

Hazard Mitigation in Lincoln County



Lincoln County Demographics

The 2020 census says Lincoln county is a population of 4,499.

However, the population of Lincoln county is closer to 5000-5200, which is still less than 1 person per square mile.

At 10,637 square miles of high desert, mostly unpopulated public lands. The county seat is the town of Pioche. Lincoln county has 5 state parks, is full of recreation areas and is rich in cultural heritage.

It is made up of 4 towns and cities, the town of Pioche being the county seat, towns of Alamo, Hiko and Panaca, and The City of Caliente,

In addition Lincoln county has some outlying populated areas like Rachel, Ursine, Mt Wilson, and Mcdermit

Lincoln county Risks and Hazards

The Hazards and challenges that we face in Lincoln County are similar in some ways to those Hazards and challenges in other parts of the state, but very unique in other ways. We are spread out across a large area with a lot of desolate land between each town. Response times can be a challenge. And getting volunteers and resources is tough. But we make it work.

Our number 1 concerning Hazard in Lincoln county is wildland fire in the wildland urban interface. We have many communities and ranches that are in the high desert and are surrounded by flashy fuels and trees. Due to the high fuel loading and the probability of a wildland fire. That ranks this Hazard at the top of the list for us.

Then a list of other concerning potential hazards, many of which we have experienced here in Lincoln County Are: Flooding, winter storms, earthquakes, and long term power outages, along with others not mentioned here.

This area receives a good amount of snow and rain, often resulting in seasonal flooding and runoff. It doesn't take much to affect the local economy and supply chain. And resources are often depleted quickly. However we typically recover quickly and are a fairly resilient community.

Hazard mitigation efforts

Some of the key things that we have been working on and would like to continue to address through mitigation efforts are fuels reduction and fuel breaks in some of our high fire risk areas.

Also we are working to add backup generators at our critical facilities in the county. We have installed 3 backup generators over the last 6 years.

One at our sheriff office/ 911 dispatch center.

One in alamo at the fire/ems station.

And one at the Pioche fire/ems station

Fires in Lincoln county



Fires in Lincoln county continued



More fires...



Fuel reduction and fuel breaks



Flooding



Wind damage - Pioche



Other mitigation efforts needed

Wildland fire and defensible space public education

Clear drainages and retention basins that are prone to impact flooding.

Assess local dams and inundation maps for potential flood areas.

Identify additional flood mitigation projects.

Seek funding for projects

Conclusions

- Protect public safety
- Prepare for future events and minimize damage to property and assets in Lincoln county.
- Leverage resources and minimize duplication of efforts.
- Increase inter-agency coordination and funding
- Reduce impacts and expenses through mitigation