

Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan September 2025



FINAL DRAFT

Prepared By



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Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
LIST OF FIGURES	4
LIST OF TABLES	4
SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION	5
BACKGROUND	5
PURPOSE	7
SCOPE	7
SECTION 2 – AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES	8
FEDERAL AUTHORITIES	8
STATE OF CALIFORNIA AUTHORITIES	8
LOCAL AUTHORITIES	8
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE AND PLANNING DOCUMENTS	8
SECTION 3 – SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS	9
PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS	9
WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH	10
SECTION 4 – ORGANIZATION AND ALIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES	11
ALIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES	11
<i>Community</i>	11
<i>Local Jurisdictions</i>	11
<i>Unincorporated Lake County</i>	12
<i>State of California</i>	15
<i>Federal Resources</i>	16
SECTION 5 – CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS	18
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS ACTION	19
<i>Community Preparedness Messaging</i>	19
<i>Ongoing Situation Awareness, Training, and Exercises</i>	20
INITIAL RESPONSE ACTIONS	20
<i>Evacuation Coordination Process</i>	21
<i>Decision to Evacuate</i>	22
EVACUATION RESPONSE OPERATIONS	24
<i>Mutual Aid</i>	29
EVACUATION STRATEGIES	30
<i>Intersection and Traffic Signal Coordination</i>	30
<i>Phased Evacuation</i>	32
<i>Use of Hi-Lo Siren</i>	33
<i>Use of Road Barriers</i>	33
<i>Use of Designated Markings</i>	34



Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan

<i>Lake-based Evacuation</i>	34
<i>Contraflow</i>	34
COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS	35
<i>Evacuation of Schools</i>	35
<i>Evacuation of Individuals with Disabilities and Other AFNs</i>	37
<i>Evacuation of Animals</i>	40
TEMPORARY EVACUATION POINTS AND SHELTERING	42
TRAFFIC ROUTES AND EVACUATION TRANSFER SITES	42
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION	44
<i>Modes of Transportation</i>	44
REPOPULATION PROCEDURES.....	45
POST-INCIDENT EVALUATION	47
SECTION 6 – DIRECTION, CONTROL, AND COORDINATION.....	48
COMMAND AND CONTROL	48
COORDINATION.....	48
SECTION 7 – INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION	49
SECTION 8 – COMMUNICATIONS	50
INTER-JURISDICTIONAL AND INTER-AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS	51
EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION, NOTIFICATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS	51
<i>Notification Considerations</i>	53
COMMUNICATION MODALITIES.....	54
<i>Changeable Message Signs</i>	55
COMMUNICATION CONTINGENCY PLANS.....	56
SECTION 9 – ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, AND LOGISTICS	57
SECTION 10 – PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	58
MAINTENANCE	58
APPENDICES	59
APPENDIX A – QUICK EVACUATION CHECKLIST	59
APPENDIX B – EVACUATION MAPS	62
APPENDIX C – CONTINGENCY ROUTES	75
APPENDIX D – ALTERNATIVE FUEL SITES	77
APPENDIX E – ACRONYMS.....	78



List of Figures

Figure 1: Lake County Fire Hazard Severity Zones	5
Figure 2: One-way In and Out Locations.....	32
Figure 3: Lake Transit Route Map.....	45
Figure 4: Lake County Potential Evacuation Routes	63
Figure 5: Lake County Evacuation Routes and Zones Map Inserts	64
Figure 6: Evacuation Routes and Zone – Lake Pillsbury.....	65
Figure 7: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Upper Lake	66
Figure 8: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Lakeport.....	67
Figure 9: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Kelseyville.....	68
Figure 10: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Middletown.....	69
Figure 11: Evacuation Routes and Zone – Clearlake Oaks.....	70
Figure 12: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Lower Lake	71
Figure 13: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Clearlake.....	72
Figure 14: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Lucerne.....	73
Figure 15: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Glenhaven	74

List of Tables

Table 1: Question 4 Results	10
Table 2: Specific County Roles and Responsibilities	13
Table 3: State Agency Roles and Responsibilities	15
Table 4: Community Preparedness Actions	19
Table 5: Evacuation Trigger Indicators.....	22
Table 6: Response Activities	24
Table 7: Lake County School Districts.....	35
Table 8: AFN Assistance.....	37
Table 9: AFN Actions	39
Table 10: Animal Evacuation Actions	41
Table 11: Evacuation Route TCP Actions	43
Table 12: Repopulation Assessment.....	46
Table 13: Contingency Route Types to Evaluate	75
Table 14: Contingency Route Considerations	75
Table 15: Alternative Fuel Coordination Considerations	77

Section 1 – Introduction

The Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan was developed to safeguard lives by enabling timely, organized, and accessible evacuations. This reflects Lake County’s commitment to proactive planning, informed decision-making, and community-centered emergency response. Recognizing the challenges that large-scale evacuations may pose for both evacuees and host communities, the plan focuses on mitigating the strain on surrounding jurisdictions, ensuring equitable access to services, and reducing disruptions to essential systems and resources.

This plan provides operational tools for evacuation coordination and communication across jurisdictions, disciplines, and community sectors. Developed in close collaboration with law enforcement, fire agencies, emergency medical services, and other critical partners through the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), this plan reflects a unified approach to wildfire response planning.

Background

Over the past decade, Lake County, California, has faced numerous wildfires. Its rugged terrain, dry conditions, and vegetation have fostered an environment where fires can spread rapidly and cause extensive damage. Lake County faces growing threats due to its diverse topography and blend of urban and rural areas, which are vulnerable to various negative impacts from hazards and threats, ongoing drought periods, the aftermath of the bark beetle infestation, and declining overall forest health. This has resulted in the evolution of a year-round fire season and very high [Fire Hazard Severity Zones](#).

