

Emergency Plan for High Desert RV Resort

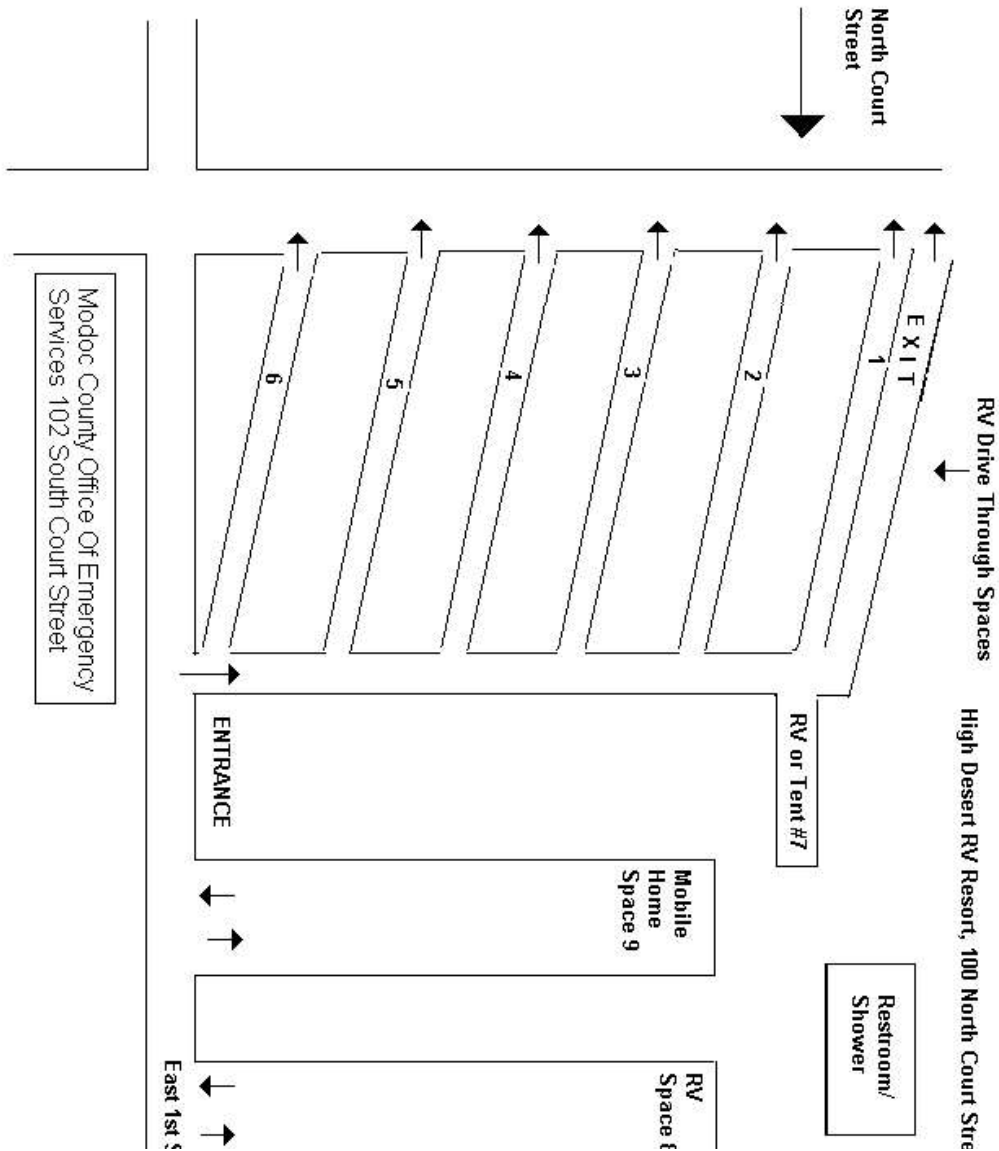
100 North Court Street

Alturas, CA 96101

Park ID 25-0005-MP

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Disaster Preparedness Planning Guide for Owners and/or Residents in Mobile Home Parks Introduction

The most important feature of any home is something you probably do not see when you walk through the door. But it could save your life. It is **safety**. Safety comes in all shapes and sizes: smoke detectors; fire extinguishers; escape routes; carefully maintained heating and electrical systems; and knowing what to do and where to go in case of fire, flood, tornado, or other disasters. The key to being prepared in the event of a disaster or sudden emergency is preplanning and practice drills.

