Lake County Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation Plan

Project Recap

Lake County Board of Supervisors

October 21, 2025





Project Purpose and Objectives

This project will prepare a Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan for Lake County. Given the frequency of several catastrophic wildfire events in recent years, the Plan is intended to coordinate evacuations and other activities to standardize future response protocols for probable wildfires. It will also inform community members of practices and procedures to better prepare for future events, helping facilitate orderly evacuations.

Identify and Mitigate Risk

Finalize Evacuation Routes

Develop Communication Procedures

Establish Coordination Protocols

Technical Advisory Group

STAKEHOLDERS	STAKEHOLDERS	STAKEHOLDERS	
 Lake APC County of Lake Supervisor Board member County Department of Public Works County Community Development City of Clearlake Council member Dept of Public Works Community Development City of Lakeport Council member Dept of Public Works 	 Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians (Lakeport) Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians (Clearlake Oaks) Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Koi Nation of Northern California Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians (Nice) Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians (Lakeport) Sheriff's Office/OES 	 Easter Seals Northern California Bayberry. Inc. Lake County Mental Health Services Area Agency on Aging School Representatives Hospital Representatives Senior Centers Highlands Senior Service 	
 Community Development Sheriff Auditor's Office Cal OES CalFire Caltrans Redwood Coast Regional Center California Highway Patrol 	 Local Fire Councils/Agencies Lake County Fire Protection District EOC Ops - County Department of Social Services American Red Cross Lake Transit Authority Private Sector Transportation Representatives 	 Center Lakeport Senior Center, Inc. Live Oak Seniors Middletown Senior Center Redwood Coast Regional Center COAD Public Works 	

Hazard Profile

→ Likelihood of Future Occurrences:

→ **Highly Likely:** 90-100% chance of occurrence in the next year or happens every year.

→ Magnitude/Severity:

→ **Critical**: 25-50 percent of property severely damaged; shutdown of facilities for at least two weeks; and/or injuries and/or illnesses result in permanent disability.

→ Significance:

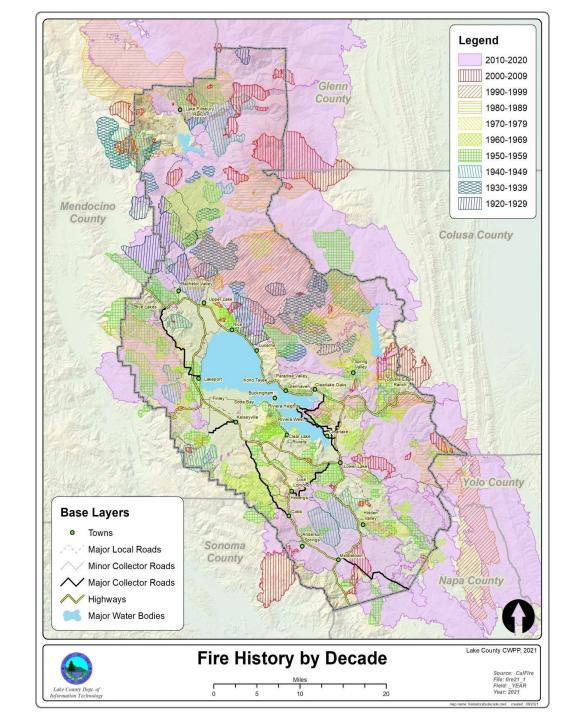
→ **High:** widespread potential impact

→ Climate Change Influence:

→ **High:** Climate change is very likely to increase the probability of this hazard.

→ Vulnerability: Extremely

→ **High:** Very widespread with catastrophic impact.





Wildfire Evacuation Analysis and Preparedness Memo

Lake County, California

Wildfire Evacuation Analysis and Preparedness Memo



May 2025

Prepared by

)) ((THE RESILIENCY INITIATIVE

The preparation of this report was funded through the Lake Area Planning Council's 2023/24 Regional Transportation Planning Work Program, Work Element 615.