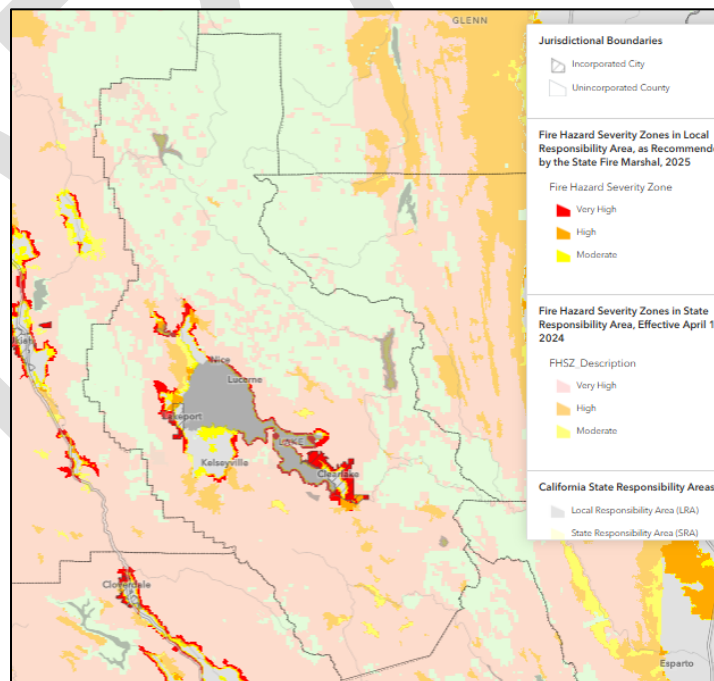


Figure 1: Lake County Fire Hazard Severity Zones



2015 Valley Fire: One of the most devastating fires in the county's history, the Valley Fire burned over 76,000 acres, destroyed nearly 2,000 structures, and claimed four lives. The fire was spotted over a mile ahead, which led to widespread evacuations, and it severely impacted the communities of Middletown, Cobb, and Hidden Valley Lake. The Valley Fire highlighted the need for comprehensive wildfire preparedness and resilience measures and underscored the need to evacuate immediately.

2015 Rocky Fire: The Rocky Fire consumed 69,636 acres near Morgan Valley Road and Rocky Creek Road east of Clearlake. This was the first significant evacuation of Lower Lake and Clearlake.

2016 Clayton Fire: The Clayton Fire burned approximately 4,000 acres and destroyed nearly 200 structures in Lower Lake, causing significant damage to the small, rural town. This fire, reportedly started by arson, underscored the vulnerability of communities in fire-prone areas.

2017 Sulphur Fire: The Sulphur Fire burned for 122 days off Hwy 20 and Sulphur Bank Road in Clearlake Oaks. The fire destroyed 162 structures and damaged an additional eight across the 2,207 acres that burned.

2018 Mendocino Complex Fire: Consisting of two fires, the Ranch and River Fires, the Mendocino Complex Fire became California's largest wildfire on record at the time, burning more than 459,000 acres across multiple counties, including most of Lake County. Although the Ranch Fire contributed most of the acreage, Lake County communities saw extensive impacts from both fires. This fire required evacuation outside of the county and highlighted the importance of MOUs with surrounding counties.

2020 Lake-Napa Unit (LNU) Lightning Complex Fire: Sparked by dry lightning, this complex fire burned across multiple Northern California counties, including parts of Lake County. The LNU Lightning Complex burned over 363,000 acres in total, causing widespread evacuations and infrastructure damage. This fire highlighted the challenges posed by dry lightning in wildfire-prone regions.

2021 Cache Fire: While smaller than previous fires, the Cache Fire impacted the City of Clearlake, destroying over 80 structures, including homes. It intensified efforts to strengthen defensible space measures and fire mitigation strategies around residential areas.

2024 Boyles Fire: The Boyles Fire burned 81 acres, impacting the City of Clearlake. The fire destroyed 33 structures and damaged an additional six. The cause of the fire is currently still under investigation.

2024 Glenhaven Fire: The Glenhaven Fire burned approximately 417 acres, impacting the Glenhaven and Clearlake communities. The fire destroyed two structures and damaged a third. The cause of the fire is currently still under investigation.



Purpose

The Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan outlines a comprehensive framework for facilitating safe, efficient, and coordinated evacuations during wildfire emergencies, whether the incident occurs with or without advance warning. This plan provides evacuation strategies, recommended agency roles and responsibilities, and key considerations for relocating individuals from hazardous areas to designated safe zones.

Scope

It is also aligned with statewide coordination frameworks, including the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement and the State of California Emergency Plan, which collectively define roles and responsibilities for coordinating evacuation operations across jurisdictions.

Lake Area Planning Council (APC) and Caltrans serve as supporting organizations in an evacuation to the County, which includes all jurisdictions and special districts. This plan is not intended to supersede any other emergency plans.



Section 2 – Authorities and References

The Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan was developed in accordance with relevant federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidance. The following authorities and references provide the legal and operational foundation for evacuation planning and execution.

Federal Authorities

- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 5121 et seq.)
- Homeland Security Act of 2002
Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8): National Preparedness
- National Response Framework (NRF)
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Titles II and III

State of California Authorities

- California Emergency Services Act (Gov. Code § 8550 et seq.).
- Local Government Authority (§§ 8558, 8630–8634)
- Governor’s Authority (§§ 8567, 8571, 8625–8629)
- California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).
- California Health and Safety Code §§ 13100 et seq.
- Assembly Bill 477 (Chapter 405, Statutes of 2021)
- California Government Code § 8593.3

Local Authorities

- Lake County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
- Lake County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Lake County Municipal Code – Chapter 5 and Chapter 8
- Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Mutual Aid Agreements

Supporting Guidance and Planning Documents

- California Office of Emergency Services’(OES) Integrated Evacuation Planning for Jurisdictions and Individuals with Access and Functional Needs
- FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101
- FEMA CPG 502: Considerations for Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place
- Ready.gov Planning Resources



Section 3 – Situation and Assumptions

Lake County is exposed to many hazards, all of which have the potential to disrupt communities and require evacuations. Wildfire continues to be a top-rated hazard for Lake County. However, dam failure, earthquakes, and floods were also identified in the 2025 Lake County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as hazards that could affect the county and potentially require evacuation.

While the primary focus of this plan is wildfire-related evacuations, the information outlined in the plan is designed to apply to all evacuation situations. All of these may necessitate the evacuation of one or more communities within the county. Lake County utilizes Genasys Protect (formerly ZoneHaven) and the Sheriff's Department to coordinate and communicate evacuations.

Planning Assumptions

The following assumptions were utilized in the development of this Plan:

- A decision to evacuate will be made through local law enforcement: the Sheriff's Department (Sheriff, Undersheriff), Local Police and Fire Departments (Clearlake and Lakeport).
- Law enforcement agencies are the primary lead for evacuation activities, with other agencies playing supporting roles.
- The County and incorporated cities have adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and will follow NIMS and SEMS principles and structures for evacuation-related activities.
- The county will request and coordinate regional resources under the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement.
- The Lake County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will coordinate regional evacuation efforts when evacuation exceeds local resources, acting as the Operational Area (OA) EOC.
- Based on a wildfire hazard profile, most evacuation scenarios are expected to occur with limited or no advance warning.
- A portion of the population may choose not to evacuate, even in the face of significant danger.
- While most evacuees will rely on personal vehicles, transportation assistance should be planned for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, including, but not limited to, those without access to private transportation. According to the US Census 2023 American Community Survey estimates, of the 26,092 occupied housing units in Lake County, 1,192 (4.6%) do not have a vehicle available. This estimation is supported by the data collected during the 2024 community survey.
 - Survey Question 4: What mode of transportation would you use in an evacuation situation?