Disaster Preparedness Emergency Plan

The next time disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. Prepare now for a sudden emergency. Knowing what to do in an emergency is your best protection and your responsibility. Learn how to protect yourself and your family by planning ahead. To obtain more information, you may want to contact your local emergency management agency or civil defense office and the local American Red Cross chapter - be prepared to take notes. You will need to gather the following information:

Find out which disasters are most likely to occur in your area.

Ask how to prepare for each disaster.

Ask how you would be warned of an emergency.

Learn about your community's warning signals: what they sound like and what you should do when you hear them.

Learn your community's main evacuation routes.

If needed, ask about special assistance for the elderly or disabled persons.

Ask about animal care during and after an emergency. Animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters due to health regulations.

Checklist of Emergency Procedures

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disasters. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather and earthquakes to children, the elderly, and

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individuals that may need special assistance. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team. The following may be used in creating your own

Emergency Response Plan:

Draw a floor plan of your residence and mark two escape routes from each room.

Install safety features in your home, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

Discuss what to do in an evacuation.

Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

Post emergency telephone numbers near the telephone.

Instruct household members to turn on a battery powered radio for emergency information.

Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated by disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area).

Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 and a long distance contact person.

Pick two meeting places: 1) a place near your home in case of fire; 2) a place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster.

Keep family records in a water and fire-proof container.

Locate the main electric fuse box, water service main, and natural gas main shut off valve to your mobile home. Learn how and when to turn these utilities off.

Teach all responsible family members. Keep necessary tools near gas and water shut-off valves. Turn off the utilities only if you suspect the lines are damaged or if you are instructed to do so. **If you turn the gas off, you will need a professional to turn it back on.**

Take a basic first aid and CPR class.

Prepare a disaster supply kit.

If Disaster Strikes

Remain calm and patient. Put your plan into action.

Check for injuries; give first aid and get help for seriously injured.

Listen to your battery powered radio for news and instructions.

Evacuate if advised to do so. Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes.

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Check for damage to your home - use a flashlight only. **Do not light matches or turn on electrical switches**, if you suspect damage.

Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards.

If you are remaining in your home, sniff for gas leaks, starting at the hot water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone outside quickly.

Shut off any other damaged utilities.

Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and any other flammable liquid immediately.

Remember to:

Remember to confine or secure your pets.

Call your family contact - **do not use the telephone again unless it is a life threatening emergency.**

Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons.

Make sure you have an adequate water supply in case service is shut off.

Stay away from downed power lines.

Earthquake

Prior to any earthquake, each resident should preplan and practice steps they will take in the event of an earthquake. Manufactured home owners/residents need to know the physical location of piers/supports under their homes. During a severe earthquake, manufactured homes have been known to drop off their supports and these supports may come through the floor causing physical damage above. In order to avoid injury, residents must know the location of the supports and where safe areas are located within their manufactured homes. Be sure your manufactured home is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and all applicable state regulations and requirements.

Indoors: take cover under any sturdy piece of furniture or doorway or get up on a bed or couch that is against a wall.

Stay away from windows or ceiling objects such as lighting fixtures.

Do not light matches or candles.

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Do not turn on electrical equipment of any kind.

Use only **battery operated** flash lights and radios.

Outdoors: find an open area and remain there until the earthquake stops.

Stay away from power poles and electrical lines, tall buildings, bridges, brick or block walls, underpasses and trees.

Listen to a self contained (battery operated) radio for emergency instructions.

Confine and secure all pets so they will not hamper emergency service employees in the performance of their duties.

After shocks may occur, so be prepared.

Fire Safety

Fire spreads quickly and the entire structure may rapidly become engulfed in flames. There are steps you can take to minimize the dangers associated with fires and improve your families chances of survival should a fire erupt in your manufactured home.