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Lake County Demographics



Population & People

Total Population

• 68,878



Education

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

• 16.8%



Housing

Total Housing Units

• 34,220



Households

Total Households

• 26,092



Employment

Employment Rate

• 48.8%



Business & Economy

Total Employer Establishments

• 1,092



Health

People with 1 or more disabilities

• 22.2%



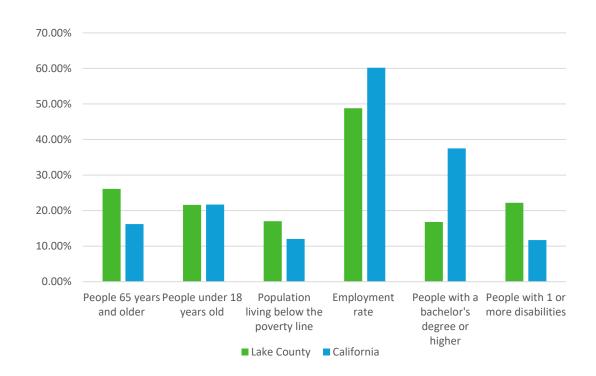
Income & Poverty

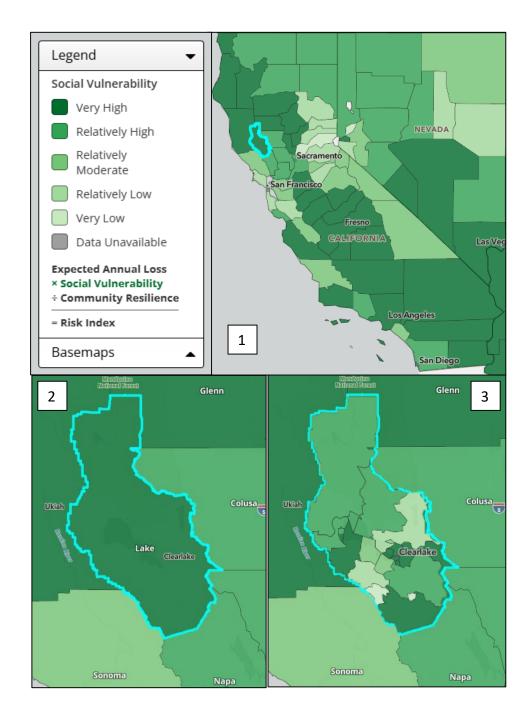
Median Household Income

• \$59,444

Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable Populations

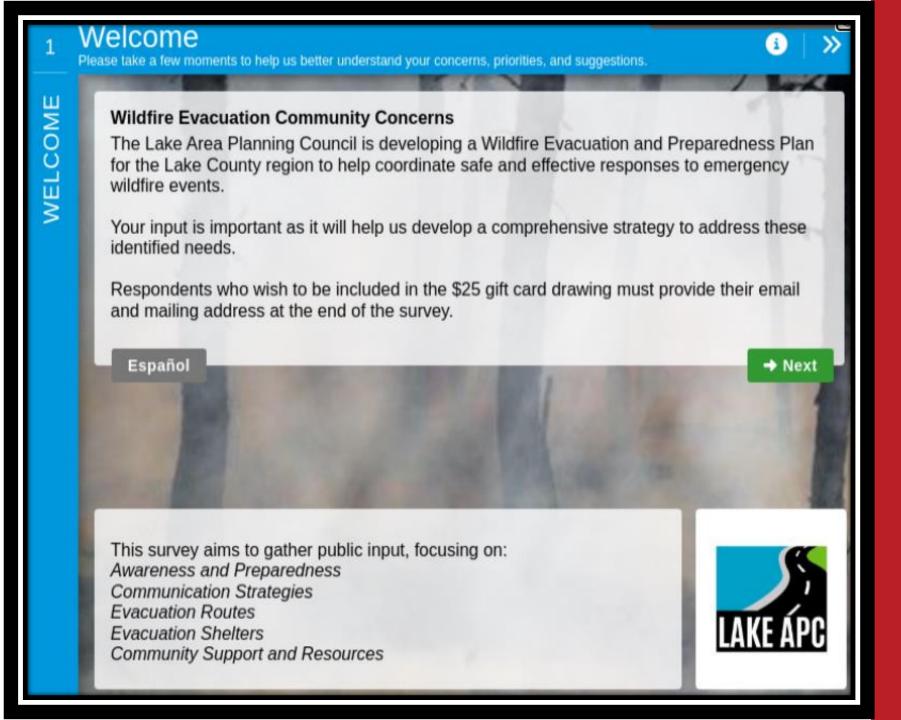






Public Input Survey

- → August 29, 2024 November 8, 2024
- \rightarrow 243 Respondents
- → Available in English and Spanish