Table 1: Question 4 Results

Selections	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Personal Vehicle	282	90%
Friend/Neighbor	17	5%
Public Transit	6	2%
Require Assistance	7	2%

- In compliance with Federal law, accommodations must be made to evacuate service animals (Americans with Disabilities Act) and household pets (Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act).
- In most emergencies in Lake County, most evacuees seek shelter with relatives or friends or in commercial accommodations rather than public shelter facilities. According to the 2024 community survey, 14% of respondents noted that they would likely utilize shelters during an evacuation situation, and 16% were unsure of where they would stay.
- Ground transportation routes will typically serve as the main method of evacuation in the county.
- The public roadway network in the county will serve as primary, alternate, contingency, and emergency evacuation routes during an evacuation effort.
- Major ground transportation infrastructure in the county will largely remain intact after most incidents.
- The county should plan on not receiving assistance for up to 96 hours following an incident.

Whole Community Approach

Lake County is dedicated to improving comprehensive evacuation planning efforts guided by the principles of the whole community approach. This commitment guarantees that planning, preparedness, and response strategies consider the varying needs, abilities, and situations of all community members.

As outlined in the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Lake County integrates whole community planning principles by fostering strong partnerships and ongoing collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders, including public and private schools, community-based and faith-based organizations, nonprofit service providers, professional associations, healthcare systems, long-term care facilities, and other essential partners.

Through coordinated engagement and information sharing, the County develops evacuation procedures that are practical, accessible, and culturally appropriate. These efforts promote equitable outcomes during emergencies and enhance the resilience of all populations in Lake County before, during, and after an evacuation.



Section 4 – Organization and Alignment of Responsibilities

Evacuation requires coordination across the whole community; therefore, the recommended evacuation roles and responsibilities for local, county, state, and federal entities are provided. While these roles serve as a planning guide, each department or agency identified is responsible for developing, maintaining, and implementing its own Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to fulfill its recommended functions. This evacuation plan is for the Operational Area of Lake County and coordination occurs through the [Operational Area Emergency Operations Center \(OA EOC\)](#).

Alignment of Responsibilities

Community

Lake County is home to two regional Fire Safe Councils, Lake County Fire Safe Council and Konocti Fire Safe Council. The communities that annually meet a set of voluntary criteria as an “In Good Standing Status” may be identified as a Firewise Site. The communities recognized as “In Good Standing Status” as of 2025 are:

- **Anderson Springs**, *Middletown*
- **Buckingham Homes Association**, *Kelseyville*
- **Clearlake Oaks Hillside**, *Clearlake Oaks*
- **Clearlake Oaks Keys Property Owners Association**, *Clearlake Oaks*
- **Cobb Mountain Group 2**, *Cobb*
- **Cobb View**, *Cobb*
- **Gaddy Lane**, *Kelseyville*
- **Gordon Springs**, *Cobb*
- **Hidden Valley Lake**, *Hidden Valley*
- **Jago Bay**, *Lower Lake*
- **Kelseyville Riviera Community Association**, *Kelseyville*
- **Konocti Shores**, *Kelseyville*
- **Loch Lomond Community**, *Loch Lomond*
- **Noble Ranch**, *Lower Lake*
- **Pitney Elk**, *Upper Lake*
- **Riviera Heights HOA**, *Kelseyville*
- **Riviera West**, *Kelseyville*
- **Seigler Springs**, *Loch Lomond*
- **Windflower Point Homeowners Association**, *Clearlake*
- **Wolf Creek**, *Clearlake Oaks*

Local Jurisdictions

Lake County includes two incorporated cities, Clearlake and Lakeport. This plan was developed in collaboration with both cities to ensure it can be jointly implemented and adapted as necessary. The Incident Commander or local authorities will decide to order



an evacuation based on situational reports using Unified Command. The affected jurisdiction(s) will communicate and coordinate resources with the OA EOC.

Unincorporated Lake County

The decision to order an evacuation is typically made by the Fire Incident Commander or Law Enforcement Agency Representative, who will notify the Sheriff's Department and/or Lake County EOC. The incorporated jurisdiction(s) should communicate and coordinate resources with the OA EOC. If the incorporated jurisdiction is affected, Unified Command should be used to coordinate the incident response. Law enforcement agencies, highway and road departments, and public and private transportation providers will usually be involved in conducting evacuation operations. Procurement, regulation, and allocation of resources should be carried out by those designated in the applicable County and City plans.

Depending on the size, scale, and location of the wildfire, the coordination of evacuation operations may involve, but is not limited to, the following agencies:

- County Sheriff's Department
- County Office of Emergency Services
- Fire and Rescue Agencies
- Lake County Department of Social Services
- Lake County Department of Public Health
- Animal Care and Control Department
- Building Safety Division
- Environmental Management Agency
- County Administration
- Department of Public Works
- Economic Development
- School Districts
- Behavioral Health Services
- Sewage and Water Districts
- Lake Transit Authority
- American Red Cross (ARC)
- Senior Centers & Lake County Family Resource Center
- PG&E
- Redwood Coast Regional Center
- Firewise Communities
- Fire Safe Councils

Lake County EOC is the Operational Area (OA) EOC that coordinates the response operations and recovery resources countywide.

Recommended specific County roles and responsibilities are described in Table 2 below for regional events or those impacting unincorporated areas.



