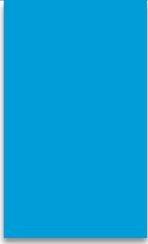


# Is Tahoe Paradise? Lessons Learned from a Bi-state Wildfire and Public Evacuation Drill



RYAN SOMMERS,  
FIRE CHIEF

*NORTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION  
DISTRICT*

MIKE SCHWARTZ,  
FIRE CHIEF

*NORTH TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT*

# Is Tahoe Paradise?



Photo Courtesy Associated Press



Photo Courtesy Hillary Guttierrez

*Lessons Learned From A Bi-State  
Wildfire and Public Evacuation Drill*



Chief Michael Schwartz  
North Tahoe Fire



Chief Ryan Sommers  
North Lake Tahoe Fire



**P**reparing  
**R**esidents  
**I**n  
**D**isaster  
**E**vacuations





*Living With Fire*

THE TAHOE NETWORK OF  
**FIRE ADAPTED  
COMMUNITIES**



Preparation



Cooperation

Safe  
Evacuation

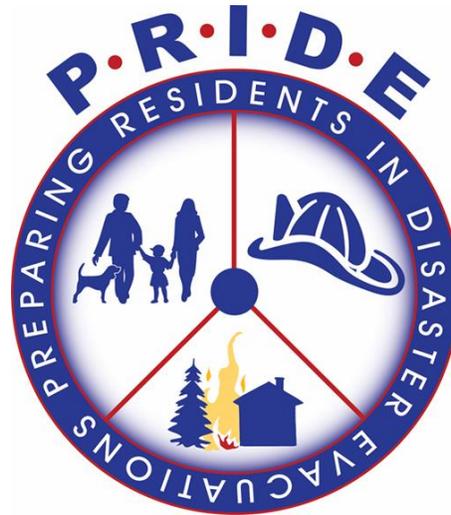
# P.R.I.D.E.

- Tested
- Brings responding agencies together working in unison
- Safely evacuates residents
- Unites the community
- Creates Fire Adapted Communities



- **Pre-Planning Procedures:**

- Review local/county evacuation plans
- Determine local fire danger rating, major disaster threat; focus evacuation on most threatening risk
- Establish objectives for neighborhood education
- Determine escape routes, maintenance, security and signage of routes, evaluate road closures
- Contact local Reverse 911/Code Red Provider
- Establish a plan for phone trees and assign neighborhood captains
- Hold regional meetings with responding agencies impacted during a disaster

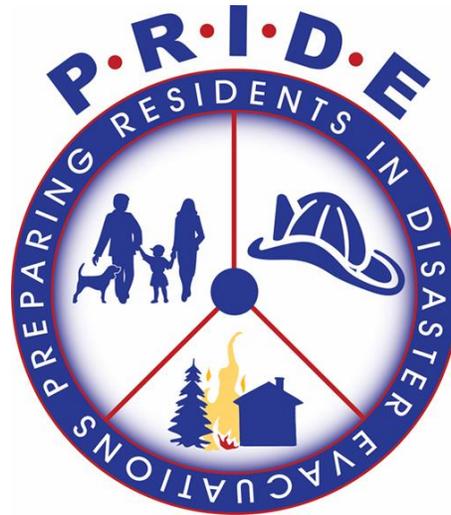


- **Planning Your Drill:**

- Describe and name your scenario
- Determine the area to be evacuated and the number of people to be evacuated
- Identify the evacuation center
- Plan incidents within incidents
- Follow the Incident Command System for the drill

- **Implementing the P.R.I.D.E. Program:**

- Begin with specific programs needed in your community
  - Defensible space, etc.
- Determine evacuation routes
  - Meet with GIS, share maps, patrol for access
- Attend HOA/Community Advisory Meetings and share concerns and desire to educate
  - Advertise classes, notify residents through schools, store fronts, door to door
- Organize classes and training to prepare your community
  - Include Emergency Manager, Animal Services, Law Enforcement, Red Cross
  - Discuss preparedness actions and items to have ready to go

