

# READY, SET, GO!

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## HANDBOOK

Your 2022 Guide to Wildfire Safety  
and Emergency Preparedness

**County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services**



[ReadyNevadaCounty.org](https://www.ReadyNevadaCounty.org)

## In Nevada County, we live with the imminent and widespread threat of wildfire.

With over 90% of County residents living in high to very high fire severity zones, we have our work cut out for us. As the County's Emergency Services Director, I ask myself every day: What more can we do to protect our community in the event of a wildfire?

If you're like me, you spend your weekends clearing hazardous fuels from your property with one eye to the horizon looking for the next smoke plume. Nevada County is a wildfire-prone landscape and unfortunately due to high fuel loads and climate change the intensity and frequency of these events will continue locally. We have seen three major fires in recent years - the Lobo, Jones, and River Fires - and each of these drove multi-year recovery. Our County Emergency Operations Center has been open on average 52 days a year the last couple of years, in large part responding to wildfire. So what can we do about it?

We must keep working as a community to reduce the risk. We must continue to collaborate on large landscape scale projects like the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone to protect our homes and our towns. We must plan for the worst, and this includes taking into consideration how to support the most vulnerable among us - our neighbors who need assistance clearing defensible space or evacuating during a fire. We must make evacuation routes safer.

We must address the threats facing us now, and prepare for the threats we will face in the future.

### **Our work is guided by five goals:**

1. Increase evacuation safety programs countywide to save lives.
2. Improve countywide early warning systems and emergency communications.
3. Reduce fire severity and intensity through fuels management by increasing defensible space, providing affordable green waste disposal, and implementing landscape scale fuel breaks.
4. Provide a coordinated approach to wildfire preparedness through advocacy, community engagement, and project implementation.
5. Plan and train for, respond to, and recover from all hazards, with a specific emphasis on wildfires.

I encourage you to get involved. Prepare yourself and your family. Sign up for emergency alerts. Meet your neighbors and join a Firewise Community near you. Support your local fire district. Stay informed and be an advocate for emergency preparedness and prevention. Help us prepare for the future by taking our survey here: [ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Future](https://ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Future).

Sincerely,  
*Craig Griesbach*, Director  
Office of Emergency Services

*Cover Photo Courtesy of OES*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## IS YOUR HOME READY?

- 1 Defensible Space Works
- 3 Create a Fire-Resistant Home
- 5 Get Involved with the Fire Safe Council
- 6 County Defensible Space Program
- 7 Cities of Grass Valley & Nevada City
- 9 Truckee Fire Protection District
- 10 Town of Truckee
- 11 Green Waste Disposal
- 14 Preparing for the Future

## ARE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS SET?

- 15 Red Flag Warnings & Public Safety Power Shutoffs
- 16 Generator Safety
- 17 4 Steps to Emergency Preparedness for All

## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GO?

- 21 Identify Your Evacuation Routes
- 23 What Are Evacuation Zones?
- 24 Find Your Zone
- 25 Pick Up Your Evacuation Tag
- 26 Ready Nevada County Dashboard

## RESOURCES

- 27 10 Tips for Finding Insurance Coverage
- 29 CodeRED Emergency Alerts & 211 Disaster Response
- 30 PSPS Disability Disaster Resources
- 31 Additional Community Resources
- 32 Fire Districts & Departments

## THERE IS NO "ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL" EMERGENCY PLAN

Each household requires a specific strategy and one of the best ways to tackle preparedness is through the power of collective community efforts. We encourage everyone to use this handbook as a jumping off point to discuss plans with friends and neighbors. In an emergency, every minute counts. The time you spend **now** could save a life later.

# IS YOUR HOME READY?

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE WORKS

Preparing your home for fire season is a year-round effort. Both a fire-resistant structure and defensible space are necessary.

### Key components include:

- **Design:** Plan accordingly using defensible space best practices.
- **Materials:** Use fire-resistant materials.
- **Frequent Maintenance:** Keep vegetation irrigated and clear debris often.



**Defensible Space slows the spread of wildfire and creates a buffer zone to help firefighters safely defend your home.**

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## LANDSCAPING WITH WILDFIRE IN MIND

Under the right conditions, all plants will burn. However, there are plants you can select that are less prone to fire. When selecting fire-resistant plants, look for the following qualities: low volume of fuel, high-moisture content, and low amounts of oils or resins. Both the **Sierra Nevada Alliance** and the **Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society** provide helpful resources for native, fire-resistant landscaping in Nevada County.

# CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

## IMMEDIATE ZONE 0-5 FEET AROUND YOUR HOME

- Create a no-fuel zone 0-5 ft around your home.
- Clean and maintain roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris, and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Use hard surfaces, such as concrete or fire-resistant material.
- If planting, use widely spaced, non-woody, low herbaceous vegetation away from vents, windows, and interior corners.
- Store firewood and combustible materials at least 30 ft away from your home, garage, or deck.
- Shrubs and trees are not recommended in this zone.
- Trim back overhanging branches 10 ft from your roof.

## INTERMEDIATE ZONE 5-30 FEET AROUND YOUR HOME

- Create vegetation "islands" to break up contiguous fuels.
- Remove ladder fuels.\* Limb up tree branches to 6 feet.
- Get rid of leaf and needle debris from the yard.
- Keep grass under 4 in.
- Keep vegetation well-irrigated and free from debris.

## EXTENDED ZONE 30-100 FEET AROUND YOUR HOME

- Create and maintain a minimum of 10 ft between the tops of trees.
- Remove ladder fuels.\*
- Remove dead trees and shrubs.

\***Ladder Fuels** allow fire to climb from the ground into the tree canopy. Common ladder fuels include tall grasses, shrubs, young trees, and low hanging branches. Eliminate these fuels by limbing up trees and increasing horizontal and vertical separation between vegetation.