Table 2: Specific County Roles and Responsibilities

Agency	Responsibilities
Office of Emergency Services (OES)	• Contact the American Red Cross (ARC) for potential and confirmed evacuation and shelter needs of the displaced population. • Coordinate transportation resources with the Sheriff's Department, EMS, Fire, and other first responders to assist in evacuating individuals with access and functional needs. • Coordinate the Operational Area EOC in alignment with the County EOP.
Sheriff's Department/Law Enforcement	• Provide evacuation notification and advisory to unsafe areas. • Identify transportation and evacuation points. • Coordinate relocation of people to safe areas with other agencies. • Search vacated areas to ensure that all people have received warnings. • Provide initial field situation reports and updates from field units and Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Agencies. • Provide traffic control measures for evacuation efforts when necessary. • Provide law enforcement services and crowd control measures at transportation points, evacuation points, and mass care facilities. • Provide security and access control to vacated areas.
Sheriff's Department/Law Enforcement	• Request mutual aid assistance from OA EOC or the Regional Law Enforcement Coordinator. • Establish traffic control and other measures to permit repopulation into the impacted communities as the Evacuation and Repopulation Protocol dictates. • Activate and facilitate the Livestock Pass Program.
Fire and Rescue Operations	• Assist with evacuation efforts and medical response. • Coordinate rescue operations. • Provide fire protection and search and rescue in the vacated areas. • Support public safety during evacuation execution. • Offer input to Unified Command to determine necessary fire prevention and mitigation measures along potential evacuation routes.
Lake County Department of Social Services	• Assist the American Red Cross and the California Department of Social Services in providing mass care. • Ensure shelter operations are integrated and inclusive of individuals with access and functional needs.



Agency	Responsibilities
	• Provide care for unaccompanied minors until County shelters are established, and they can be reunited with their legal guardians. If they cannot be reunited with their legal guardians, the California HHSA should be contacted to request the appropriate assistance • Provide disaster-related physical and behavioral health services.
Lake County Department of Public Health	• Conduct health surveillance in shelters to ensure safe and sanitary conditions.
Animal Care and Control Department	• Assist with emergency animal services operations during a disaster • Develop and implement a system to identify and track animals received during a disaster. • Coordinate care and shelter provisions for household pets and service animals.
Building and Safety Department	• Lead and coordinate the completion of Damage Assessment inspections. • Conduct safety assessments and coordinate with FEMA and Damage Assessment Teams. • Deem structures/facilities safe to re-enter. • Perform shelter inspections prior to occupancy.
Environmental Health	• Work with the Building Department to evaluate County facilities for re-occupancy after an emergency. • Perform health hazard evaluations and provide recommendations to departments regarding disaster-related issues (including asbestos, lead, mold, etc.) • Assist with drinking water testing. • Coordinate with shelter managers to ensure sanitation standards are met.
County Administration	• Inspect and report on the status of communication sites and regional/county facilities. • Provide support to OES for setting up Assistance Centers (Local, Family, and Disaster) located in County-owned areas.
Department of Public Works	• Inspect and report on county roads. • Inspect and report on drainage/flood control facilities. • At the direction of Law Enforcement, open and close county roads. • Direct debris removal and recycling in the unincorporated areas on county roads. • Ensure roadways remain open and accessible for emergency services.



State of California

A designated member of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will likely function as the Cal OES Mutual Aid Region Movement Coordinator and coordinate traffic control operations on a region-wide basis. The Movement Coordinator should be assisted by a representative of Caltrans, who would function as the Mutual Aid Region Transportation Coordinator. These coordinators should coordinate resources between the County and the State.

State agencies involved in evacuation efforts include Cal OES, Caltrans, the CHP, and others; specific roles and responsibilities are described in Table 3 below.

Table 3: State Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Agency	Responsibilities
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)	• Coordinate State and Federal resources to aid disaster recovery for individuals, families, certain private, non-governmental organizations, and local and state governments. • Activate and coordinate the California Emergency Management Mutual Aid Plan. Coordinate requests for State and Federal emergency declarations. • Participate in damage assessments. • Provide environmental/historical, engineering, and technical assistance. • Administer State and Federal Public Assistance and hazard mitigation grants, including payment and processing. • Provide program oversight of other state-administered disaster recovery. • Lead community relations elements in times of disaster. • Coordinate the establishment of Joint Field Offices, Disaster Resource Centers, and Local Assistance Centers (LAC).
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire)	• Provide fire prevention, fire protection and stewardship of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. • Incident Command for wildfire coordination in their jurisdiction, • Collaboration with local law enforcement: Police, sheriffs, and local emergency services implement evacuation orders on the ground.
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	• Provide reports and estimates on state roads and highways, including all overpasses, underpasses, and bridges.



Agency	Responsibilities
	• Establish and implement long-term closures for detouring and channelization of traffic. • Activate Changeable Message Signs to inform motorists of changes in road conditions ahead.
California Highway Patrol (CHP)	• Provide initial reports on damage to roads and highways. • Coordinate with Caltrans as applicable to barricades or secure unsafe roadway sections. • Assist emergency vehicles and equipment in entering or leaving hazardous areas. • Monitor traffic to ensure safe transport of debris during debris removal and demolition operations. • Coordinate the Interstate traffic during the evacuation. • Coordinate the repopulation of displaced populations per the County's Evacuation and Repopulation protocol.

Federal Resources

The primary responsibility for managing evacuations rest with local government authorities. When the scale or complexity of an incident exceeds local capabilities, the local jurisdiction—through the County—may request assistance from the State of California. If state resources are also insufficient to meet the needs of the response, the Governor may request federal assistance. In such cases, the President may issue a major disaster declaration, triggering federal coordination mechanisms under the National Response Framework (NRF), including activation of the Catastrophic Incident Annex when appropriate.

The NRF outlines a structure of Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) to coordinate federal interagency support during major incidents. These ESFs act as operational mechanisms for delivering federal assistance to local, state, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as to federal departments and agencies, in both Stafford Act-declared disasters and other emergencies. Each ESF unites public and private-sector capabilities within a coordinated framework designed to provide resources, technical support, essential services, and program implementation to help ensure life safety, protect property, preserve the environment, restore critical infrastructure, and aid community recovery.

Each ESF is assigned a specific Coordinating agency, along with primary and secondary support agencies outlined in the NRF, to ensure a coordinated and effective federal response during incidents of national significance. Local and State governments' evacuation efforts will be supported through several ESFs, including:

- ESF #1 – Transportation
- ESF #2 – Communication



- ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering
- ESF #5 – Emergency Management
- ESF #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services
- ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services
- ESF #9 – Urban Search and Rescue
- ESF #10 – Public Safety and Security

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Section 5 – Concept of Operations

This Plan provides operational guidance for evacuation activities while reinforcing the authority and responsibilities identified in the aforementioned documents. The primary objectives of emergency evacuation operations and associated public notifications are to:

- Facilitate the safe and timely evacuation of individuals from areas threatened by wildfire or other hazards.
- Implement access control measures to prevent unauthorized entry into evacuated or restricted zones. Law enforcement agencies may authorize access for essential personnel, such as caregivers, personal care assistants, or support workers, on a case-by-case basis, as approved by the Incident Commander or their designee.
- Coordinate the movement of evacuees to designated locations, such as Temporary Evacuation Points (TEPs) and formal shelter sites, while ensuring a clear chain of custody and tracking when applicable.
- Ensure accessible evacuation support for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, including older adults, children, individuals with limited mobility, those lacking transportation, and individuals with cognitive or sensory disabilities, by utilizing pre-identified transportation resources and coordinating with partners.
- Manage the procurement, allocation, and deployment of transportation and public safety resources through established mutual aid systems, memoranda of understanding (MOUs), and other interagency agreements.
- Coordinate with local, county, and state law enforcement agencies to maintain traffic control, enforce evacuation orders, manage road closures, and ensure the safe movement of emergency and public traffic during evacuation operations.
- Address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals throughout all phases of the evacuation process, including evacuation, sheltering, and repopulation, by incorporating animal care considerations into operational planning.
- Disseminate clear, timely, and coordinated public information before, during, and after evacuations through the Joint Information Center (JIC), using all available public communication platforms (e.g., Emergency Alert System, social media, Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS), local media).
- Facilitate a safe, orderly, and well-communicated repopulation process, ensuring that returning residents receive consistent updates and that critical services are restored prior to reentry when possible.



Community Preparedness Action

Community Preparedness Messaging

Coordinated community wildfire preparedness that promotes consistent community engagement, equitable risk communication, and joint planning across jurisdictions in Lake County for year-round readiness, community-level resilience, and shared responsibility among public agencies and the public. The following table provides examples of messages and preparedness actions.

Table 4: Community Preparedness Actions

Activity	Timing	Considerations
Host town halls or virtual Q&As before fire season	Spring–Early Summer	Emphasize personal preparedness and promote registration for LakeCoAlerts
Update evacuation zone maps and distribute locally	Annually	Include printed and digital formats with QR codes
Launch targeted social media campaigns on Red Flag days	As issued	Coordinate messaging across jurisdictions
Monitor community feedback and adjust outreach accordingly	Ongoing	Use surveys and social media comments Partner with trusted community leaders to reach underserved populations
Deliver annual public education campaigns focused on defensible space, evacuation readiness, and go-kits	Ongoing	Conduct sessions to help residents, especially those in high-risk areas, understand their specific evacuation zones and routes. • Know Your Zone. Practice Your Route. • Prepare to Go: Evacuation Happens Fast. • Sign Up Now: Alert Lake Saves Lives. • Create Defensible Space: Protect Your Home and Your Neighbors.
Conduct or support neighborhood evacuation drills (virtual or in-person)	Annually	Establish a drill and exercise program incorporating community partners. These drills would



Activity	Timing	Considerations
		aim to identify available resources, work through the functionality of coordinating the resources, and establish additional resources needed to support the community.

Preparedness Metrics

Metrics can be shared in a quarterly report between County OES, city managers, and tribal emergency coordinators. To track progress, jurisdictions may jointly review:

- Alert system registration numbers (by zip code)
- Number of outreach events and attendees
- Social media engagement analytics (shares, reach)
- Evacuation drill participation by the neighborhood
- Feedback from Access and Functional Needs (AFN) populations or service providers

Ongoing Situation Awareness, Training, and Exercises

Evacuation decisions within Lake County are made at the local level and are informed by the specific circumstances of each incident. Local jurisdictions, such as the cities of Lakeport and Clearlake, will typically assess the threat and determine on a case-by-case basis whether evacuation of affected communities is warranted. Therefore, ongoing situational awareness, training, and exercises should take place on a regular basis with all evacuation partners, such as:

- Convene the Unified Command to review historical fire behavior in the affected terrain and community evacuation times in case the fire approaches populated areas
- Review vulnerable populations (AFN, care facilities, schools) with community partners
- Assess available resources (law enforcement, sheltering, transportation, Public Information Officer (PIO))
- Monitor wildfire behavior indicators (growth rate, wind, fuel moisture, spotting)
- Assess real-time and forecasted weather conditions
- Monitor road access and route viability for each community/zone
- Track infrastructure impacts (e.g., power shutoffs, comms outages, water supply)
- Conduct annual evacuation coordination exercise with responders and community partners

Initial Response Actions

Activation of the Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan should occur when a wildfire incident necessitates a county-level evacuation response. The plan serves as a guiding framework to support local jurisdictions in organizing and executing



evacuations in collaboration with county agencies and regional partners. The decision to evacuate an area is not made lightly, and it significantly impacts public safety and the economy. The following process outlines the emergency evacuation decision-making process, highlighting suggested response coordination and communication.

Evacuation Coordination Process

When an evacuation is deemed necessary, the affected jurisdiction may activate its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and initiate evacuation procedures in alignment with its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

- All evacuation activities, whether involving movement into, within, or out of a jurisdiction, should be conducted in coordination with that jurisdiction's public safety partners, including law enforcement, fire agencies, emergency medical services, and relevant supporting departments.
- The OA EOC may recommend whether the jurisdiction should evacuate and may help coordinate the evacuation effort if requested by the jurisdiction.

If the emergency impacts the local jurisdiction and assistance is requested, the following actions may occur at the county level:

- Activation of the Lake County | Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OA EOC): The OA EOC may be activated to coordinate support operations and gain situational awareness of the evolving incident.
- Establishment of Situational Awareness: Upon activation, the OA EOC will begin collecting and analyzing information to understand the severity, scope, and operational needs of the incident.
- Coordination with Unified Command: Unified Command, which may include fire, law enforcement, public health, and other response agencies, should provide the OA EOC with updates on protective actions taken and current incident status.
- Strategic Coordination by County Leadership: County leaders should collaborate to make strategic decisions aimed at:
 - Improving and maintaining situational awareness
 - Assessing public information needs
 - Establishing a schedule for internal briefings and external public updates
 - Determining whether to issue a local Emergency Proclamation
 - Evaluating the health, safety, and welfare of affected populations
- Emergency Public Information: The OA EOC should coordinate the dissemination of accurate and timely information to the public in accordance with the Emergency Public Information procedures outlined in the Lake County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- County Support for Evacuation Operations: If evacuation is required, the OA EOC may support efforts in alignment with the Lake County EOP by:
 - Coordinating transportation assistance through the activation of emergency transportation service agreements for individuals without access to personal vehicles
 - Ensuring support for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, which may include assistance with navigation, supervision, and language interpretation
 - Working with transit providers to implement best practices that allow pets



- to accompany evacuees on public transportation
- Collaborating with non-governmental partners, including private-sector entities, community-based organizations, and faith-based groups, to leverage available services and resources
- Coordinating the provision of accessible care and shelter services for displaced individuals

Decision to Evacuate

The decision to evacuate or shelter in place should be made carefully, considering the timing, severity, and nature of the incident. These decisions often occur under rapidly evolving and uncertain conditions, where available information may be limited, unclear, or subject to change.