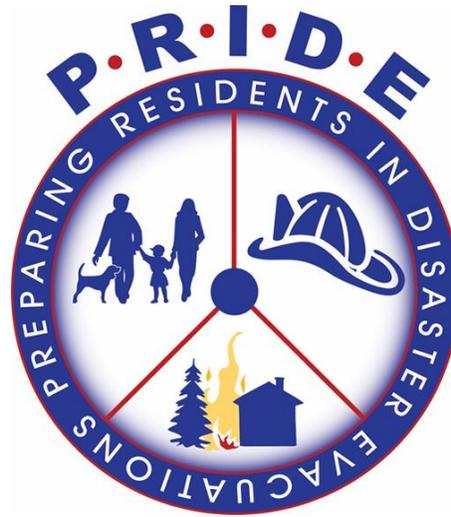


- **Evacuation Center Recommendations:**

- Volunteers needed to register residents and pets
- Set up booths for disaster related vendors
  - Defensible space experts
  - Insurance companies
  - Retrofitting companies
- Animal Service Needs
  - Shelters and microchipping
- Red Cross
- Local vendors donation of food/water
- Security at evacuation center and in residential areas
- Raffles for adults, activities for kids
- Information booths for trouble-shooting, concerns of residents, areas that need to be addressed

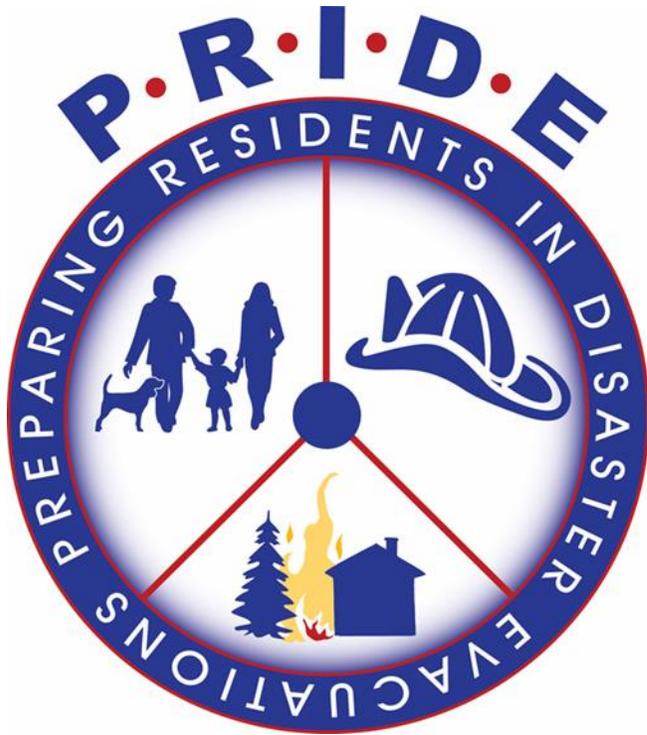
- **Debriefing after the drill:**

- Conduct debrief immediately following the drill with all participating agencies
- Hold debriefing with residents and community phone tree captains within one week of drill
- Share:
  - Statistics
  - Successes
  - Areas for improvement
  - Future needs
  - Future plans



- **Continue P.R.I.D.E.:**

- Annual education with residents and participants
- Conduct different drills each year
- Ongoing defensible space inspections and follow up
- Billboards promoting helpful tips specific to the area
- Seasonal P.R.I.D.E. tips in school letters, community newsletters
- PSAs on local television and radio



- Saves lives and property
- Fire Adapted Community
- Safe, aware and prepared residents
- Supportive residents with excellent communication between the fire department and their residents
- Confident responding agencies