Be sure you have properly operating smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. If one or more of your smoke detectors are battery operated, replace the batteries annually or more often if necessary. An easy to remember schedule is to change your batteries to coincide with daylight savings time.

Plan, with the whole family, at least two escape routes from your manufactured home.

Practice fire drills regularly, using a smoke detector as a signal to start the drill.

Follow your escape plan.

Be sure your heating and electrical systems are properly maintained and in good working order. Change the heating filters as recommended by the heater manufacturer.

Carefully follow the instructions on all appliances and heating units, taking special care not to overload your electrical system.

Be especially careful when displaying your holiday decorations.

Keep matches, lighters, and candles away from small children. Children tend to be curious about fire and tend to hide when frightened. Fire drills are most

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important for children between the ages of 2 and 12 years old.
Insure your personal property. Shop around for a company that best meets your needs for renter's or home owners insurance.
Store important documents, such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, social security cards, and insurance papers, in a fire-proof box or in the refrigerator, or rent a safety deposit box at your local bank.
Make an itemized list of your personal property, including furniture, clothing, appliances, and other valuables. If available, make a video tape of your home and your possessions. Keep the list and/or tape up-to-date and store them along with the other important documents.

In Case of Fire

Immediately assess the problem (where, extent involved, to assist you in exiting away from the fire source)

Know how to use a fire extinguisher

Get everyone out of the house **immediately**

Without risk to any person, get pets out of the house

Call 9-1-1 or the Fire Department then call the park office (from a neighbors phone) and:

1. Give your name, telephone number you are calling from, park address, space number where the fire is, any helpful locational directions.
2. Describe the type/nature of the fire (gas, wood, chemical, electrical).
3. State that the fire is in a manufactured home and report any known injuries.
4. Turn off the gas and electricity at the home(s) affected.
5. Tell all residents near the fire source to stand ready with water hoses to wet down their homes or adjacent building(s) in case of traveling sparks.
6. Make sure all occupants have left the affected home and **immediately** let the fire department personnel know if any disabled person(s) or anyone not accounted for and may still be in the residence.
7. **Never go back into a burning home.**
8. If smoky conditions are present, remember that smoke rises and stay

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as close to the floor as possible. Before exiting through a door, feel the bottom of the door with the palm of your hand. If it is **hot**, find another way out. **Never open a door that is hot to the touch.**

9. Should your clothing catch fire: **first *cover your face and mouth*, drop...then roll. Never run.** If a rug or blanket is handy, roll yourself up in it until the fire is out.

10. If trapped on an upper floor, hang something out of a window to signal rescuers.

Floods

Flood *Watch* means that there is the possibility of flooding.

Flood *Warning* means that flooding has begun or is imminent.

Before a flood:

Know the elevation of your property in relation to nearby streams, rivers, and lakes.

Have several escape routes planned.

The National Weather Service continuously broadcasts updated weather conditions, warnings and forecasts on National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios. A NOAA radio may be purchased at radio or electronic stores. Local broadcast stations transmit Emergency Alert System messages which may be heard on standard radios.

When rising water threatens, move everything possible to higher ground.

If flooding is imminent and time permits, turn off main electrical switch.

Disconnect all electrical appliances. Cover outlets with tape.

Prepare and maintain your Family Disaster Supplies Kit.

Most standard residential insurance policies do not cover flood loss.

In flood-prone areas, the National Flood Insurance Program makes flood insurance available for manufactured homes on foundations. See your insurance broker for details.

Secure your Liquefied Petroleum Gas Containers. One option is to secure the tanks with stainless steel straps that connect to auger anchors in the ground.

Strap and secure your hot water heater.

During a flood:

Take all flood warnings seriously. **Do not wait.** Get to higher ground **immediately** as flood

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waters often rise faster than expected.

If time permits, take all important papers, photographs, medicines, and eye-glasses.

If one escape route is not passable do not waste any time - try another route or back track to higher ground.

Use travel routes specified by local officials. **Never** drive through flooded roadways. **Do not** bypass or go around barricades.

