, and territorial stakeholders nationwide to collect information on events occurring within their jurisdictions. The collection of data encompasses those events occurring between December 1, 2015, through November 30, 2016. Event information collected during the Data Call is reviewed and analyzed to compile a risk-informed ranked list based on a Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) level which can be used for planning and resource allocation purposes. Although there is no funding attached to the SEAR process itself, nor specific SEAR levels, a SEAR ranking is used as an evaluative criterion for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant decisions.

This is important to Nevada because the SEAR ranking may be considered as a factor for the approval of requests to reprogram funding tied to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) funds.

Statewide Operational Communications Assessment / Interoperability Workshop

The FEMA Office Of Emergency Communications (OEC) and Nevada Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) put on a Statewide Operational Communications Assessment / Interoperability Workshop (OP-ASMT) in Carson City on August the 10th . The Purpose of this Workshop was to gather all Land Mobile Radio (LMR) interoperability information along with Identifying the Four Main Core Radio System's in the State of Nevada.

Sixteen people from eight Agencies, covering both Northern and Southern Nevada, participated in the workshop. The OEC collected a significant amount of data that will be presented back to the SWIC to be given to the state. This data will be used to create a report that will show how Interoperability is being handled by our Emergency Responders on a Day-To-Day basis and during emergencies. The report will also break down the very technical information regarding the statewide communications systems - such as the Nevada Core Systems Network (NCORE), Nevada Dispatch Interconnect Project (NDIP), Cross- Band Repeater's, IP Switch's, Mobile Command Post Unit's and Radio Caches - to a much simpler level to facilitate understanding in what the systems are and how interoperability is accomplished within the State. The SWIC should have report in a few months to present to the state.



The Nevada Emergency Preparation Association

The Nevada Emergency Management Coordinating Council, which acts as an advisory body to the Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management, announced today the establishment of the Nevada Emergency Preparation Association (NEPA). NEPA is a new non-profit membership association created to enhance collaborative efforts across all public and private organizations in alliance with state, county, local and tribal emergency management communities.

IT'S EASY, JOIN TODAY!

Visit us
online at www.dem.nv.gov

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