# BI-STATE EVACUATION DRILL



**MAY 19, 2018**



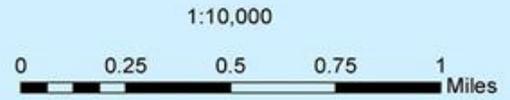
Bi-State Fire  
2018 Evacuation Drill

Stateline

Kings Beach/Brockway Springs, CA

Incline Village, NV

Crystal Bay



**Legend**

**Ownership**

- Private
- State of NV
- State of CA
- USFS
- Washoe County

**Fire Incident**

- Uncontrolled Fire Edge

WGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator

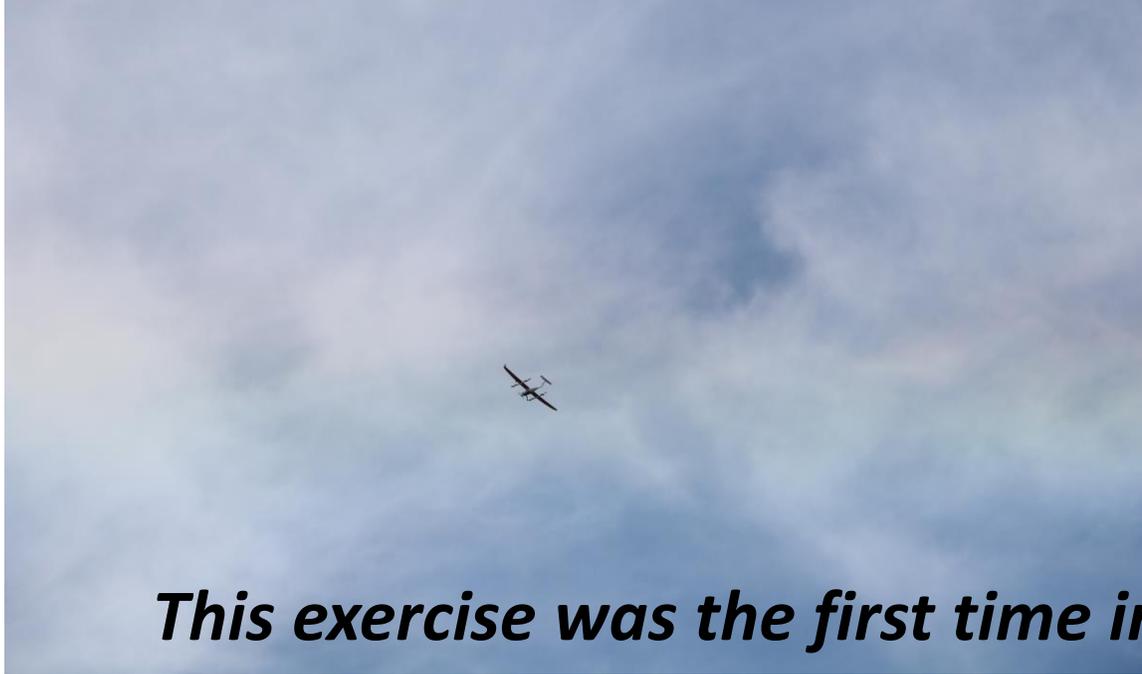


Over 17 Agencies

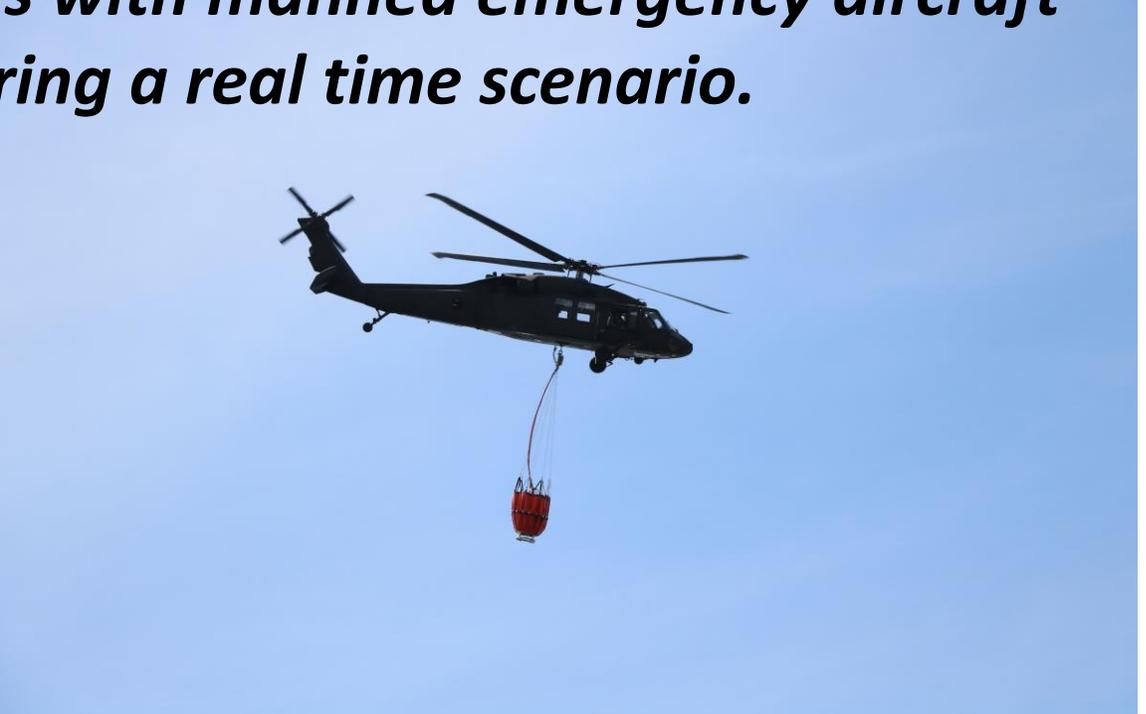
1,531 People Participated







***This exercise was the first time in the US that commercial drones conducted simultaneous operations with manned emergency aircraft in the same airspace, during a real time scenario.***







Incident within the Incident: Planned  
19

Incident within the Incident: Not planned  
2



## *By the Numbers*



13,992 residents notified  
1,100 asked to evacuate  
381 notified door to door



483 residents checked in at the  