Wear life preservers if possible. Wear appropriate clothing and **sturdy shoes**. Avoid any contact with flood water. Flood water may be contaminated and pose health problems. If cuts or wounds come in contact with flood waters, clean the wound as thoroughly as possible.

Take your Family Disaster Supplies Kit with you.

Lock your home before leaving.

When you reach a safe place, call your pre-determined family contact person.

After a flood:

Return home **only** after authorities say the danger of more flooding is over.

Do not drink tap water unless it is declared safe. Boil water if unsure.

If fresh food has come in contact with flood waters, **throw it out**.

Do not turn on main electrical switch. First have the electrical system checked by a professional.

A flood can cause emotional and physical stress. You need to look after yourself and your family as you focus on cleanup and repair.

Rest often and eat well. Keep a realistic and manageable schedule.

Make a list and do jobs one at a time.

Contact the American Red Cross and get a copy of the book *Repairing Your Flooded Home*. The book will tell you how to safely return to your home and begin the recovery process.

Tornado

Although tornadoes are not a common occurrence in California, they have been reported.

Pay close attention to weather reports. Know the difference between a watch (when

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conditions are ripe for a severe weather event) and a warning (when a severe weather event is occurring or is imminent).

Plan where to go during severe weather - for instance, the community club house, or a relative's basement.

When a tornado warning has been issued, **leave your manufactured home immediately**. Go to your pre-determined safe place or lie down in a low area with your hands covering the back of your head and neck.

Be sure to keep a transistor radio - with working and extra batteries handy.

Keep your Family Disaster Supplies Kit near an exit door.

First Aid

Information on first aid can be found in your local phone book or by contacting the American Red Cross.

Utilize known persons who are medically trained (such as doctors, nurses, or people medically trained in CPR and first aid) to assist in administering first aid to those injured.

If the injured individual(s) are in imminent danger they should carefully be moved to a safe location to administer first aid.

In the case where injuries are severe and movement could cause further injuries, **do not move** the injured. Make the injured person(s) as comfortable as possible and wait for emergency personnel.

Before emergencies, prepare a first aid kit. Have the kit in an easy to locate place.

Make sure all family members know the location of the kit.

Sample First Aid Kit:

Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes 2 and 4-inch
sterile gauze pads (4-6 each)

Hypoallergenic adhesive tape

Triangle bandages (3)

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2 and 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls each)
Scissors
Tweezers
Needle Moistened towelettes
Antiseptic
Thermometer
Tongue blades (2)
Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
Assorted sizes of safety pins
Cleansing agent/soap
Latex gloves (2 pairs)
Sunscreen
Aspirin
Syrup of Ipecac
Activated charcoal (use only if advised by the Poison Control Center)

Government and Relief Agencies estimate that after a major disaster, it could take up to three days for relief workers to reach some areas. In such cases, a 72 hour disaster supply kit could mean the difference between life and death. In the event of an evacuation, you will need to have items in an easy-to-carry container like a backpack or duffle bag.

Family Disaster Supplies Kit

3-5 gallons of water (one gallon of water per person per day)
Method of water purification
Food: ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables; canned juices, milk, soup; high energy foods - peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix; specialty foods for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets; comfort/stress foods -cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, tea bags; vitamins
Matches in a waterproof container
Second method of starting a fire

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Tent/shelter

Wool-blend blankets or sleeping bags (1 per person)

Emergency reflective blanket

Lightweight stove and fuel

Hand and body warm packs

Rain poncho

Flashlights with extra batteries, light sticks, lantern with fuel and wicks

Tools (pliers, hammer, screw drivers, bolt cutters, pocket/utility knife)

Shovel and hatchet or axe

Sewing kit

50-foot nylon rope

First aid kit and supplies, including burn gel and dressings

Bottle of potassium iodide tablets

Radio, batteries, and extra batteries

Whistle with neck cord

Personal sanitation equipment

Personal comfort kit (include soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, tissue, razor, deodorant),
and any other needed items

Extra Clothing (include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
per day) extra socks, underwear, hat, gloves, and sturdy shoes

Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils

Cash (at least \$20) or traveler's checks

Non-electric can opener

Fire extinguisher:

small canister, ABC type Important family papers (copies of birth certificates, marriage
licenses, wills, insurance forms, phone numbers, credit card information)

Sun block/sun glasses, hat

Portable toilet

Insect repellent Tape

Compass

Aluminum foil

Signal flare

Household chlorine bleach

Special or prescription medication

Baby items - formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk, medications, and favorite security

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items

Games, books, toys

Contact lenses and supplies; a spare set of contacts or glasses if available

You should inspect your kit at least twice a year. Rotate food and water every six months. Check children's clothing for proper fit. Adjust clothing for winter or summer needs. Check expiration dates on batteries, light sticks, warm packs, food and water. Keep a light source stored in the top of your kit for easy access in the dark. Your kit should be in a portable container located near an exit of your house. A large plastic garbage can with a lid makes an excellent storage container. Make sure you have not overloaded your kit as you may have to carry it long distances to reach safety or shelter. You may want to have a backpack or duffle bag for each family member and divide up the rations in the event that family members are separated during evacuation or the disaster.

Agencies and Resources

The following is a partial listing of contact agencies that supplied information for this guidance and may be able to provide additional emergency information.

State-Federal Flood Operations Center
(800) 952-5530

Office of the State Fire Marshall
(916) 445-8200

Department of Water Resources (Flood Forecasting)
(800) 952-5530

Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD)
Division of Codes and Standards, Manufactured Housing Section
(916) 445-3338

HCD Northern Area Office 9342 Tech Center Drive, Suite 550 Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-2501

HCD Southern Area Office 3737 Main Street, Suite 400 Riverside, CA 92501

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(951) 782-4420

California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)

Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange

(562) 795-2900

Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Solano,
San Francisco, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Alameda, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara,
Monterey, and San Benito

(510) 286-0895

Counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Glenn,
Butte, Sierra, Colusa, Sutter, and Yuba

(916) 845-8470

Counties of Nevada, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Sacramento, Amador, Calaveras,
Alpine, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne

(916) 845-8470

Counties of Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern

(209) 445-5672 or (916) 845-8470

Counties of Mono, Inyo, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial

(562) 795-2900

Western Propane Gas Association 2131 Capitol Avenue, Suite 206 Sacramento, CA 95816

(916) 447-9742

American Red Cross Disaster Assistance Division

(916) 993-7087

Earthquake Preparedness Center of Expertise Attn: CESPDCO-EQ 211 Main Street San Francisco,
CA 94105-1905

(415) 744-2809

Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA) 455 Capitol Mall, Suite 800
Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 448-7002

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California Mobile Home Resource & Action Association (CMRAA) P.O. Box 7468 San Jose, CA
95150
(408) 244-8134

National Weather Service (NWS) 3310 El Camino Avenue, Room 226 Sacramento, CA 95821 (916)
979-3041

Park Elevation

The Park is at an elevation of 4370 feet.

Park Entrances and Exits

There is one main entrance to the park, and one main exit from the park, with only one-way traffic allowed on this main park road. However every space except space 7 has direct access to a public road. If the main park exit becomes blocked, space 7 should use any empty drive-through space as an exit. If all drive through spaces are blocked and the exit is blocked, slowly and carefully use the entrance to exit.

Emergency BroadCasts

In an emergency, listen to KALT 106.5 FM for emergency broadcast information.

Where to Go in an Emergency

Call 911 for directions on where to go, or go across the street to the Modoc County Office of Emergency Services at 102 South Court Street, Alturas, CA.

Local Emergency Phone Numbers

Emergency Number	911
Modoc County Office of Emergency Services	(530)233-4416
Alturas City Police	(530) 233-2011
Highway Patrol	(530) 233-2919
Klamath Falls Red Cross	(541) 884-4125

Safety issues You can address before a disaster

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According to the California Emergency Plan for Mobile Home Parks Example, certain items can make you safer: tie downs for LPG tanks; installation of smoke detectors, and securing hot water heaters.