*Adapted from materials created by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and National Fire Protection Association.*

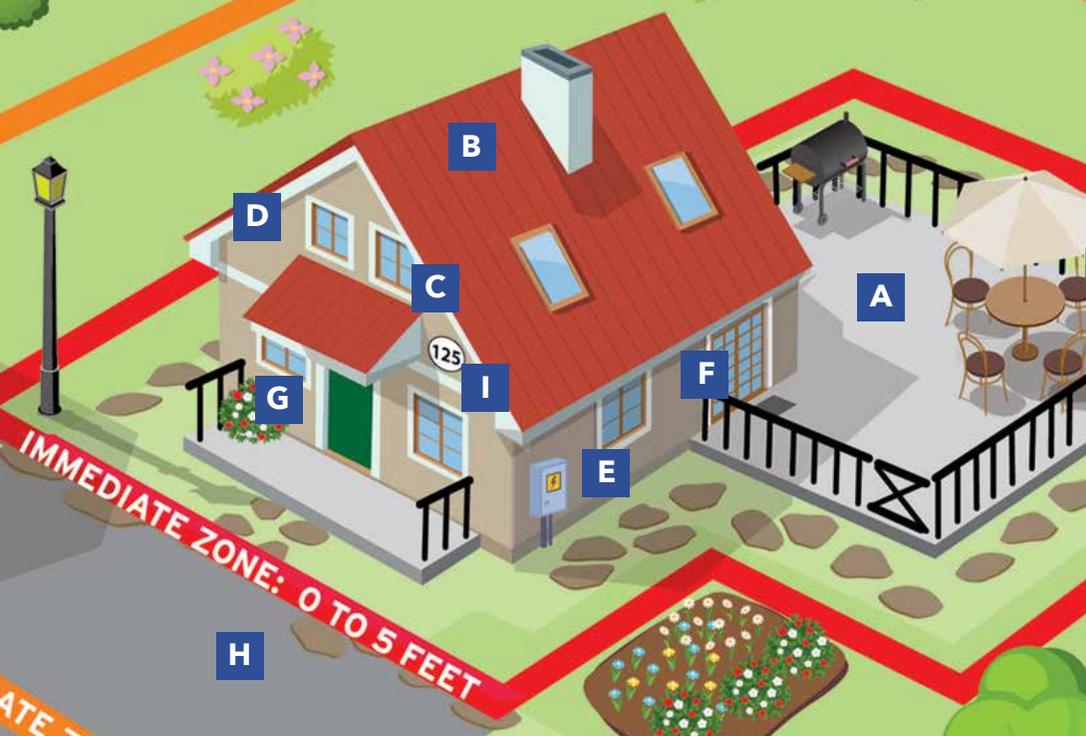


## CREATE A FIRE-RESISTANT HOME

Embers transported through the air can ignite a fire more than two miles from the fire front. Embers can easily get caught in places like your gutters, roof valleys and vents. Reduce your home's vulnerability with fire-resistant materials and by routinely removing debris.

**Start by removing receptive fuel beds around your home at the following locations:**

- A DECKS:** Construct your deck with materials like metal or ignition-resistant lumber/composites. Embers often fall through gaps in planks; it's critical to remove all combustible materials under and around your deck.
- B ROOFS:** Protect your most vulnerable surface. Regularly inspect points of ember entry like roof valleys, protrusions like chimneys and skylights, rain gutters and shingles. Install metal drip edge on the roof and metal flashing around protrusions.
- C GUTTERS:** Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris, i.e. fuel. Ensure unscreened or open gutters are cleaned regularly.
- D EAVES:** Enclose eaves to prevent ember intrusion. Regularly clear debris.
- E VENTS:** Vents located on a vertical wall, including crawl space vents (foundation vents), gable end vents, and other openings such as dryer vents, are vulnerable to the entry of wind-blown embers. Cover all vents with corrosion-resistant 1/8 in metal mesh screens to guard these points of entry. New vents with exterior baffle mechanisms that auto-shut when exposed to heat are ideal.
- F WALLS AND FENCING:** Build or remodel with nonflammable materials like brick, masonry, cement, or stucco. Regularly clear fuel from the base of your fence. Remove wooden fences touching your home.



**G WINDOWS AND DOORS:** Use dual-paned windows with tempered glass. Seal gaps in garage doors with weather proofing to reduce ember intrusion.

**H DRIVEWAYS AND ROADS:** Remove fuels along your roadways so you may exit and emergency responders may enter. Clear a minimum of 10 ft of vegetation beyond the shoulder. Trim shrubs and trees overhanging the roadway to a minimum height of 15 ft. Create an ongoing clearing strategy with neighbors on private roads.

**I INVEST IN REFLECTIVE SAFETY ADDRESS SIGNS:** A well-marked address saves precious time during an emergency. Reflective signs are available at the **Fire Safe Council of Nevada County**, \$35 single-sided, and \$40 double-sided.

*Adapted from materials created by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and National Fire Protection Association.*



# GET INVOLVED WITH THE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL



The **Fire Safe Council of Nevada County** is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to making Nevada County safer from catastrophic wildfire through fire prevention education, fuel reduction projects, and Firewise USA®.

## *Firewise Communities*

The Fire Safe Council coordinates Firewise USA® which is a voluntary program that provides a framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community.

**To join or start your own Firewise Community, visit [areyoufiresafe.com/programs/firewise-usa](http://areyoufiresafe.com/programs/firewise-usa).**



## **DEFENSIBLE SPACE ADVISORY VISIT**

Are you ready to create defensible space, but need some guidance to get started? One of the Fire Safe Council's specially trained volunteer Defensible Space Advisors will meet you at your home to help you assess your wildfire risk and provide insights on how to make your home more resilient to wildfire.