Evacuation Triggers

To support informed decision-making and coordination across jurisdictions without prescribing rigid thresholds, the following considerations were evaluated, and guidelines were developed.

- Wildfire is dynamic and often evolves faster than traditional decision-making cycles.
- No single indicator should trigger an evacuation order—decisions must balance fire behavior, public safety, and route availability.
- Evacuation warnings/orders may be initiated before a fire reaches the community if projections show credible risk.
- Multi-jurisdictional coordination and consistent public messaging are essential.

Table 5: Evacuation Trigger Indicators

Category	Example Indicator	Action Prompted
Fire Behavior	Fast-moving rate of spread	Consider Evacuation Warning
Weather	Red Flag Warning with sustained winds $\geq$ 30 mph	Pre-stage evacuation logistics
Proximity to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Fire within 2 miles of the community or escape routes	Unified Command discusses possible Order
Infrastructure Impact	Roadway compromise or Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) affects alerting systems.	Coordinate alternate routes, alert strategy.
Projected Impact Time	Fire expected to arrive in less than 2 hours	Activate evacuation transfer sites

Evacuation Terminology

Controlling the movement of people within the state is necessary for emergency response. The California Standard Statewide Evacuation Terminology that should be used is defined below. These definitions align with FIREScope's ICS 902 standards.



Lake County and the State of California have adopted this standard language through FireScope coordination to ensure clear, consistent communication regarding evacuations and related measures.

Evacuation Order: Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.

Evacuation Warning: Potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock, should leave now.

Shelter-in-Place: Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional directions.

- This tactic should only be used if evacuation poses a higher risk of loss of life. Consideration should be given to assigning incident personnel to monitor the safety of those who remain in place. The concept of sheltering-in-place is an option in situations where physical evacuation is impractical. This procedure may be effective for residential dwellings in the immediately impacted areas or large facilities that accommodate a high percentage of non-ambulatory individuals (e.g., hospitals)—sheltering-in-place aims to provide a haven within the affected area.

Evacuation Order(s) Lifted: The formal announcement of lifting evacuations in an area currently under evacuation.

Hard Closure: Closed to all traffic except Fire and Law Enforcement.

Soft Closure: Closed to all traffic except Fire, Law Enforcement, and Critical Incident resources (i.e., Utility, Caltrans, Public Works, etc., or those needed to repair or restore infrastructure).

Resident Only Closure: Soft closure with the additional allowance of residents and local government agencies assisting with response and recovery.

Emergency responders should make every effort to clearly communicate the risks associated with refusing to evacuate. Individuals should be informed that staying in place during a mandatory evacuation may lead to serious injury or death and that future opportunities to evacuate may not be available due to rapidly changing conditions. Evacuation operations are conducted using a triage-based approach, prioritizing those who are willing and able to leave.

For individuals who choose not to evacuate, responders should stress that they are staying against official advice and that first responders may not be able to return to offer assistance once conditions worsen. In such cases, law enforcement should document the individual's full name, address, contact number, and the name and phone number of a next of kin. This documentation supports accountability and post-incident follow-up if necessary.

Once a local jurisdiction issues an evacuation order, authorities should ensure that public information, evacuation sheltering resources, and security measures for evacuated areas are available and visible. These elements should be strong enough to instill public confidence that evacuating is safer and more desirable than staying behind.



Evacuation Response Operations

The following table identifies the agencies or organizations typically responsible for the response actions necessary to implement an evacuation order.

Table 6: Response Activities

Response Activity	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
Identify the Estimated Effects of the Event and Recommend Protective Actions		
Assess the impact on public health and safety and recommend protective actions.	Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC)	HAZMAT Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Environmental Health
Assess the impact on the environment and offer recommendations on protective actions.	Environmental Health	HAZMAT Caltrans United States Geological Survey (USGS) California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Response Specific Organizations
Identify any potential or additional threats or hazards that could lead to evacuation.	Unified Command (Fire Law Enforcement)	HAZMAT Operational Area Emergency Operation Center (OA EOC) FBI Fusion Centers



Response Activity	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
Assess the impact of smoke on public health and offer smoke advisories and protective actions.	Environmental Health	CalEPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) Lake County Air Quality Management District
Identify Evacuation Routes and Manage Traffic		
Provide information on the condition of evacuation routes (i.e., determine if roads are clear of debris and evaluate the safety and stability of bridges and other transportation infrastructure).	Caltrans Department of Public Works	OA EOC Lake Transit Authority (LTA)
Provide weather (wind direction, rain, flooding potential) information that may impact evacuation routes.	National Weather Service	
Data provided by support agencies will be used to identify evacuation routes to be used.	Unified Command (Fire Law Enforcement)	Caltrans Department of Public Works Mass Care and Shelter City of Clearlake City of Lakeport
Coordinate traffic flow (use of signals, physical barriers, and law enforcement or other public officials to direct traffic).	CHP Caltrans Unified Command (Fire Law Enforcement)	Department of Public Works
Removal of broken-down cars	Unified Command (Fire Law Enforcement)	Department of Public Works CHP
Maintain basic traveler roadside assistance, directions, water, gas, and services at highway rest stops.	OA EOC	



Response Activity	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
Coordinate fuel and aviation assets as needed.	OA EOC	Private Sector
Coordinate livestock evacuation resources.	Agriculture	OA EOC
Coordinate and Communicate with the Public		
Provide information to the media (radio, television, internet) in English, Spanish, American Sign Language, and other frequently used languages, including the use of social media.	OA EOC PIO	Public Information Officer (PIO) Joint Information Center (JIC)
Provide interpreters and evacuation materials in multiple languages and alternative formats, such as Braille and large print.	OA EOC PIO	California Department of Rehabilitation California Department of Social Services Sheriff MHOAC California Office of Emergency Services Access and Functional Needs Office (Cal OES – AFN)
Reach out to segments of populations who do not have access to mainstream media technology.	OA EOC PIO	2-1-1 Community and Faith-Based Organizations Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
Communicate and coordinate with the private sector.	OA EOC PIO	Supporting Business