Survey Results

Annex 1

Lake County California

Wildfire Evacuation Analysis and Preparedness Memo Survey Results Annex



April 2025

Prepared by

THE RESILIENCY INITIATIVE

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Recommendations

Lake County, California

Wildfire Evacuation Analysis and Preparedness Memo



May 2025

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Recommendations

Emergency Communications

- Resilient Emergency Communications Network
- Additional Changeable Message Signage
- Inclusive Communication

Training, Exercise, & Drills

- Community-Based Evacuation Assistance & Transit Support Workshop
- Zone Familiarization Workshops
- Community Partner Evacuation Drills

Network Improvements

- Rural Road Hardening & Alternative Evacuation Routes
- Strategic Fuel Breaks Along Evacuation Corridors
- Intelligent Evacuation Traffic Management Systems



Lake County Evacuation Plan

Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan September 2025



Prepared By

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September 2025

Plan Structure

Introduction

Authorities and References

Situation and Assumptions

Organization and Alignment of Responsibilities

Concept of Operations

Direction, Control, & Coordination
Information Collection & Dissemination

Communications

Administration, Finance, & Logistics

Plan Development & Maintenance

- → The Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan outlines a comprehensive framework for facilitating safe, efficient, and coordinated evacuations during wildfire emergencies, whether the incident occurs with or without advance warning. This plan provides evacuation strategies, recommended agency roles and responsibilities, and key considerations for relocating individuals from hazardous areas to designated safe zones.
- → The Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan is intended to support and complement existing emergency protocols established in the Lake County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), as well as those of the incorporated cities of Lakeport and Clearlake.

Key Definitions

Evacuation Order

Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.

Evacuation Warning

There is a potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate and those with pets and livestock should leave now. Evacuation Warnings are essential when dealing with various issues, such as access and functional needs of populations and large animals.

Evacuation Order(s) Lifted

 The formal announcement of lifting evacuations in an area currently under evacuation.



Key Definitions

Hard Closure

•Closed to all traffic except Fire and Law Enforcement.

Soft Closure

 Closed to all traffic except Fire, Law Enforcement, and Critical Incident resources (i.e., Utility, Caltrans, Public Works, etc., or those needed to repair or restore infrastructure).

Resident Only Closure

 Soft closure with the additional allowance of residents and local government agencies assisting with response and recovery.



Response Operations: U

Unified Command is utilized between Clearlake, Lakeport, and Lake County regarding evacuation decision-making.

Law enforcement agencies coordinate evacuation and movement during emergencies and disasters.

- → Sheriff's Office
- → OES EOC (Operational Area)
- → Lakeport Police
- → Lakeport Fire
- → Lakeport Director of Emergency Services
- → Clearlake Police
- → Lake County Fire Protection District
- → Clearlake Director of Emergency Services



Evacuation Response Operations

The following table identifies the agencies or organizations typically responsible for the response actions necessary to implement an evacuation order.

Table 6: Response Activities

Response Activity	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies			
Identify the Estimated Effects of the Event and Recommend Protective Actions					
		HAZMAT			
Assess the impact on public health and safety and recommend protective actions.	Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator	Centers for Disease Control (CDC)			
+	(MHOAC)	Environmental Health			
		HAZMAT			
	Environmental Health	Caltrans			
Assess the impact on the environment and offer recommendations on protective		United States Geological Survey (USGS)			
actions.		California Environmental Protection <u>Agency</u> (CalEPA)			
		Response Specific Organizations			
		HAZMAT			
Identify any potential or additional threats or hazards that could lead to evacuation.	Unified Command (Fire Law Enforcement)	Operational Area Emergency Operation Center (OA EOC)			
		FBI Fusion Centers			

Evacuation Strategies

Intersection & Traffic Signal Coordination

Phased Evacuation

Use of Road Barriers

Designated Markers

Hi-Lo Sirens



Evacuation Considerations

Schools

Individuals with Disabilities and Other AFNs

Animals



Evacuation Coordination

Temporary Evacuation Point

 Serves as temporary safe zones for evacuees but generally do not provide services like food, water, restrooms, etc. This is typically a transfer point from the immediate danger to then the shelter.

Emergency Shelter

 Emergency shelters are opened when at least one overnight stay is necessary.



Appendices



Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan

Appendices

Appendix A - Quick Evacuation Checklist

This checklist offers a flexible, cross-jurisdictional framework for initiating, coordinating, and supporting wildfire evacuation activities. It is designed for use by local EOCs, Incident Command, and public safety agencies to ensure timely and organized evacuation activation and notification.