Evacuation Center



89 Animals checked in  
38 Animals microchipped



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

nevada  
state contractors board

GET YOUR  
AIS  
DECAL  
IT'S THE LAW

PULL YOUR  
PLUG  
CLEAN, DRAIN & DRY  
YOUR WATERCRAFT  
IT'S THE LAW  
Take Boat Inspections  
Get on to a watercraft.

Take  
care  
partner





# Bi-State Evacuation Drill After Action Lessons learned – What went well

- Traffic control/evacuations
- Reverse 911
- Number of participants
- Communication
- Radio usage
- Partnership between agencies
- Ability of players to adapt

# What went well cont.

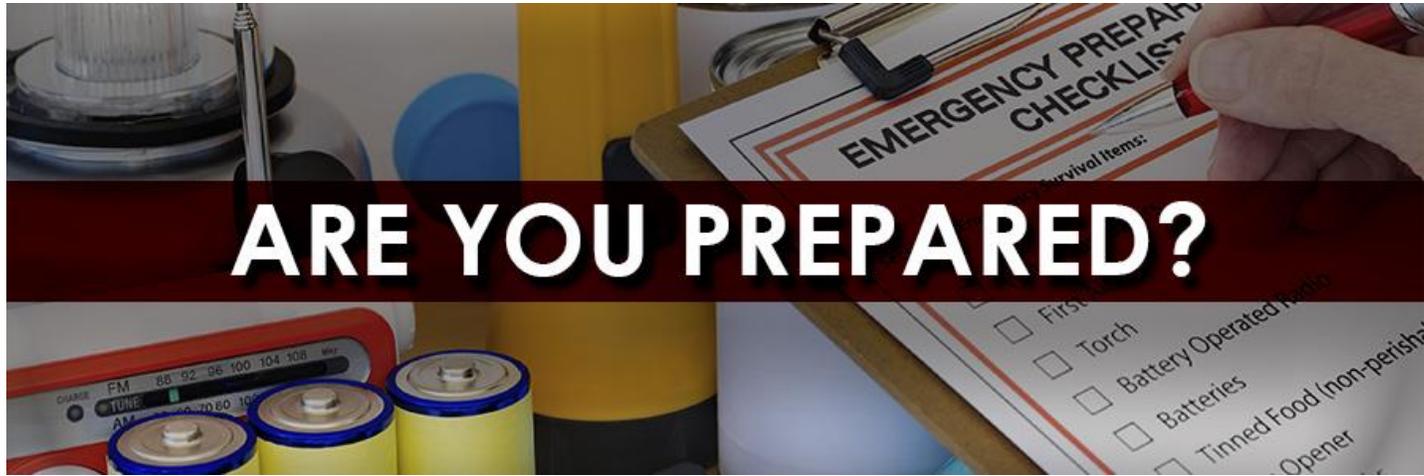
- Coordination and planning prior to the event
- Wide variety of systems testing and training occurred
- Safety was maintained throughout the event
- Sims Table Usage
- Presence and influence of Incident Commanders (ICs)
- Unified command went smoothly
- Using live animals was helpful for animal control