**This service is free.**



## **LOW-COST CHIPPING**

Once you are done creating defensible space around your home and roadway, the Fire Safe Council can help you process your green waste. Submit a request for assistance online, and the Fire Safe Council will help you chip your green waste. To ensure service to all applicants, service is limited to 4 hours, per customer, per application.



Learn more at [AreYouFireSafe.com](http://AreYouFireSafe.com) or call (530) 272-1122.

# COUNTY DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

The County of Nevada's Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance requires defensible space within 100 ft of a structure and along roadways that serve as primary evacuation routes in the unincorporated areas of the county and private roadways. Defensible Space Inspectors educate the community on requirements, conduct year-round inspections, and enforce the Hazardous Vegetation Abatement ordinance.

## The ordinance requires residents to:

- 1.** Maintain a defensible space of **100 ft** from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line except as provided by law.
- 2.** Maintain a **100 ft** wide area of land around structure(s) located on an adjacent improved parcel (some or all of this defensible space requirement may be required on an adjacent parcel depending upon the location of the structure on the improved parcel).
- 3.** Maintain free of ladder fuels a minimum of a **10 ft** wide strip of land beyond the shoulder of a roadway serving as primary ingress and egress to the parcel, to a height of **15 ft** along the boundary of a parcel.
- 4.** Remove the portion of a tree that extends within **10 ft** of the outline of a chimney or stovepipe.
- 5.** Climbing vines must be removed from trees and structures within the **100 ft** defensible space zone around structure(s).
- 6.** Maintain a tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead or dying wood.
- 7.** Maintain the roof of a structure free of leaves, needles, or other vegetative materials.
- 8.** Maintain the parcel free of ladder fuels within the **100 ft** defensible space area around structure(s).

## ROADWAY CLEARANCE



# CITIES OF GRASS VALLEY & NEVADA CITY

Did you know Grass Valley and Nevada City have Vegetation Management Municipal Codes to help protect you, your neighbors, and fire fighters? Refer to the following information to better understand your responsibility in maintaining defensible space on your property.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MUNICIPAL CODE

*Duty to abate flammable vegetation and combustible material.*

It shall be the duty of every owner, occupant, or person in control of any private land, whether **improved**<sup>1</sup> or **unimproved**<sup>2</sup>, within the City of Grass Valley and City of Nevada City, to abate therefrom on such property, at his or her own expense, all weeds, **flammable vegetation**<sup>3</sup> and other **combustible materials**<sup>4</sup> that constitute a fire hazard. The obligation to abate all weeds, flammable vegetation and other combustible materials shall comply with the following, shall be completed by **June 1** of each year, and shall be maintained through fire season as declared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE):

### Improved or Unimproved Properties within City Limits

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**Properties less than or equal to 1-Acre:** The **entire property** shall be mowed or cleared so that weeds are **no higher than 4 in** above mineral soil.

**Properties greater than 1-Acre:** A **15 ft clearance zone**, measured from the property line, shall be provided if the property abuts an "improved property." A **30 ft clearance zone**, as measured from the edge of the sidewalk nearest to the property line or from the street line if there is no sidewalk, shall be provided when property abuts any public or private rights-of-way, or fire apparatus access road.

### All Improved & Unimproved Properties:

- The roof of every **building or structure**<sup>5</sup> shall be free of leaves, pine needles, flammable vegetation, and combustible materials as defined in both cities' Vegetation Management Municipal Code.
- No portion of any tree shall be within **10 ft** of the outlet of a chimney, stovepipe and/or electrical power service drop.
- Any plant, tree, or shrub adjacent to or overhanging a building and/or structure shall be free of dead or dying wood.
- Trees shall be free of branches **6 ft** up from the ground. If height of the tree does not allow the 6 ft of clearance, the chief of the fire department or an authorized representative will determine appropriate clearance.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## DEFINITIONS

1. **Improved property:** Any property *with* a building or structure.
2. **Unimproved property:** Any property *without* a building or structure.
3. **Flammable vegetation:** Includes, but not limited to, dead pine needles or leaves, dry grasses of over four inches in height, tree limbs, bushes, trees less than six inches diameter at breast height (DBH), manzanita, dense berry thickets or other dry invasive or noxious plants that constitute a fire hazard and endanger people or property.
4. **Combustible material:** Heavy fuels, slash, refuse piles, dead trees or tree limbs (either standing or downed) that constitute a fire hazard and endanger people and/or property.
5. **Building or structure:** Any structure used for support or shelter of any use or occupancy.

# NO OPEN BURNING IS ALLOWED WITHIN CITY LIMITS



For additional information visit the Cities' websites at:

**CITYOFGRASSVALLEY.COM**  
**NEVADACITYCA.GOV**



**GRASS VALLEY**  
A PLACE TO LIVE AND THRIVE



# TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



## WILDFIRE PROTECTION MEASURE

### - *Community Wildfire Prevention Fund*

The Fire District has developed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that calls for removing dry fuels, dead trees, and fire hazards, improving emergency evacuation routes, adding fire breaks where needed, reducing roadside vegetation, improving early warning

systems and providing more green waste disposal options. Funding for these projects has been achieved through a local voter approved parcel tax. Measure T was passed in 2021, and the District is focused on a robust defensible space inspection program, affordable green waste disposal solutions, and updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**For more info go to [TruckeeFire.org](http://TruckeeFire.org) and use the Wildfire Prevention tab.**

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS - *Free Inspections*

The district is committed to providing free inspections to educate residents on defensible space requirements and home hardening principles.

Embers are the number one cause of structure ignition during wildfire and a coupled approach of creating effective defensible space with focused home hardening retrofits can increase a structures likelihood of surviving a wildfire. Property owners or occupants can request a defensible space inspection by going to [TruckeeFire.org](http://TruckeeFire.org).