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Types of Possible Disasters in Modoc County

Cited from <http://www.modocsheriff.us/disaster/EOP.htm>

TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS

Transportation accidents, based on a worst case, ranked as the highest threat based on the potential number of injuries and fatalities. The traffic volume in Modoc County is light by comparison to many other jurisdictions but that does not mean that we are immune from transportation accidents with or without hazardous materials. Tour buses and trucks regularly use highways within the County. Local capabilities are limited. Four or five victims with serious injuries can strain resources. Trauma victims must be transported out of County for care. Preparedness through planning, training and exercises is the best mitigation.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

Potential for injuries and for economic damages raised the ranking for hazardous materials incidents. The impact of a hazardous materials incident depends upon the nature of the material and the location of the incident. The worst case would be an accident in downtown Alturas. Because materials pass through the County daily by highway, pipeline, and rail, the possibility of an incident is very realistic. With a sparse population centered in a few places across the County, many incidents could have minor impacts, however, an incident in or near Alturas could cause the evacuation of 3000 or more people, including the hospital, long-term care facility, and schools.

Preliminary commodity flow studies indicate that gasoline, diesel, and propane are the predominant materials moving through the county by highway. Two natural gas pipelines run through. Lake County Railroad runs between Alturas and Lakeview with connections to the northwest. Burlington Northern receives regular use, transporting materials through the Tulalake Basin and western edge of the County.

Mitigations include continued study of both transportation and storage of materials and

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improved preparedness of responders.

SERIOUS STORMS

Weather has the most widespread and frequent impact on the population of the County. The potential effects on infrastructure, especially power and communications, raised its ranking. In recent years, extensive utility outages and road closures have been short-lived, giving a certain sense of confidence to residents. Realistically, a severe winter storm could easily isolate numerous residents and take out power and telephones for several days. The California Pines Hill Units are particularly susceptible but no area of the County is immune. Summer thunderstorms tend to be more local in their effects but can and do cause road closures, interrupt power and telephone service, and flood areas. They also present the risk of wildfire. Tornadoes occur rarely. They are associated with high intensity summer storms and are usually small. They could cause localized damage.

FLOODING

Economic impacts raised the ranking for flooding. While many areas of the County are subject to flooding fairly often, few residences and businesses suffer long-term damage as a consequence. The frequency has, no doubt, discouraged development in flood-prone areas. Most flooding in Modoc County occurs along streams and rivers when the channels cannot contain the amount of water. This is most common during spring run-off or thunderstorm activity. Urban flooding occurs when rainfall exceeds capacity of storm drains. Urban flooding is a frequent problem in Likely, certain street corners in Alturas, and other developed areas.

Quail Valley Ranch, Lookout, January 1997

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Even localized impacts can have dramatic effects under some circumstances. Isolated flooding can cut areas off from emergency response. For example, small stream flooding in January 1997 damaged County Road One in Surprise Valley in numerous locations, restricting access along several miles of the road for weeks while repairs took place. Debris and mudflows from the steep, highly erosive canyons off the Warner Mountains increased the damage. A secondary effect of flooding can be contamination of drinking water supplies, requiring testing and decontamination. Land use planning and zoning can mitigate for flooding by keeping development outside of flood prone areas.

DROUGHT

Drought is a cyclic occurrence for Modoc County. Economic impacts are the greatest potential effect. 1992 was the last of several years of drought cycle. 2001 was an extreme drought, compounded by water use decisions in the Tulelake Basin, resulting in economic hardship for agriculture and agriculture-dependent business with employment down, domestic water supplies affected, livestock forage scarce, and hay in short supply and high demand. Most assistance comes through U.S. Department of Agriculture programs. Pre-planning can reduce some impacts.

WILDFIRE

The probability of occurrence was the strongest influence on the ranking for wildfire. Wildfires will occur in Modoc County. The Scarface Fire in 1977 was almost 80,000 acres. More recently, the Blue Fire burned approximately 34,000 acres in 2001. Still, the County has been lucky over the years in that wildfires have rarely approached developed areas.

