

# Nevada Deployment Reference for Emergency Management Partners

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Nevada presents a unique operational environment for emergency management staff, shaped by its vast geography, diverse population, significant federal land ownership, and a spectrum of natural and human-caused hazards. The Nevada Office of Emergency Management (NV OEM), now under the direct oversight of the Governor’s Office, is tasked with statewide coordination of disaster response and resilience. Deployments to Nevada require awareness of regional differences, logistical challenges, and the state’s distinct threat landscape.



## Reminder:

Nevada is pronounced “Nah-VAH-dah” (not “Nuh-VAH-dah”) Locals appreciate it when you say it right!

## State Overview

- **Area & Land Ownership:**  
Nevada spans 110,567 square miles; more than 85% is federally owned.
- **Population:**  
Approximately 3 million (2020); 88% reside in Clark (Las Vegas) and Washoe (Reno) counties. Nevada has the highest percentage of undocumented residents nationally (~8.8%).



**FEMA**



- **Tribal Nations:**  
28 federally recognized communities; tribal lands cover 1.16 million acres, mostly rural. Tribal engagement must be coordinated via FEMA Region 9 Tribal Liaisons.
- **Nevada State Profile**  
[Region 9 Continental United States All-Hazards Plan State Profile Supplement](#)

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## Geography & Climate

- **Topography:**  
Mountainous (Sierra Nevada, Ruby Mountains), high desert valleys (elevations 3,000–6,000+ ft).
- **Hydrology:**  
Rivers (Truckee, Carson, Walker, Humboldt); southern rivers feed into the Colorado River system (Lake Mead).
- **Climate:**  
Driest U.S. state; average annual precipitation ~9 inches, with extremes in Sierra Nevada (>40 inches). Large daily temperature swings; summer highs >100°F (especially in south), winter lows <0°F. Frequent droughts, wildfires, extreme heat events, and occasional flooding.

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## Economy

- **GDP:**  
\$172.6 billion (2020); ranked 33rd nationally.
- **Key Sectors:**  
Entertainment/casinos (designated as critical facilities), government, manufacturing, healthcare, mining, and tourism.

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## Nevada Office of Emergency Management (NV OEM)

- **Organizational Structure:**  
NV OEM/Homeland Security transitioned under the Governor's Office (July 2025) for enhanced coordination and cabinet-level authority.
- **Headquarters & NV EOC:**  
2478 Fairview Dr., Carson City, NV 89701  
NV EOC is co-located with NV OEM HQ; activated when local capabilities are overwhelmed or operational need arises.
- **Southern Nevada OEM Office:**  
500 E. Warm Springs Rd. Ste. 250, Las Vegas, NV 89119  
No EOC; houses Deputy Administrator/Chief, Chief of Staff.

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## Threats & Hazards

- **Wildfire:**  
Annual risk, especially northern Nevada; large fires (e.g., Martin Fire 2018) have burned millions of acres. Fire season: May–October, but fires possible year-round.

- **Drought:**  
Chronic issue; all counties classified as disaster areas by USDA (2020).  
Longest drought: 5+ years (2011–2017).
- **Extreme Heat:**  
Increasing frequency; Las Vegas Valley most affected.  
Projected increase in dangerous heat days from 20 to approximately 30 per year by 2050.
- **Earthquake:**  
Third most seismically active state; 8,000–17,000 earthquakes/year.  
Major events (Magnitude 6.0+ every 6.9 years; Magnitude 7.0+ every 53 years).
- **Flood:**  
Four Major Disaster Declarations since 2014; risk from snowmelt, monsoon storms, and cloudburst events.
- **Active Shooter:**  
Six events since 2011; increasing trend (four in first eight months of 2021).

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## Traveling the State: Major Routes & Operational Regions

Nevada's vast geography and dispersed population centers require careful planning for travel and operational coordination. The state is divided into three primary operational regions Western, Eastern, and Southern, each with distinct characteristics and access routes.