**Inspections at Time of Sale** - To help people purchasing new properties know if their property complies with the Public Resource Code and Truckee Fire Ordinance, sellers are required to have a defensible space inspection of their property prior to the close of escrow. Realtors or property owners can request an escrow inspection by going to [TruckeeFire.org](http://TruckeeFire.org).

## CAMPFIRE & CHARCOAL BAN

One of the most preventable human-caused fires in the Truckee and North Tahoe region are escaped fires caused by improper extinguishment of campfires or improper disposal of charcoal ash.

- Outdoor campfires and charcoal BBQ's are banned throughout the region during the CAL FIRE burn suspensions each year, typically June-November.
- Gas appliances like gas BBQs, gas fire pits, or pellet burning devices are allowed.
- State and Federal campgrounds and picnic areas are exempt.

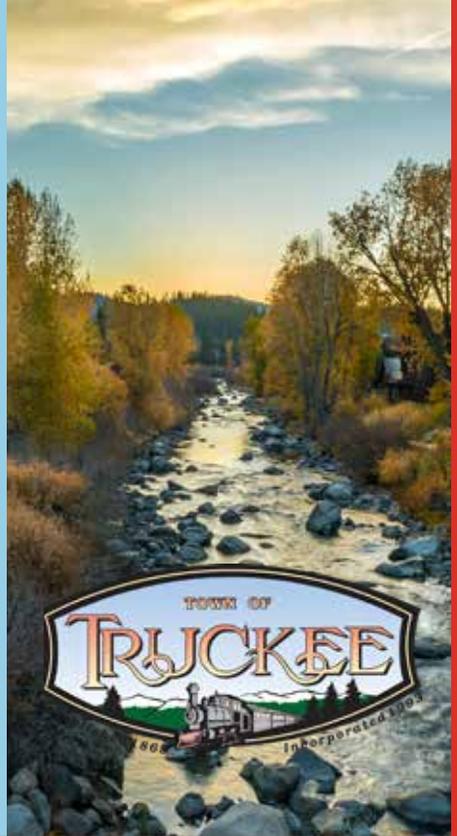


**Go to [TruckeeFire.org](http://TruckeeFire.org) for more detailed information.**

# TOWN OF TRUCKEE

In the event of a local emergency, the Town of Truckee will provide information to the community a number of ways. Tune to the local radio stations **1670 AM, 101.5 FM - KTKE, or 780 AM - KOH** for late breaking news. Truckee is within the Sacramento and Reno TV broadcast area, and stations from both areas will broadcast Emergency Alerts. In addition, the National Weather Service weather radio may be used.

**If an evacuation order is announced, leave immediately following the directions in the order.** Do not attempt to take too many personal items. These orders are announced only when there is imminent threat to life.



## IMPORTANT UPDATE:



**CODERED EMERGENCY  
ALERT SYSTEM -  
KEEP EVERYONE CONNECTED**

Truckee Police Department and the Truckee Fire Protection District have switched from Nixle to the CodeRED Emergency Alert System as our primary method of communication during critical incidents. CodeRED is an opt-in notification system, and these alerts may be received as text, email, landline, cell phone, and TTY. By joining CodeRED we will be on one platform with Nevada County creating continuity between our jurisdictions. Residents and visitors are encouraged to subscribe to CodeRED to stay informed in the event of an emergency. **If you were a subscriber of Nixle you will need to subscribe to CodeRED.** Beginning June 1, 2022 all emergency alert communications will be sent via CodeRED.

### Register for CodeRED emergency alerts:

- Online at [www.truckeepolice.com/disaster-preparedness/](http://www.truckeepolice.com/disaster-preparedness/)
- Call 211 or 1-833-DIAL211
- Text ReadyNevadaCounty to 99411 and follow the prompt to register

# YEAR-ROUND GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL OPTIONS

## BURN PILES



Before you burn, check to see if it is a burn day at [MyAirDistrict.com](http://MyAirDistrict.com), or (530) 274-7928. A burn permit is required during certain times of the year. Visit [BurnPermit.Fire.ca.gov](http://BurnPermit.Fire.ca.gov).

**Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City:**  
Burn piles **are prohibited**.

Check with your Homeowners Association to see if burn piles are permitted in your neighborhood.



## BURN SAFELY

-  **ALWAYS** check weather conditions before you burn. Maintain a 10 ft diameter free of flammables. Keep a water source and shovel on-hand. Tend to your pile. Only burn dry, dead material, and between the hours of 9am-3pm to reduce smoke.
-  **NEVER** burn in windy, dry conditions; leave your burn pile unattended or burn live vegetation which creates large amounts of smoke.

## COMPOST LEAVES AND PINE NEEDLES

Leaves and pine needles often produce large quantities of smoke when burned. Compost these items instead to create nutrient rich soil amendments and reduce landfill waste, too.

## CHIP MATERIAL

Chipped material can be used 30 ft from the home for weed abatement, erosion control, and water retention, or as an additive in your compost.

# 3 EASY WAYS TO DISPOSE OF YOUR GREEN WASTE!

## WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

### 1 Order Residential Curbside Pick Up

Order **Waste Management's** 64 or 96-gallon residential curbside green waste bin for regular pick-up.

### 2 Drop Off Green Waste

McCourtney Road Transfer Station  
Wednesday - Sunday, 8:00am-3:30pm  
14741 Wolf Mountain Rd, Grass Valley, CA.  
*Standard disposal rates apply.*

### 3 Rent a Green Waste Dumpster

Rent a 20, 30, or 40-yard green waste dumpster on your own, or split the cost with neighbors.



For more information, visit: [WM.com](http://WM.com),  
or call Waste Management at (530) 274-3090.