Immediate Actions Eor Any Incident

- Gain jurisdictional situational awareness.
- □ Create (or combine) an incident in WebEOC.
- Determine response status.
- Review the status of initial protective actions.
- Consider additional protective actions.
- Evaluate public information needs.
- Determine the next steps to coordinate and implement protective actions.
- Establish OA-led jurisdictional conference call, if necessary.

Situational Awareness

If an incident has occurred, what happened (including where and when)?

- Type of incident (natural disaster, accident, terrorism)
- Estimated number of injuries/fatalities
- Estimated damage to or status of critical infrastructures (transportation, power, medical, water)
- What facilities (schools, health care facilities, large residential complexes, workforce facilities) are in the hazard area

What jurisdictions/neighboring jurisdictions have been evacuated or sheltered?

- Estimated number of people and animals evacuated?
- Are temporary evacuation points (TEPs) being used?
- Estimated number of people and animals that will require sheltering?
- Have shelters been identified?
- Coordination with adjoining jurisdiction(s)?

What is the latest information/intelligence about threats to the jurisdiction if the incident has not occurred? What is the potential impact?

- Estimate of potentially affected population?
- What neighborhoods should be evacuated?

Resnance Statu

- Is the emergency operations center (EOC) activated, and at what level?
- Is the incident cascading, or is the incident stabilized?
- What is the impact on neighboring jurisdictions/zones?
- Who is leading the response or investigation?
- What resources/agencies are on scene, available, or needed?
- What additional resources/agencies are needed, including those required to support individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs?

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Appendix B – Evacuation Maps

Evacuation Routes in Lake County will depend on the reason for evacuation and the-determination of which direction the evacuees need to travel. The potential evacuation routes identified in this analysis are designated based on roadway classification. This does not ensure that these routes are accessible, are the preferred evacuation routes in all situations, or are suitable for the conditions of the roadway. Always follow the instructions of emergency personnel.

The following map images show a closer view of the regions and communities within Lake County.

- Figure 1A Lake County
- Figure 1B Lake County Inserts
- Figure 1C = Lake Pillsbury
- Figure 1D Upper Lake
- Figure 1E Lakeport
- Figure 1F Kelseyville
- Figure 1G Middletown
- Figure 1H Clearlake Oaks
- Figure 1I Lower Lake
- Figure 1J Clearlake
- Figure 1K Lucerne
 Figure 1L Glenhaven

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Appendices



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Appendix C – Contingency Routes

To provide guidance for identifying and activating alternate or contingency evacuation routes when primary routes are unavailable or unsafe during a wildfire incident. This appendix supports flexible, risk-informed decision-making and coordination between law enforcement, fire agencies, transportation partners, and emergency management personnel.

- · Wildfires may block or threaten primary evacuation routes with little warning.
- Smoke, debris, downed power lines, or accidents may render primary roads impassable.
- Alternate and contingency routes may require real-time validation and support to be usable.
- Effective coordination is essential to prevent bottlenecks, miscommunications, and route conflicts.

Table 13: Contingency Route Types to Evaluate

Route Type	Use Case	Considerations
Rural/mountain crossovers	When highway routes are blocked (e.g., SR 175 to US-101)	May require signage, escort vehicles, or communication relays.
Ferry or lake- based evacuation	If all land routes are blocked or communities are cut off	Requires marine coordination, launch access, and safe dock sites.
One- way/reverse- lane flow ("contraflow")	High-volume escape from bottleneck-prone areas	Requires extensive law enforcement and signage.
Service/dirt/fire roads	As last-resort options in rural areas	Use only if scouted and confirmed safe; avoid AFN transport use.
Parallel local roads	Temporary redirection when highways are gridlocked	Assess traffic signal control, intersections, and narrow segments.

Table 14: Contingency Route Considerations

Action	Completed (Y/N)	Resources/Special Considerations
Identify contingency routes based on current road conditions.		
Monitor fire behavior and road conditions near primary routes.		Use AlertCalifornia cameras and Fire Behavior Analyst forecasts.

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Appendix D – Alternative Fuel Sites

This appendix supports collaborative planning and rapid decision-making, recognizing that wildfire conditions may shift rapidly and fuel needs will vary by location, duration, and incident scale.

- Wildfires may compromise access to retail fuel sites due to road closures, power outages, or fire behavior.
- First responders, public transit, utility repair teams, and evacuees may require priority refueling access.
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure may be limited, require backup power, or face grid instability.
- Local and regional mutual aid resources may arrive without full situational awareness of fuel site conditions.

