

Eastern Placer Evacuation and Emergency Preparedness Townhall and Open House Recap

Tuesday, June 17, 2025
North Tahoe Event Center

Thank you to everyone who joined our third annual Eastern Placer County Fire Preparedness and Evacuation Town Hall. The event brought together key regional partners to share updates, answer questions, and provide critical information on fire safety, evacuation procedures, and how we can all work together to stay safe this fire season.

Each participating agency plays a vital role in our fire readiness and response. Below is a recap of each panelists' talking points and their focus areas as well as where you can learn more.

Replay the panel presentation on YouTube: [6/17/25 Tahoe Evacuation Town Hall](#)

PANELIST PRESENTATIONS

CAL FIRE – Chief Brian Estes – Nevada Yuba Placer Unit

Chief Brian Estes described the network of fire agencies that work together to mitigate the potential for incidents and provide mutual response. Dispatch is done from Grass Valley, which is the only bi-state 911 dispatch. Chief Estes commented on the strong relationships that have been formed and how all agencies rely on each other to support critical incidents. In particular, he thanked Sheriff Woo for being a partner in serving to protect Placer County Residents. | [CAL FIRE](#)

CAL FIRE – Deputy Chief Jim Hudson

CAL FIRE averages 8,000 wildland fires annually. In 2025 they have already experienced 2,653 wildland fires, and 16,251 structures have been destroyed this year. More than 10 million gallons of retardant have been dropped in the last 3 years. Specifically in the Placer Yuba Unit there have been 427 wildland fires, and 1,256 acres burned. The 5-year average is 2,587 acres. CAL FIRE has maintained their goal of containing 95% of our fires at 10 acres or less.

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – Sheriff Wayne Woo

Placer County Sheriff Woo echoed comments about collaboration and remarked how critical this

is to PCSO's success. He described the regular unified command training throughout Placer County. In the event of an emergency, PCSO is responsible for evacuation. Woo explained there are not fixed "zones" for evacuation. Each type of incident is different and evacuation areas would be set up strategically as needed to best address the event. | [Placer County Sheriff's Office](#)

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – Lieutenant Ty Conners

Lieutenant Ty Conners spoke about the Unified Command Training that joins PCSO, CAL FIRE and Placer County OES. Lieutenant Conners urged that everyone should be prepared with a Ready Set Go Bag and to have a plan in place with your entire household. Please be prepared and stay calm. The vacationers are important to share information with during an emergency. Placer Alert has been very successful and is helping visitors get notifications during an emergency. [Placer Alert , Ready, Set, Go! | CAL FIRE](#)

LIBERTY UTILITIES – Eric Schwarzrock, President

President Eric Schwarzrock reported that Liberty spends approximately \$45 million annually to harden its infrastructure. Thirty-nine weather stations and other technologies are used to monitor the system year-round. Liberty has partnered with the National Forest Foundation and USFS for corridor resiliency around its lines to protect infrastructure and keep the forest safe. Their priority is ensuring that lines and poles can survive an incident in order to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. | [Liberty Utilities](#)

PLACER COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT – Eric White, Director

Executive Director Eric White explained that air conditions are monitored from four permanent sites in the Tahoe Basin and many more throughout the County. District staff models events as they predict where smoke patterns will go, who will be impacted, and then advise communities of potential impacts. PlacerAir.org has more information. | [Air Pollution Control District](#)

TAHOE CITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT – Sean Barclay, General Manager

General Manager Sean Barclay provided an overview of investments to update older private water systems acquired by TCPUD to provide more fire suppression to the overall area. TCPUD is working with its partners to lobby for state and federal water system funding for upgrades and additional fire hydrants. TCPUD is prepared to work with Incident Command to provide service in the event of an emergency. | [TCPUD](#)

NORTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT – Brad Johnson, General Manager

General Manager Brad Johnson described the water purveyors' coalition and Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team that works with all agencies. He discussed the investments NTPUD had made to store water, map its system, and upgrade technologies and infrastructure, all to address emergency needs.

[NTPUD](#)

NORTH TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – Chief Steve Leighton

Chief Leighton introduced his staff and provided the perspective of a local government fire chief, saying they are first on the scene. Remember the five “p’s” if needing to evacuate: People, Prescriptions, Papers, Personal Needs (in a go-bag), and Priceless items | [North Tahoe Fire](#)

NORTHSTAR FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jason Gibeaut

Chief Gibeaut reiterated that law enforcement is in charge of evacuation. The fire department assists as possible. He urged everyone to understand the notifications and evacuation terminology. Lastly, he noted that all agencies, local, state, and federal work together. No one can do it on their own, which is why the agencies maintain and grow those relationships. | [Northstar Fire](#)

OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT – Chief Brad Chisholm

Chief Chisholm discussed the personnel, equipment, and services OVFD provides to its community. A great deal of defensible space and fuels reduction work is being done in Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows. He encouraged sharing tonight’s information with their neighbors so the community is prepared. | [Olympic Valley Fire](#)

BOOTH PARTICIPANTS

PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES)

Leads coordinated response planning and public alert systems. | [Office of Emergency Services](#)

TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Delivers fire and emergency medical services with a focus on community safety. | [Truckee Fire](#)

CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF TRUCKEE TAHOE

Supports defensible space projects and rebuild resources after fire events. | [CATT](#)

TAHOE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Promotes fuels reduction and environmental restoration for wildfire resilience. | [Tahoe RCD](#)

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL (CHP)

Assists with traffic control and road safety during evacuations. | [CHP](#)

PLACER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Maintains evacuation routes and ensures road access during emergencies. | [Public Works](#)

STAY INFORMED. BE READY. WORK TOGETHER.

We're all in this together, preparedness starts with all of us. For the latest updates, visit your local agency websites and sign up for emergency alerts in your area.