Subdivisions have grown up in several areas of the County where wildfires are a very real risk. Big Valley Ranchettes, California Pines Hill Units, and Modoc Recreational Estates are only three. All have felt the risk at some point but have been spared so far. As has been so clearly demonstrated in other areas of California, the risk must be taken seriously.

The best mitigation is personal preparedness by creating defensible space around dwellings.

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Communities can form Fire Safe Councils and work cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to create firebreaks and promote prevention activities.

EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes ranked high for economic impacts as well as effects on infrastructure and critical facilities. The low probability of occurrence lowered the ranking. Faults within Modoc County have not been historically active but settlement has been very recent in geologic terms. Klamath Falls suffered significant damage from a quake in 1993, reminding inhabitants that northern California and southern Oregon are not geologically stable. The area has experienced extensive seismic activity over millions of years. Evidence is most apparent in the obvious uplifting along the east face of the Warner Mountains.

Much construction within the County does not meet modern standards to withstand an earthquake. Both the Surprise Valley Fault and the Likely Fault are judged capable of producing a quake measuring 7.5 on the Richter Scale (Dr. Jim Slosson, personal communication). Unreinforced masonry and frame buildings would be moderately to severely damaged. Pipelines, including water and sewage lines, could break. Dams could rupture. Utilities and communications would be compromised. Key people could be unable to report for work.

Earthquakes can be mitigated for through land use planning and building codes. Retrofitting of infrastructure can significantly reduce damage.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Animal health problems, as demonstrated in recent years by Foot And Mouth Disease in Great Britain, Mad Cow Disease in Europe, and Exotic Newcastle Disease in southern California, can have huge economic impacts both locally and regionally. The large number

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of livestock present and the movement of livestock in and out of the County also influenced the ranking.

TERRORISM/WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

While Modoc seems an unlikely location for terrorism activities, it is not unreasonable to anticipate the possibility. Mental health was the highest ranked effect. Federal agencies such as the US Forest Service have attracted domestic terrorist activities in small communities in the past. Because of its isolation, Modoc could also serve as a base of operations for groups planning actions elsewhere but presenting a risk of hazardous materials incidents or unintentional detonations locally. Incidents would most likely be small in scale compared to those that might strike larger jurisdictions. Mitigations would include awareness training for emergency responders and security measures by possible target agencies. Increased preparedness for hazardous materials incidents would also lessen impacts of any occurrence. See the Terrorism Response Plan for more detail.

LANDSLIDE OR MASS-WASTING

Slides have a high probability of occurrence with relatively low effects. Relative to the rest of the State of California, landslide occurrence in Modoc is low (Division of Mines and Geology Bulletin 198 as cited in the 1987 Multihazard Functional Plan for Modoc County). The term "landslide" is defined in different ways. In geologic terms, mass wasting is a broader term that applies to gravitational transfer of materials.

Hwy 299 on Cedar Pass, Spring 1996

Looking at the broader picture, at least two occurrences in the 1990's have impacted residents of the County. Highway 299 on Cedar Pass was nearly closed by earth movement in 1996. Surprise Valley residents faced one-lane traffic with 24-hour controls for several weeks. Controls were in place again in 1999 when California Department of Transportation

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did additional work to stabilize the site. In January 1997, flows of mud and debris saturated by rain on snow closed County Road 1 in Surprise Valley in several places and destroyed two homes. All four Surprise Valley communities and many rural residences face some risk from similar flows because of their locations at the mouths of canyons. The January 1997 events demonstrated that, unless one of the communities took a direct hit from such a flow, damage would be isolated.

CIVIL UNREST

Modoc County has little history of incidents of violent civil unrest and the sparse population makes small, isolated incidents the most likely if events did occur.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Most disasters, natural or man-made, have some degree of health consequences that require intervention. These consequences depend upon the type and severity of the event. Flu epidemics and other communicable disease outbreaks are recognized for their disaster potential. The population distribution within Modoc County makes it less likely that the entire county population will be affected by any one event. If needed, separation and isolation can be done on a local community level to protect the other populated areas. There would be a higher risk to a larger number of county residents if the event occurred in Alturas. Alturas, the county seat, is the most populated community and the center of business activity for outlying communities. At certain times of the year, Alturas has an influx of visitors, especially during hunting seasons, and communicable disease transmission to residents and non-residents could occur and be transported to outlying communities, other counties, or states. A similar risk occurs when county residents travel to other areas for meetings and conferences with close person-to-person contact and where “higher target potential” for Bioterrorism exists.