### Operational Regions:

#### 1) Southern Region

- Coverage: Clark County (Las Vegas), southern valleys, and border areas with Arizona and California.
- Features: Largest population center, entertainment/tourism hub, desert climate.
- Key Cities: Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City.
- Primary Hazards: Extreme heat, drought, flooding, active shooter incidents.

#### 1) Western Region

- Coverage: Carson City, Reno, Lake Tahoe, and surrounding counties.
- Features: Most populous after Southern, state government hub, mountainous terrain, proximity to California border.
- Key Cities: Carson City, Reno, Sparks.
- Primary Hazards: Wildfire, earthquake, flooding, severe winter storms.

#### 2) Eastern Region

- Coverage: Rural counties, tribal lands, and communities east of the central mountain ranges.
- Features: Sparse population, high desert valleys, significant tribal presence.
- Key Cities: Elko, Ely, Winnemucca.
- Primary Hazards: Wildfire, drought, earthquake, severe weather.

**Major Travel Routes** Nevada's transportation network is defined by a few major highways and interstates, with long distances between urban centers and limited services in rural areas.

### Interstate Highways

- I-80 (Northern Route): Runs east-west across northern Nevada, connecting Reno, Winnemucca, Elko, and extending to California and Utah. Primary corridor for Western and Eastern region travel.
- I-15 (Southern Route): Runs through southern Nevada, connecting Las Vegas to California (southwest) and Utah (northeast). Main artery for Southern region operations.

## U.S. Highways

- US 95: North-south route linking Las Vegas with Tonopah, Hawthorne, and Reno. Essential for travel between Southern and Western regions.
- US 50 (“The Loneliest Road in America”): East-west route connecting Carson City, Fallon, Ely, and other rural communities. Key for cross-state travel in the Western and Eastern regions.
- US 93: North-south route from Las Vegas through Ely to the Idaho border; vital for Eastern region access.

## State Routes

- Numerous state routes provide access to smaller communities, tribal lands, and remote areas. Many are two-lane roads with limited services—plan accordingly.

## Travel Considerations

- Distances: Travel between regions can take several hours; Las Vegas to Carson City is 7–8+ hours by road.
- Weather: Mountain passes may require tire chains in winter; summer heat can be extreme in southern valleys.
- Fuel & Services: Fuel stops are limited in rural areas refuel early and often. Carry water, emergency supplies, and check vehicle readiness.
- Communications: Cell coverage may be limited in remote areas; ensure radios and satellite phones are operational.
- Air Travel: Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) serves the Western region; Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) serves the Southern region. Eastern region airports are smaller and less frequent.
- Rental Car Information:
  - Available at Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) and Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) in Las Vegas.
  - Multiple national rental agencies on-site (Enterprise, Hertz, Avis, Budget, etc.).
  - Choose SUVs or all-wheel drive for rural/mountain winter travel.
  - Ensure vehicles have emergency supplies and tire chains for winter.
  - Fuel stops are limited outside cities plan accordingly.

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# Deployment Logistics

## State EOC (Carson City)

- Location: 2478 Fairview Drive, Carson City, NV 89701  
Main Line: (775) 687-0300 | Duty Officer (24/7): (775) 687-0498
- NV OEM is a secured facility, ***ensure you have government-issued identification for entry***
- Medical: Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center (1600 Medical Pkwy).

## Transportation

- Access: Fairview Drive to US 50 and I-580; Reno-Tahoe International Airport (30–45 min drive).
- From Las Vegas: 7–8+ hours via US 95; plan fuel stops.
- Driving Tips: Carry chains in winter; light traffic; rental/fleet vehicle recommended.

## Lodging

- Multiple hotels within 5–15 minutes of EOC (Hampton Inn, Home 2 Suites, Holiday Inn Express, Staybridge Suites, My Place Hotel, Gold Dust West, Courtyard by Marriott).
- Government/emergency rates available; reserve as early as possible during activations.

## Weather & Climate

- Cold semi-arid; ~250 sunny days/year; summer highs 85–90 °F, winter lows 20–25 °F.
- Snow: 15–22 inches/year; breezy, high UV, low humidity.
- Hydrate, layer clothing, monitor wildfire smoke.