Response Activity	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
Communicate with companies most likely to supply services to evacuees as they travel (A key component is to work with gas suppliers to ensure that gas stations along major evacuation routes are open and get supplies as needed).	OA EOC PIO	Administration
Communicate and coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and states	OA EOC PIO	Cal OES Unified Command
Communicate with hospitals' long-term care and skilled nursing facilities and other licensed care and residential facilities to identify and coordinate assistance to be provided as needed and available.	MHOAC Public Health	OA EOC Lake County Healthcare Coalition Mass Care and Shelter Fire
Communicate and coordinate with Correctional Facilities (most likely to "shelter-in-place," usually unable to evacuate with the general population due to security concerns.	Sheriff's Department	State Department of Corrections Federal Prisons Neighboring Counties
Communicate with individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, which includes, but is not limited to, those receiving in-home support services, residing in residential group homes, and those who are dependent on a medical device that requires power.	Public Health – Internal Process Children's System (Reverse 911)	Aging and Independent Services Redwood Coast Regional Center OA EOC Area 12 on Aging
Coordinate Transportation Evacuation Assistance		
Identify and coordinate the use of accessible Temporary Evacuation Points (TEP) for those requiring transportation assistance.	Unified Command (Fire Law Enforcement)	LTA OA EOC
Set up and provide staff to manage and coordinate TEPs.	Mass Care and Shelter	Public Health OA EOC



Response Activity	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
Support TEPs.	Mass Care and Shelter	Public Health CERT ARC
Coordinate the identification and transfer of evacuees to TEPs.	Unified Command (Fire Law Enforcement) LTA	California Department of Developmental Services (CDSS) School Districts
Coordinate transportation (bus, rail, paratransit, air) for individuals with disabilities, others with access and functional needs, and those without access to transportation.	Unified Command (Fire Law Enforcement) OA EOC	LTA CDSS CalOES – AFN
Ensure injured persons are transferred to hospitals outside of the evacuation area.	Hospital Department of Operations Center – Public Health	EMS
Lead state aid to local jurisdictions about evacuating people, pets, and livestock.	California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency	OA EOC Agriculture
Coordinate the evacuation of healthcare facilities.	Hospital	MHOAC Lake County Healthcare Coalition
Provide Shelters		
Identify, open, and staff shelters.	Mass Care American Red Cross	Environmental Health Animal Services Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Lake County DSS



Response Activity	Lead Agencies	Supporting Agencies
Other Response Operations		
Secure the affected area and limit access. Access or reentry to an area or roadway that has been closed or under evacuation may only be granted by the incident commander or designee on a case-by-case basis.		CHP
Maintain records and documentation of response operations.	OA EOC	All responders
Coordinate, request, track, and demobilize resources.	OA EOC	All responders
Provide animal care and assist as appropriate with the evacuation of animals. Advise on the evacuation of farms and livestock.	Animal Services	Humane Society California Department of Food and Agriculture

Mutual Aid

Under the terms of the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement, emergency response mutual aid is provided voluntarily from one jurisdiction to another. The Inland Mutual Aid Region IV consists of eleven counties and includes Lake County. Discipline-specific mutual aid systems work through designated mutual aid coordinators at the Operational Area (OA), regional, and state levels to facilitate mutual aid. Mutual aid coordinators are established for:

- Fire and Rescue
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Management (EOC) staff
- Emergency Services
- Disaster Medical

The primary role of a mutual aid coordinator is to:

- Receive mutual aid requests.
- Coordinate the provision of resources within the coordinator's geographic area of responsibility.
- Pass unfilled requests to the next governmental level.

Mutual aid requests that do not fall into one of the discipline-specific mutual aid systems are handled through the emergency services mutual aid system by emergency management staff at the local government, OA, regional, and state levels.

When Lake County needs a resource, it forwards a request to the Regional Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The requesting OA generates a mission request tracking



form, which includes the following information:

- A description of the current situation.
- A description of the requested staff, equipment, facility, and supplies needed.
- Specification of the type or nature of the service to be provided.
- Delivery location with a common map reference.
- Local contact at delivery location with primary and secondary means of contact.
- Name of the requesting agency and OA contact person.
- Indication of when the resource is needed and an estimated duration of use.
- For requested resources that include personnel or equipment with operators, a description of logistical support is required (i.e., food, shelter, fuel, and reasonable maintenance).

Evacuation Strategies

Effective evacuation requires implementing various traffic management strategies to enhance roadway efficiency and decrease overall evacuation time. A variety of measures can support these efforts, including traffic signal coordination, phased evacuations, clearly marked evacuation routes, deployment of Hi-Lo sirens, and the use of traffic control devices like road barriers. These strategies are most effective when time and resources are available for structured implementation.

Intersection and Traffic Signal Coordination

During an evacuation, it is critical to monitor key intersections to ensure traffic flows safely and efficiently. Certain types of intersections, such as signalized locations, roundabouts, and high-volume areas like neighborhood exits, can become congestion points or sources of confusion, especially when large volumes of traffic are moving in the same direction. These locations may require active traffic management or assistance from law enforcement or emergency personnel to maintain order, direct vehicles, and prevent bottlenecks that could delay evacuation efforts. Proactive coordination at these key points is essential to support a timely and organized evacuation.

Signalized Locations

Traffic signal coordination is a vital strategy for enhancing outbound traffic flow during an evacuation. By adjusting signal timing to prioritize movement away from the affected area, jurisdictions can help alleviate congestion and expedite evacuation efforts. Depending on the size and complexity of the evacuation, coordination among multiple local and regional jurisdictions may be necessary to effectively retime traffic signal systems along major evacuation routes.

Lake County Signalized Locations

- Hwy 53 and Hwy 29 in Lower Lake
- Hwy 53 and Old Hwy 53 in Clearlake
- Hwy 53 and 18th Ave. in Clearlake
- Hwy 53 and Lakeshore Dr/ 40th Ave in Clearlake



- Lakeshore Drive and Old Hwy 53 in Clearlake
- SR 29 at Kit's Corner
- SR 53 and Olympic Drive
- SR 29 and Soda Bay Road (near Lakeport)
- SR 29 and HWY 175 in Middletown

Roundabouts

While roundabouts can improve general traffic flow, they can also become choke points during evacuations when multiple streams of traffic converge and attempt to travel in the same direction. In such evacuation scenarios, the circular design can create confusion and hesitation among drivers. Under stress, this can lead to bottlenecks as vehicles yield excessively or struggle to merge smoothly. Additionally, roundabouts are not designed for high-volume, unidirectional surges of traffic, which can overwhelm their capacity and cause significant delays, ultimately hindering the speed and efficiency of an evacuation.