## TRUCKEE

### 1 Order Green Waste Carts

Service begins in May and now extends through November. Carts are serviced every other week, May-November. Call **Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD)** to order up to 3 carts. *Delivery fees apply.*



### 2 Drop Off Green Waste

**Drop-off up to 6-yards** of green waste at Eastern Regional Landfill for FREE, May through September. Residents will receive an address-specific punch card to track yards dropped off.

### 3 Rent a 6-yard Dumpster

Schedule a driveway dumpster from Wednesday-to-Wednesday for a discounted rate.



For more information, visit: [KeepTruckeeGreen.org](http://KeepTruckeeGreen.org)  
and [waste101.com](http://waste101.com), or call TTSD at (530) 583-7800.

# TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAMS



**MAY 1 – NOVEMBER 1**

With funding from the Measure T Wildfire Prevention Fund, Truckee Fire is offering three green waste disposal options to all residents located within the Fire District:

## Green Waste Curbside Pick-Up and Haul Away

A crew will drive up in a large dump truck with a grapple to pick-up and haul away defensible space vegetation from a curbside pile free of charge. **Visit [truckeefire.org/greenwaste](http://truckeefire.org/greenwaste) and request this free service once a pile is ready to be picked up.**

## Green Waste Curbside Chipping

A chipping crew will drive up with a truck and trailered chipper to chip defensible space vegetation from a curbside pile free of charge. Chips will be broadcasted (blown) back onto the property or chipped into a pile and left for the homeowner to use. **Visit [truckeefire.org/greenwaste](http://truckeefire.org/greenwaste) and request this free service once a pile is ready to be chipped.**

## 6-Yard Green Waste Dumpster Rebate Program

Truckee Fire will reimburse you \$75 towards the cost of a 6-yard green waste dumpster so you can remove vegetation and create defensible space around your home. Dumpster needs to be reserved from TTSD and a paid receipt needs to be provided to Truckee Fire. One dumpster rebate per household until program funds last.



For more information on these three green waste programs, go to [truckeefire.org/greenwaste](http://truckeefire.org/greenwaste)

# PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

As wildfires, heat events, and climate uncertainties become more common, Nevada County must be well prepared for ongoing natural disasters.

Being ready today entails individual actions like clearing brush, home hardening, packing go bags, and more. Preparing for the future means coming together as a community to set big goals and secure the necessary ongoing resources to make them a reality.

**Over the next several months, our Ready Nevada County team will be out in the community to learn about the challenges you face.**

**We want your opinions.**



**Take the Survey!**

Please take 30 seconds to complete our survey at:

[ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Future](https://ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Future)





# ARE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS SET?

## Plan ahead for Red Flag Warnings & Public Safety Power Shutoffs

Could you evacuate at a moment's notice? Are you prepared with plenty of medicine, food, water, and supplies in the event of a prolonged power shutoff? We are all responsible for our own preparedness. Plan ahead now to set yourself up for success in the future.

## WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?



A **Red Flag Warning** is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions combine to produce the possibility of extreme fire behavior.



**Strong winds**

25MPH+



**Dry Fuels**



**High Temperatures**



**Possibility of Dry Lightning Strikes**



**Low humidity levels**

20% and below

*Any combination of these conditions*



Download a weather app to receive Red Flag Warning notices on your phone or tablet. For a full list of email and text weather alert services visit: [Weather.gov/subscribe](https://www.weather.gov/subscribe)

Make sure your utility company has your current contact information to receive advanced warning of a PSPS.

Take the following precautions when a Red Flag Warning is issued and be prepared for a potential Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS):

- Park your vehicle towards the roadway and load your Go Bag.
- Know how to open your garage if power is unavailable.
- Be sure you have a full tank of gas.
- Keep pets nearby and have a plan to transport large animals.
- Always check towing equipment and eliminate dragging hazards.
- Do not use equipment outdoors that may create a spark.
- Never burn.
- Have enough medication, water and food to last at least one week.
- Have lighting, a phone, a radio, and batteries.
- If you do not have access to backup power, consider keeping your food in a cooler.

## KNOW HOW TO OPERATE YOUR GENERATOR SAFELY

Plan to use a generator during a PSPS? Follow these safety guidelines.



### PORTABLE GENERATOR

- Before starting your generator, read and follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Ensure that total electrical load on generator does not exceed manufacturer's rating
- Never run in an enclosed space and always direct exhaust away from your home
- Make sure extension cords are properly sized to carry the electrical load to avoid overheating
- Before refueling, make sure generator is off and has had a chance to cool



### PERMANENT GENERATOR

- Installation requires a licensed electrical contractor and building permits
- Install generator on high ground, where flooding is not likely to be a concern
- Electrical transfer switches safely switch electrical load from PG&E to the generator
- Prevent backfeeding lines by installing a "double-pole, double-throw transfer switch"
- Notify your local utility provider to let them know about your backup system



# 4 STEPS TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR ALL

If you or someone close to you has a disability or other access and functional needs, you may have to take additional steps to protect yourself and your family in an emergency or PSPS. Having these conversations now will save time during an emergency.

Review the **4 Steps to Emergency Preparedness** and consider additional needs before, during, and after an incident regarding maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care.



## STEP 1

Find Your Five & Share Your Plan



## STEP 3

Assemble Go Bags for You & Your Family



## STEP 2

Plan for Your Medical Needs



## STEP 4

Identify Your Evacuation Routes



Learn more about disaster preparedness resources for people with disabilities or other access and functional needs on pages 29-30.



# STEP 1: FIND YOUR FIVE & SHARE YOUR PLAN

Identify **five people** who will become your trusted allies during a disaster or emergency. Your five allies are people that will check on you and that you can communicate with in an emergency so they know you are safe, or if you need help.