Wildfire and flooding are the most common disasters experienced in Modoc County, although severe winter storms have also occurred and have the potential to isolate outlying communities. Past disasters have contaminated water sources, displaced communities,

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Alturas, CA 96101
Park ID 25-0005-MP

adversely affected persons with pre-existing health problems (smoke and asthmatics, lost medications or medical devices), stranded travelers, knocked out electrical power, caused structural damage, and resulted in mental anguish and stress to those directly affected and to responders (many of whom were among the affected population). The potential of multi-casualty vehicular accidents, hazardous materials release/spill, and the threat of terrorist activities, including Bioterrorism, must be included in any public health risk assessment.

DAM BREAK

Dorris Reservoir, West Valley Reservoir, Big Sage Reservoir, Bayley Reservoir, and Lower Roberts Reservoir could threaten residences if their dams gave way. Inundation maps are on file for West Valley, Big Sage, and Bayley. Dorris has an emergency response plan maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Clear Lake Reservoir, the largest reservoir in the County, poses no threat to inhabited areas here.

Maps for West Valley, Big Sage, and Bayley show very few, if any, residences at risk, all a matter of three or more miles from the dams. Information on Lower Roberts is insufficient to judge its effects. Dorris presents a definite risk to two ranches and the Alturas Rancheria and Casino. A breach could affect areas within the City of Alturas under the unlikely circumstance of an abrupt complete failure of the dam. Even then, the railroad tracks east of town would act as a dike, limiting the rate and amount of water reaching town. Existing copies of inundation maps are difficult to read and give only a general idea of areas subject to effects. Exact impacts to any specific location are not predictable.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION

Eruptions of Mount Shasta, the Medicine Lake Highlands, or Mount Lassen could affect Modoc County. Impacts could range from minor or none at all in the event of a lava flow to widespread and major with an ash cloud such as Mt. St. Helens produced in Washington State in 1980. Mount Lassen produced a similar cloud in 1915 that deposited ash as far to the east as Elko, Nevada. Mount Shasta last erupted in 1786 and has a history of eruptions every 600-800 years.

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While ash deposits from any of the three would not likely be immediately life threatening to most residents, they would impact communications, transportation, and all aspects of daily life. Medically fragile individuals, especially those with respiratory ailments, could be severely impacted. Emergency response vehicles would be impacted. Aviation, including emergency medical flights, could be grounded by poor visibility and potential damage to engines.

SEICHE WAVES

Seiche waves are standing waves formed in an enclosed or nearly enclosed body of water. They can result in lakeshore phenomenon similar to tsunami effects on ocean beaches. Researchers have modeled the possibility of earthquakes in the Lake Tahoe area creating damaging seiche waves around the lake. Two of the three scenarios predicted waves exceeding 3 meters if a fault under the lake were to rupture. This suggests the potential for seiche waves on Upper, Middle, and Lower Alkali Lakes in Surprise Valley, Goose Lake, and Clear Lake. Affects of water depth (all are much shallower than Tahoe) and lake size are uncertain. Further work would be needed to learn if faults underlay any of those bodies of water.

Luckily, few residences lie close to the shoreline where seiche waves could directly impact them. The probability of an event that would threaten human life is low and anticipated to affect very few people at a time if it did occur. A seiche wave on Middle Lake could damage or destroy the causeway on Highway 299 east of Cedarville, requiring residents east of the lake to use longer routes over gravel roads to get to town.

AVALANCHE

Avalanches are not a common occurrence but they are possible throughout the mountainous portions of the County, particular the precipitious east side of the Warner Mountains. Even so, few structures are located in risk zones. The most at-risk would be winter recreationists.