Table 15: Alternative Fuel Coordination Considerations

Action	Completed (Y/N)	Resources/Special Considerations
Create a shared fuel site inventory including hours, generator backup, and access routes.		Gasoline, Diesel, Propane, & EV
Execute MOUs with key fuel stations for emergency refueling priority.		Ensure mobile fuel tankers are identified in vendor or mutual aid agreements.
Identify alternative fuel depots with above- ground tanks.		City yards, school bus depots, PG&E sites, etc.
Assess the operability of known fuel sites.		Status Backup power Accessibility
Identify which sites are closest to major response zones or evacuation corridors.		
Activate priority fueling procedures and communicate with response partners.		
Track usage and project fuel needs for at least 48–72 hours.		
Identify EV charging limitations and direct evacuees accordingly.		

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Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan

Appendix E – Acronyms

AAR: After-Action Report

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act

AFN: Access and Functional Needs

APC: Lake Area Planning Council

ARC: American Red Cross

ASL: American Sign Language

CalEPA: California Environmental Protection Agency

CalQES: California Office

Caltrans: California Department of Transportation

CDC: Centers for Disease Control

CDSS: California Department of

Developmental Services

CHP: California Highway Patrol

CIKR: Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources

CMS: Changeable Message Sign

COAD: Community Organizations Active in Disaster

Community Emergency Response Teams

(CERT)