# Bi-State Evacuation Drill After Action Lessons learned – What could be Improved

- Biltmore area was too noisy and crowded making it difficult to communicate
- WEB EOC was not used to its full capability
- Reverse 911 wasn't fully tested (voice was used, not text and e-mail).
  - The community needs to be educated on the system
  - Not all who need the notifications get them
  - Some individuals find the sign-up page difficult to navigate
  - The website is not ADA compliant
- Sometimes when assignments were given, tailgate briefings were not conducted

# What could be improved cont.

- Lack of community notification about the event despite extensive advertising
- Poor access to homes with gates for law enforcement lacking codes
- During a fire incident we found discrepancies between the number of dwellings identified by 911 calls versus doors knocked on versus houses at risk
- Improvements needed on information sharing between volunteer agencies (CERT, VOAD, FEMA, SA, etc .) and Incident Command regarding # of volunteers on site and hours logged.



**ARE YOU PREPARED?**

- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST
- Survival Items:
- First Aid Kit
  - Torch
  - Battery Operated Radio
  - Batteries
  - Tinned Food (non-perishable)
  - Opener

# ARE YOU READY?

ROUTES

SAFE ZONES

SHELTER



# EVACUATE WHEN YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO



[WWW.NTFIRE.NET](http://WWW.NTFIRE.NET)

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

AND EVACUATION GUIDE



**ALL OUTDOOR FIRES  
PROHIBITED DURING  
FIRE SEASON**

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT YOUR FIRE DEPT.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
NORTH TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
MEEKS BAY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:  
CAL FIRE GRANT







# DISASTER PREP



KEEP COPIES OF  
IMPORTANT PAPERS



HAVE A  
GRAB-AND-GO KIT



CLEAR  
YOUR YARD



STOCKPILE  
MATERIALS





**HOW DO YOU MANUALLY CLOSE A  
GARAGE DOOR?**



# NOTIFICATIONS



County of  
El Dorado

## Alert Notification System

[Sheriff's Home](#)

[Register Your Phone](#)

[County Home](#)

# PlacerAlert



In an Emergency, tune to the EAS Local Primary Stations:

**NTFPD**  
1630AM

**KUNR**  
88.7FM

**KOWL**  
1490AM

**KRLT**  
93.9FM

**KTKE**  
101.5FM

**FOLLOW US** on Facebook at [www.ntfire.net](http://www.ntfire.net) 

**ENROLL IN** Placer County Alert, [www.placer-alert.org/](http://www.placer-alert.org/)

**ENROLL IN** El Dorado County Alert, [www.ready.edso.org/](http://www.ready.edso.org/)

**TUNE IN** for North Tahoe Fire Critical Emergency Information on [1630AM Radio \(WQMS 260\)](#)



# Incline Village / Crystal Bay-Washoe County

Visit [NLTFPD.net](http://NLTFPD.net) for more information in the Incline Village area



# California Races To Predict Which Town Could Be Next To Burn

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

By Associated Press



CREDIT: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kings Beach: Tourists seek fun, bring fire danger

Population (2010) – 3,796 ‘ In Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone –3,796

Situated on the pristine north shore of Lake Tahoe, Kings Beach is one of the most heavily visited vacation spots in Northern California.

That’s a big part of the problem.

Because so much of the population comes and goes, it becomes harder to get people to treat wildfire risk with the respect it deserves, said Erin Holland, a spokeswoman for the North Tahoe Fire Protection District. One of the district’s six stations is in Kings Beach.

“It is definitely a challenge because we have so many homes that are vacation homes,” she said. “It’s really a challenge to educate those visitors . They want to have a camp fire.”

Tahoe’s vulnerability to major fires was brought home dramatically in recent years. The Angora



*Questions*