Do not depend on one person alone. Make sure some of the people on your list live close to you and have at least one person who lives out of the area. When you are creating your list of trusted allies, ask each person the best way to contact them. Explain what you are asking them to do for you during a disaster or emergency. Make sure they understand and agree.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency Meeting Place:

Out of Area Contact Phone:

Work:

School:

Insurance Agent:

Other:

## FIVE TRUSTED EMERGENCY ALLIES WHO KNOW OUR PLAN

When selecting your five trusted allies, consider coaches, childcare providers, and neighbors on shared evacuation routes. **Ask one out-of-area friend or relative to be a trusted ally.**

Name:

Phone:

Name:

Phone:

Name:

Phone:

Name:

Phone:

Name:

Phone:



## STEP 2: PLAN FOR YOUR MEDICAL NEEDS

Think about what medications and equipment you might need to stay healthy and comfortable in the event of an evacuation or during a PSPS. Have at least a **week-long supply** of prescription medicines, along with a list of all medications, dosages, and any allergies.

### CREATE YOUR MEDICAL AND INDEPENDENT LIVING NEEDS LIST

Doctor's Name & Phone Number:

.....

Type of Health Insurance:

.....

Policy Number:

.....

Blood Type:

.....

Allergies & Sensitivities:

.....

List medical equipment you need, such as hearing aids, glasses, contacts, walkers, wheelchairs, oxygen equipment, and other devices.

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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List your medications, their use, dosage, and time taken.

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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*Make several copies of your list. Keep them handy in your purse, Go Bags, and emergency supply kits. Email yourself the list, or take a picture on your phone to keep a digital record.*



## STEP 3: ASSEMBLE GO BAGS FOR YOU & YOUR FAMILY

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person
- Map marked with evacuation routes
- List of important numbers in case your cell phone is lost
- Prescriptions, special medications
- Assistive devices or durable medical equipment
- Battery-powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Pet & service animal supplies (food, water, carrier, leashes)
- Change of clothing
- Sturdy shoes for walking
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- N95 mask
- An extra set of car keys
- Credit cards, cash, or checks
- Flashlight
- Sanitation supplies
- Cell phone charging cord and extra battery
- Diaper bag
- First aid kit
- Your **Ready, Set, Go! Handbook**

### SECURE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION FOR RECOVERY

- Maintain copies or digital records of important documents such as: Proof of residency, ID, passport, green card, birth certificates, insurance policies, tax records, vehicle titles, Social Security cards, Medicare cards, CalFresh card, military records, as well as real estate and property records, etc.



# STEP 4: IDENTIFY YOUR EVACUATION ROUTES

## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GO?

Be vigilant and monitor local media to stay informed of current situations. If power is out, utilize a battery powered radio and plug in an older style phone that does not require power. Communicate with neighbors and check in on your five Emergency Allies to ensure they are ready.

### STAY INFORMED WITH TRUSTED SOURCES

Bad information and false reports can create a hazard for community members and first responders. Please stay informed and only share vetted information from trusted sources. *See page 31 for a full list of trusted information sources.*



## DO NOT WAIT TO EVACUATE IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE.

Late evacuations contribute to traffic jams and put you, your neighbors, and first responders at risk. Leaving early increases your chance of survival. If an evacuation is ordered, every minute counts. Be prepared: know where your Go Bag is, be sure you can open your garage if the power goes out, and keep pets close.



### KNOW THE HI-LO SIREN SOUND

Law enforcement has installed new sirens on their patrol cars and will only use them for evacuations. Familiarize yourself with the sound. If you hear the Hi-Low it means your area is under an evacuation order.

Learn more at [ReadyNevadaCounty.org](http://ReadyNevadaCounty.org).



## EVACUATION ROUTES: KNOW WHERE TO GO

**Be familiar with and practice taking all possible routes away from your home.** Be aware of nearby road conditions and potential obstacles, such as locked gates and overgrown vegetation. Talk to your neighbors about evacuation concerns, and work together to mitigate potential hazards.

Evacuation Route 1:

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Evacuation Route 2:

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Evacuation Route 3:

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## EMERGENCY MEETING PLACE LOCATION & PHONE NUMBER

Make sure you and your family have a predetermined meet-up location away from your neighborhood in case you are separated in an emergency.

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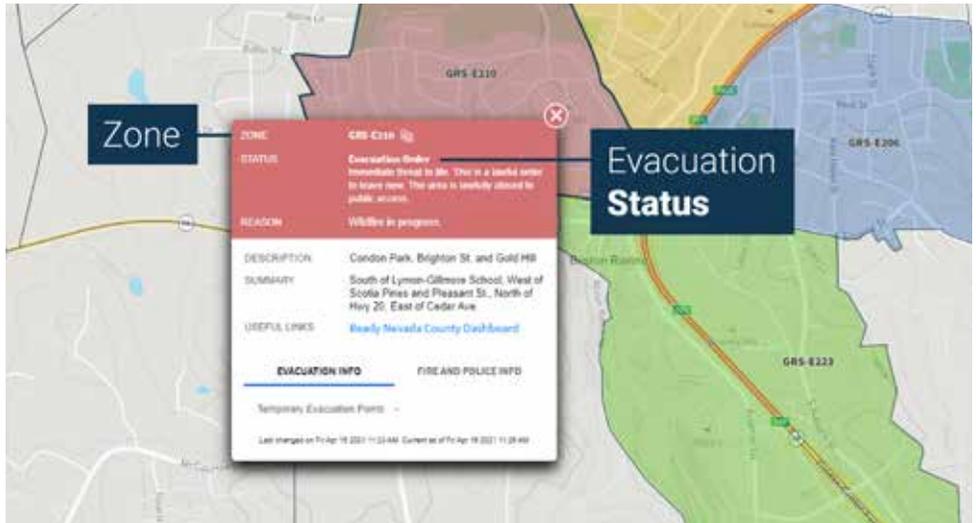
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# WHAT ARE EVACUATION ZONES?