CPG: Comprehensive Preparedness Guide

EAS: Emergency Alert System

EMS: Emergency Medical Services

EOC: Emergency Operations Center

EOP: Emergency Operations Plan

ESF: Emergency Support Functions

EV: Electric Vehicle

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

GIS: Geographic Information Systems

ICS: Incident Command System

IPAWS: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System

JIC: Joint Information Center

LNU: Lake-Napa Unit

LTA: Lake Transit Authority

MHOAC: Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

NEMT: Non-Emergency Medical Transport

NIMS: National Incident Management System

NMT: Non-medical Transport

NRF: National Response Framework

NGO: Non-Governmental Agency

OA EOC: Operational Area Emergency

Operations Center

OA: Operational Area

OEHHA: Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

OES: Office of Emergency Services

PIO: Public Information Officer

PPD-8: Presidential Policy Directive 8

PSPS: Public Safety Power Shutoff

PWD/AFN: Persons with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs

RCRC: Redwood Coast Regional Center

SEMS: Standardized Emergency Management System

SOP: Standard Operating Procedure

TAG: Technical Advisory Group

TCP: Traffic Control Points

TEP: Temporary Evacuation Point

USGS: United States Geological Survey

VA: Veterans Affairs

WEA: Wireless Emergency Alert

WUI: Wildland Urban Interface

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Evacuation Preparedness

Know Your Zone

Make A Plan

Be Informed

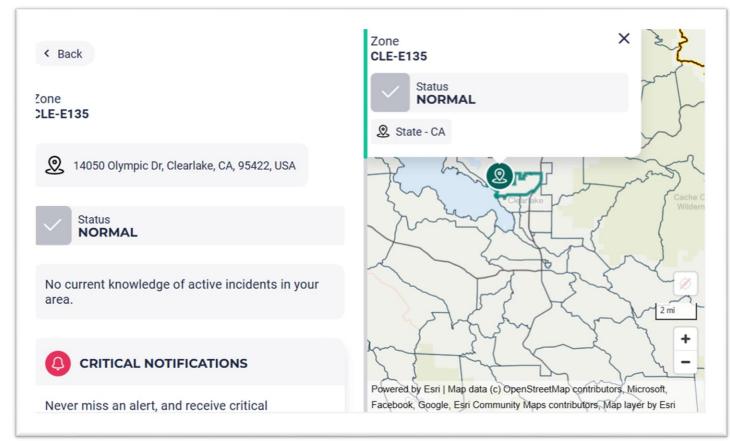
KnowYourZone

Genasys Protect

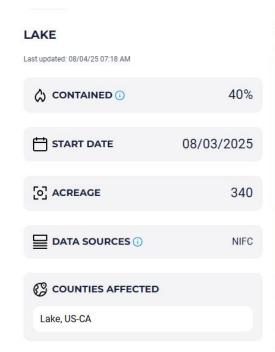


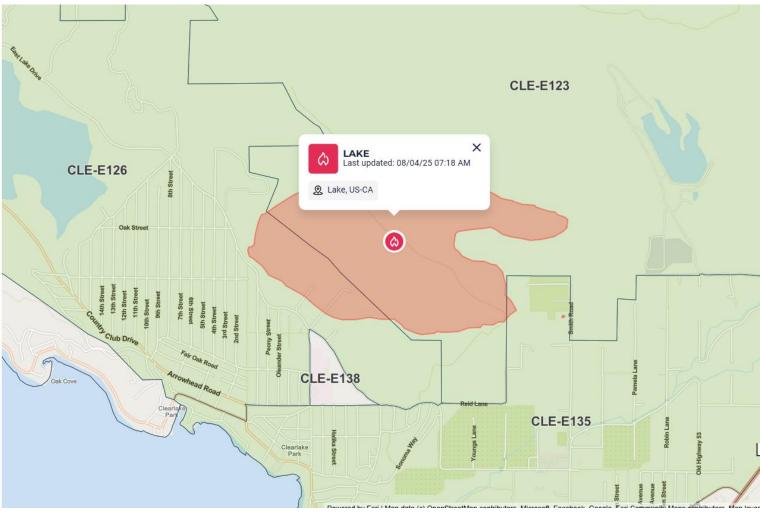
Evacuation Zones

- Zone Identification: Each zone is assigned a specific code, such as "MNF-E024," representing a particular geographic area within the county.
 - MNF Mendocino National Forrest
 - UPP Upper Lake
 - LAK Lakeport
 - NIC Nice
 - LUC Lucerne
 - CLE Clearlake
 - CLO Clear Lake Oaks
 - KEL Kelseyville
 - LOW- Lower Lake
 - COB- Cobb
 - MID Middletown
 - HID Hidden Lake

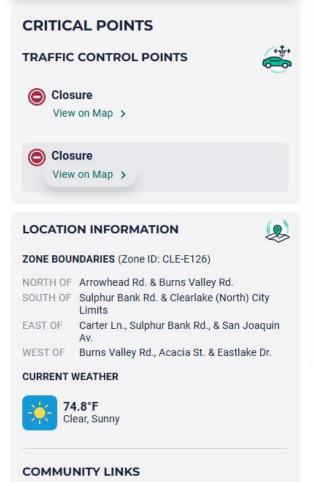


Active Fire Information





Transportation and Closures





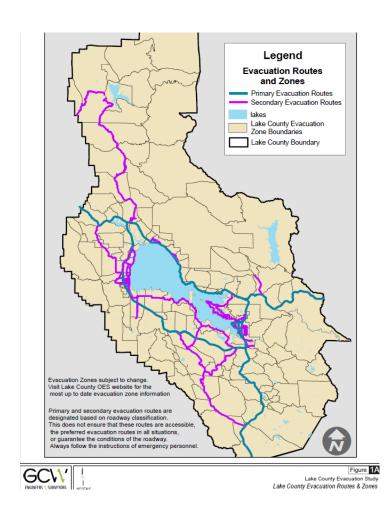
Make a Plan

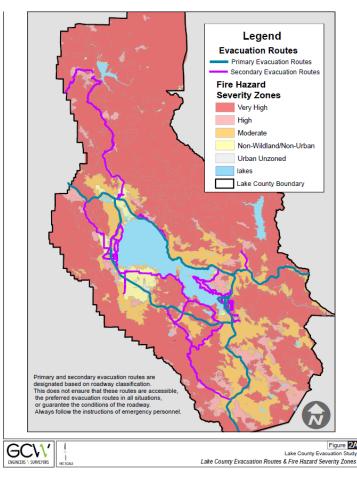
Potential Routes and Transportation Resources



Evacuation Routes

Potential Primary Routes





- CALISTOGA ST
- E STATE HWY 20
- S STATE HWY 29
- STATE HWY 29
- STATE HWY 53
- W STATE HWY 20
- LAKESHORE DR
- OLD HWY 53
- OLYMPIC DR