## Operational Considerations

### NV EOC Activation & Operational Priorities

- NV EOC uses the Incident Support Model: coordinates response, resources, and lifeline restoration.
- Southern NV OEM Office: Administrative hub, no EOC.
- Jurisdictional Engagement: All city and county jurisdictional visits must be coordinated in advance with NV OEM to ensure proper communication and operational alignment.
- Tribal Coordination: Contact FEMA Region 9 Tribal Liaison and/or State Tribal Liaisons before engaging Nevada tribes. Respect tribal sovereignty and protocols when entering tribal lands.
- Transport Corridors: I-15, I-80, US-95 are vital for moving supplies statewide.
- Hazard Monitoring: Track NWS Reno and state alerts; be ready with go-bags and evacuation plans.

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## Recommendations for Deployed Staff

### Pre-Deployment Preparation

- Review Nevada's hazard profile and operational structure.
- Coordinate with NV OEM for access & credentialing.
- Prepare for altitude, dry climate, and temperature extremes.

### On Arrival

- Check in at State EOC (Carson City); confirm duty assignment and operational protocols.
- Check in with the FEMA Integrated Team Lead or Regional Tribal Liaison, if applicable.
- Establish communication channels with NV OEM, local agencies, and tribal liaisons as needed. All city and county jurisdictional visits must be coordinated in advance with NV OEM to ensure effective communication and operational alignment.
- Familiarize with local routes, medical facilities, and resource locations.

### Operational Security & Safety

- Maintain situational awareness of threats (wildfire, earthquake, flood, extreme heat).
- Follow established evacuation and emergency protocols.
- Prioritize operational security and confidentiality.

### Community Engagement

- Use official channels for public information and alerts.

### Post-Deployment

- Provide after-action reports and feedback to NV OEM.
- Debrief with team and document lessons learned.

### Cultural Awareness

- Tribal Protocols: Respect tribal sovereignty and customs. Always coordinate through FEMA Region 9 and State Tribal Liaisons before engaging directly with tribal communities.
- Community Sensitivity: Be mindful of Nevada's diverse population, including undocumented residents and rural communities with limited resources.

### Operational Flexibility

- Be prepared for rapid changes in weather, hazards, and operational priorities. Maintain flexibility in assignments and schedules.
- Conserve resources, especially water, fuel, and supplies, during extended operations.

### Documentation & Reporting

- Maintain detailed logs of activities, contacts, and decisions for after-action reviews and accountability.
- Promptly report any safety incidents, security concerns, or operational issues to NV OEM leadership.

### Safety & Security

- Follow all safety protocols, especially during wildfire, earthquake, or flood response. Know evacuation routes and shelter locations.

- Protect sensitive information and maintain confidentiality in all communications.

#### **Mental Health & Wellness**

- Take regular breaks, stay connected with support networks, and utilize available mental health resources.
  - Foster a supportive team environment; check in regularly with colleagues.
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## **Key Contacts & Resources**

- NV OEM & NV EOC:  
2478 Fairview Dr., Carson City, NV 89701  
Main Line: (775) 687-0300 | Duty Officer (24/7): (775) 687-0498
  - Southern NV OEM Office:  
500 E. Warm Springs Rd. Ste. 250, Las Vegas, NV 89119
  - FEMA Integrated Team Lead:  
Kris Haines | (202) 924-6876 | [kris.haines@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:kris.haines@fema.dhs.gov)
  - Regional Tribal Liaison:  
Josie Burnett | (202) 550-7796 | [josie.burnett@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:josie.burnett@fema.dhs.gov)
  - Medical:  
Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center: 1600 Medical Pkwy, Carson City, NV 89703
  - Air Travel:  
Reno-Tahoe International Airport: 2001 E Plumb Ln, Reno, NV 89502
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## **Conclusion**

Deploying to Nevada requires adaptability, awareness of regional differences, and readiness for a wide range of hazards. Staff should be prepared for logistical challenges, climate extremes, and complex threat environments, while maintaining operational security and engaging respectfully with Nevada's diverse communities.

**Welcome to Nevada, your expertise is critical to the state's resilience and safety.**