In the event of a wildfire or an emergency situation, law enforcement and fire agencies issue evacuation warnings or evacuation orders for impacted areas. These notices are issued for a **Zone** with an evacuation **Status**.



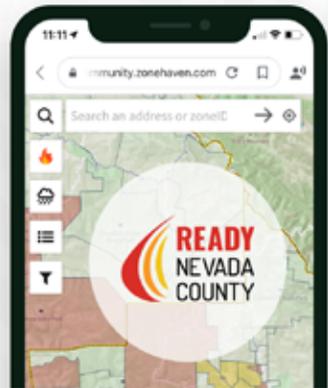
## UNDERSTAND EVACUATION STATUS LEVELS

-  **Evacuation Order.** An immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.
-  **Evacuation Warning.** A potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.
-  **Advisory.** A notice to be on alert and follow county recommendations.
-  **Clear To Repopulate.** It is safe to return to your home. Be aware of your surroundings and go through the returning home checklist.
-  **Shelter In Place.** An order to go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.
-  **Normal.** There is no current knowledge of threats affecting your area and that you can carry on with normal activity.

# Find Your Zone

KNOW YOUR  
**ZONE**

- 1 Go to **community.zonehaven.com**
- 2 Enter your address into the search bar
- 3 Find your zone in the pop-up window and **write it down**



**In order to understand whether your area is under an evacuation warning or order, you need to know your Zone.**

Authorities will use Zones in emergency alerts, media releases and on social media to notify residents which areas are under an evacuation warning or order.

Once you've found your Zone, fill out this card, and place it somewhere easily accessible by everyone in your house. We recommend keeping this on your fridge next to other emergency-related information.



## PICK UP YOUR EVACUATION TAG

In an emergency, minutes can save lives. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office is providing free evacuation tags for families to place in a highly visible place such as a door, reflective address sign, mailbox, fence, or gate. These tags will help first responders swiftly identify which homes have been evacuated so they can focus their attention on those who still need help.

**Grass Valley Police Department**  
129 S Auburn Street,  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

**Higgins Fire District**  
*Station 21*  
10106 Combie Road,  
Auburn, CA 95602

*Station 23*  
20604 McCourtney Road,  
Grass Valley, CA 95949

**Nevada City Police Department**  
317 Broad Street,  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**Nevada County Consolidated  
Fire District**  
*Station 84*  
640 Coyote Street,  
Nevada City, CA 95959

*Station 89*  
11833 Tammy Way,  
Grass Valley, CA 95949

**Nevada County Sheriff's Office**  
950 Maidu Avenue,  
Nevada City, CA 95959

10879 Donner Pass Road,  
Truckee, CA 96161

**Peardale Chicago Park Fire  
Protection District**  
*Station 57*  
18934 Colfax Hwy,  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

**Penn Valley Fire Protection District**  
*Station 43*  
10513 Spenceville Road,  
Penn Valley, CA 95946

**Truckee Fire Protection District**  
*Station 91*  
10049 Donner Pass Road,  
Truckee, CA 96161

**Washington Fire Department**  
*Station 60*  
15406 Washington Road,  
Nevada City, CA 95959



 Learn more at [ReadyNevadaCounty.org/EvacuationTags](https://ReadyNevadaCounty.org/EvacuationTags).



## READY NEVADA COUNTY DASHBOARD



### **WILDFIRE & EVACUATION INCIDENT DASHBOARD**

The dashboard provides real time information relating to traffic conditions, fires throughout the entire United States and Red Flag Warnings. During an activation of the County's Emergency Operations Center, this dashboard will also be updated with information about evacuations, sheltering and the status of the incident.



### **EVACUATION ROUTE PRE-PLANNER**

This tool helps map potential evacuation routes. It will not reflect current emergency incidents. This is a preplanning tool intended for use prior to an emergency. Residents are encouraged to practice routes and to be familiar with road conditions before an emergency.



### **CODERED EMERGENCY ALERTS**

During an emergency, residents will be able to access the last five CodeRED Emergency Alerts. These alerts are only used during an active emergency and are not for general incident updates.



### **ADDITIONAL DASHBOARD RESOURCES**

OES Twitter Feed | Important Weather Updates  
PG&E PSPS Resources | Live Fire Webcams | Air Quality Map  
COVID-19 Dashboard | Mark Yourself Safe

**View the Dashboard at [ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Dashboard](https://ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Dashboard).**

*This tool is best viewed in the Google Chrome web browser.*



# 10 TIPS FOR FINDING

- 1 If you get a nonrenewal notice, contact your insurer and ask if there are any specific actions you could take to mitigate your risk and retain your coverage.
- 2 If you think your nonrenewal was unfair, you may file a complaint with the Department of Insurance (DOI) at **(800) 927-4357** or **insurance.ca.gov**. The DOI can review your insurance policy and identify whether your insurance carrier is an admitted insurance carrier or not, and what state insurance rules and regulations to which they are subject.
- 3 Do everything you can do on your property to mitigate fire risk then start shopping for coverage.
- 4 In addition to contacting local agents or brokers in the vicinity of your home, check the **DOI List of Insurers** to get a quote from them directly.
- 5 If you need help from an agent that speaks a specific language, use the **DOI Agent Language Locator** to find one near you.
- 6 Utilize the **DOI's Premium Comparison Tool and Coverage Comparison Tool** to compare premiums and coverages.
- 7 Be sure to **contact independent agents or brokers** who represent multiple insurers to seek coverage. Verify which insurers each agent represents in order to conduct a thorough search of all insurers.