Evacuation Routes

Potential Secondary Routes

- 18TH AVE
- 40TH AVE
- ALVITA AVE
- ARROWHEAD RD
- BEVINS ST
- BIG BEAR RD
- BIG VALLEY RD
- BOYLES AVE
- BURNS VALLEY RD
- BURPEE DR
- BUSH ST
- BUTTS CANYON RD
- CENTRAL PARK AVE
- CLEAR LAKE AVE
- CLOVER DR
- COMPTON ST
- COPSEY CREEK WY
- COUNTRY CLUB DR
- CRAWFORD AVE
- CRESTVIEW DR
- CRYSTAL LAKE WY
- DAM RD
- DAVIS ST
- ELEVENTH ST
- ELK MOUNTAIN RD
- EMERFORD RD
- FOOTHILL DR

- HARRINGTON FLAT
- HARTLEY RD
- HARTLEY ST
- HIGHLAND SPRINGS
 RD
- HILL RD
- HILL ROAD EAST
- HOBERG DR
- HOWARD AVE
- KEELING AVE
- LADDELL AVE
- LAKE ST
- LAKEPORT BLVD
- LAKESHORE BLVD
- LAKESHORE DR
- LAKEVIEW DR
- LOCH LOMOND RD
- MAIN ST
- MARTIN ST
- MENDENHALL AVE
- MIDDLE CREEK RD
- MILL ST
- MOSS AVE
- MULLEN AVE
- N BRUSH ST
- N FORBES ST
- N HIGH ST

- N MAIN ST
- N RUSSELL ST
- NEW LONG VALLEY
 RD

STATE HWY 281

SUMMIT BLVD

WINCHESTER ST

UHL AVE

W 40TH ST

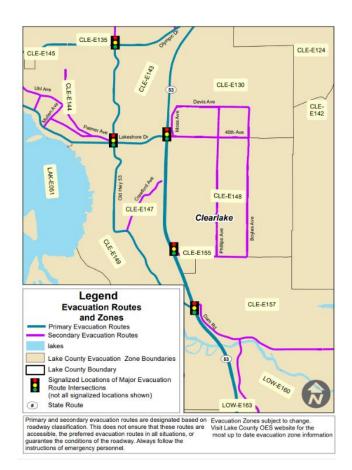
SULPHUR BANK DR

- NORTH DR
- OLD HWY 53
- OSPREY CT
- PALMER AVE
- PARK ST
- PARK WY
- PHILLIPS AVE
- POINT LAKEVIEW RD
- QUARTERHORSE LN
- o RED HILLS RD
- RIGGS RD
- RUMSEY RD
- S FORBES ST
- S MAIN ST
- S RUSSELL ST
- SAN JOAQUIN AVE
- SCOTTS VALLEY RD
- SECOND ST
- SEIGLER CANYON RD
- SIXTH ST
- SODA BAY RD
- SPURR ST
- STATE HWY 175

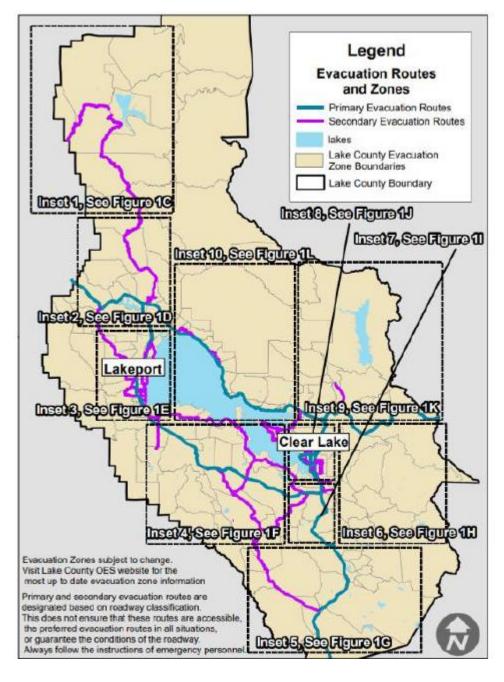
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Community Maps

Potential routes mapped for planning purposes.







Be Informed

Emergency Notifications and Communications



Emergency Communications

- → LakeCo Alerts: Lake County's official emergency notification system, providing critical alerts via phone calls, text messages, emails, and public broadcast systems
 - → Enables officials to issue geographically targeted warnings and countywide alerts during major emergencies
 - → Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)
 - \rightarrow Emergency Alert System (EAS)
 - → Wireless Emergency Alerts



Ready.LakeCountyCA

- → Law Enforcement
 - → Door-to-door notification
 - → Hi-Ln Siren
- → Changeable message signs
 - \rightarrow Caltrans
 - → Local Business
 - → Lake Transit Bus



Thank you

Faith Newton, CEM, MBCP

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