The DOI website has a wealth of resources like a Home Inventory Guide that can be downloaded: **insurance.ca.gov/flipbook/homeinventory**

# INSURANCE COVERAGE

- 8** If you cannot obtain homeowner’s insurance, you should consider the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan (FAIR Plan). The FAIR Plan is available to every homeowner as a last option for coverage, however there is a maximum limit for residential property. Due to this, a Difference in Conditions Policy (DIC) should be considered. DIC policies complement FAIR Plan policies so that a consumer who purchases both the FAIR Plan policy and a DIC policy has the same or similar coverage as a traditional homeowner’s policy. Additionally, homeowners should consider purchasing FAIR Plan 25% Extended Dwelling Coverage if rebuilding costs are expected to be higher than the insured value of the home. The best way to be made whole after a disaster is to be fully insured. **You can learn more about the FAIR Plan at [cfpnet.com](http://cfpnet.com).**
- 9** If none of these options work for you, you may try obtaining coverage in the “surplus lines” market from a Non-Admitted Insurance Carrier.
- 10** Contact DOI to speak with a live person who can assist you at **(800) 927-4357**.



# CodeRED™ EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

## REGISTER FOR CODERED EMERGENCY ALERTS

CodeRED is an opt-in notification system used by the County of Nevada to notify residents in an emergency. These alerts may be received as text, email, landline, cell phone, and TTY.



### Add CodeRED to your contacts:

- Emergency calls will originate from **(866) 419-5000**.
- Non-emergency calls will originate from **(855) 969-4636**.
- Texts will originate from different numbers depending on cellular service provider.

To register for CodeRED, visit: [ReadyNevadaCounty.org](https://www.ReadyNevadaCounty.org).

## 211 CONNECTING POINT & DISASTER RESPONSE

211 is a free service that connects Nevada County residents with trained specialists who provide critical non-emergency information from the County's Emergency Operations Center. 211 provides:

- CodeRED registration assistance.
- Spanish language resources.
- Ongoing emergency updates.
- Disaster resources during a PSPS.



your connecting point

Contact 211 Connecting Point by dialing **2-1-1** or **1-833-DIAL211**.

# PSPS DISABILITY DISASTER RESOURCES



## FREED CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

**FREED** is a Disability Disaster Access & Resources Center that is ready to support older adults and people with disabilities of any age during a Public Safety Power Shutoff.

- Personal emergency preparedness plan assistance.
- Help completing a PG&E Medical Baseline application.
- Support for medical power and independent living needs: backup battery, hotel stays, gas card, or food voucher.
- Emergency supplies and COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment.

**During an emergency event, call 211 or 1-833-DIAL211 for all available resources and 911 if you are experiencing a life threatening emergency.**

*Consumers are NOT guaranteed equipment or supplies during PSPS events, but FREED will do their best to find a solution to meet your needs.*



## TRUSTED INFORMATION SOURCES

### 211Connecting Point

2-1-1 or 1-833-DIAL211  
211ConnectingPoint.org

### CHP Grass Valley

(530) 477-4900

### County of Nevada

(530) 265-1218  
MyNevadaCounty.com

### County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services

(530) 265-1515  
ReadyNevadaCounty.org

### SierraSun

SierraSun.com

### The Union

TheUnion.com

### YubaNet

YubaNet.com

### KNCO 830AM

KNCO.com

### KOH 780AM

KKOH.com

### KTKE 101.5 FM

TruckeeTahoeRadio.com

### KVMR 89.5 FM & 105.1 FM

KVMR.org

### Nevada County Media

NevadaCountyMedia.org  
Channel 17  
(Comcast & Suddenlink)

## PREPARE

### Department of Homeland Security

Ready.gov

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA.gov

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Fire Safe Council of Nevada County

(530) 272-1122  
AreYouFireSafe.com

## CAL FIRE

**California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)** encourages forest improvement through cost-share assistance for individuals with 20 to 5,000 acres of forest land.  
(916) 718-6258  
bit.ly/CALFIREForestImprovement

## USDA

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** provides financial incentives to timberland owners for approved conservation practices including forest thinning and pruning.  
(530) 272-3417  
bit.ly/USDA\_EQIP

## UTILITIES

**Pacific Gas & Electric**  
PGE.com/WildfireSafety

### Liberty Utility

LibertyUtilities.com

**Truckee Donner Public Utility District**  
tdpud.org

## **FIRE DEPARTMENTS & DISTRICTS**

### **CAL FIRE**

#### **Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU)**

(530) 889-0111

[Fire.ca.gov](http://Fire.ca.gov)

### **Grass Valley Fire Department**

(530) 274-4380

[GrassValleyFire.com](http://GrassValleyFire.com)

### **Higgins Fire Protection District**

(530) 269-2488

[HigginsFire.org](http://HigginsFire.org)

### **Nevada City Fire Department**

(530) 265-2351

[NevadaCityCa.gov](http://NevadaCityCa.gov)

### **Nevada County**

#### **Consolidated Fire District**

(530) 265-4431

[NCCFire.com](http://NCCFire.com)

### **North San Juan Volunteer**

#### **Fire Protection District**

(530) 292-9159

[NSJFire.org](http://NSJFire.org)

### **Ophir Hill Fire District**

(530) 273-8351

[OphirHillFire.org](http://OphirHillFire.org)

### **Peardale Chicago Park**

#### **Fire Protection District**

(530) 273-2503

[PCPFire.com](http://PCPFire.com)

### **Penn Valley Fire**

#### **Protection District**

(530) 432-2630

[PennValleyFire.com](http://PennValleyFire.com)

### **Rough and Ready Fire Department**

(530) 432-1140

[RRVFD.com](http://RRVFD.com)

### **Tahoe National Forest**

(530) 265-4531

[Fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://Fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

### **Truckee Fire Protection District**

(530) 582-7850

[TruckeeFire.org](http://TruckeeFire.org)

### **Washington Volunteer Fire Department**

(530) 265-4720



*Photo Courtesy of The Union*



Office of Emergency Services  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959



**WILDFIRE SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU.**

More information at [ReadyNevadaCounty.org](http://ReadyNevadaCounty.org)