Lake County Roundabouts

- Nice – Lucerne Cutoff
- Upper Lake, Hwy 20 and Hwy 29
- Clearlake Hwy 20 and Hwy 53
- Hidden Valley Lake and Hwy 29

Congestion Points

The geography of Lake County facilitates congestion points due to the topography, the narrow roads, and community development. There are known congestion points that need to be considered during an evacuation. There will not be resources to coordinate the flow of traffic at each location, but the location of congestion points should be considered when determining evacuation orders, timing, and deployment of resources.

Soda Bay Corridor Evacuation Plan

The Soda Bay Corridor consists of Soda Bay Road, State Route 281 (Soda Bay Road turns into SR 281 from Konocti Bay Road to SR 29), Point Lakeview Road, and the connecting routes. These roads serve as the evacuation route for the communities of Soda Bay, Kelseyville Riviera, Konocti Shores, Riviera West, Buckingham, Riviera Heights, and other neighborhoods/communities.

Clearlake Avenues

The residential neighborhood on the East side of Hwy 53 in Clearlake is known as the Avenues, from 2nd Ave to 45 Ave. The egress route from the avenues to Hwy 53 is via:

- 18th Avenue
- 40th Avenue
- Dam Road
- Polk Road

One-way In/ One-way Out

During the Public Input Survey, community members identified 176 locations with One-way in and One-way out. The latitude and longitude for each location will be

provided to the Lake County Office of Emergency Services to identify them for evacuation and planning coordination.

- 73 of these locations were identified as neighborhoods
- 47 of these locations were identified as dead-end roads
- 13 of these locations were identified as other
- 43 of these locations were marked, but a type was not provided

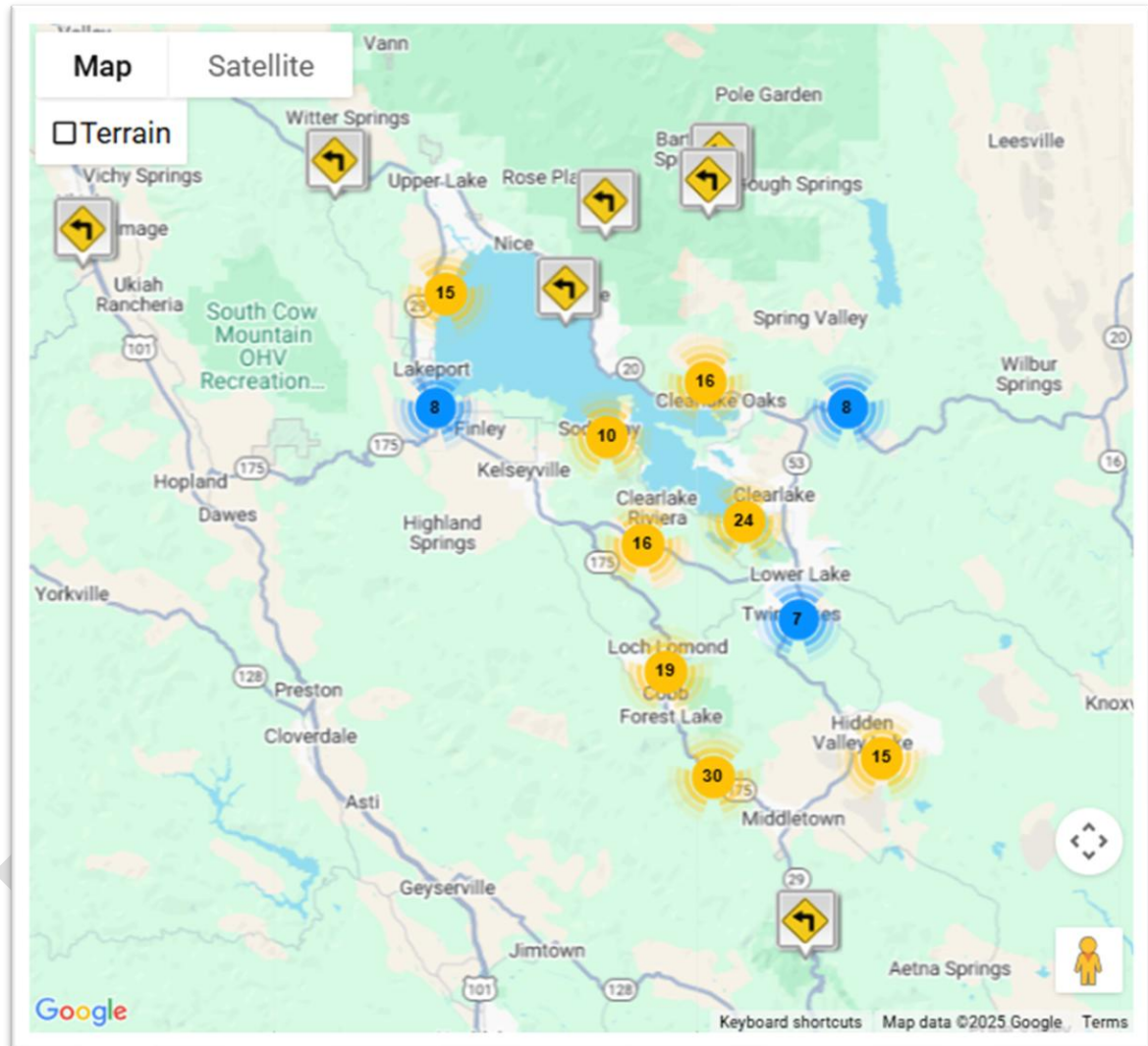


Figure 2: One-way In and Out Locations

Phased Evacuation

Phased evacuation is an effective strategy for reducing congestion and managing transportation demand by controlling access to evacuation routes through a structured and prioritized approach. This method involves evacuating areas in defined stages or sections, allowing emergency officials to prioritize communities closest to the immediate threat while minimizing traffic buildup on designated evacuation routes.



To be effective, phased evacuations must be coordinated with Unified Command, OA EOC, law enforcement agencies, and all affected jurisdictions. Law enforcement personnel play a critical role in enforcing the evacuation, managing traffic control points, and ensuring public compliance.

Lake County utilizes the Genasys Protect platform to implement phased evacuations at the zone level. Evacuation zones in Lake County are pre-identified geographic areas that help streamline emergency notifications and response efforts. These zones are designated with unique identifiers and are managed through platforms like Genesys Protect, which provides real-time status updates and critical notifications. Zone numbers are established with the lowest to the north and the highest numbers to the south. The Zones can be found by entering an address into the site at

<https://Ready.LakeCountyCA.gov>.

- **Zone Identification:** Each zone is assigned a specific code, such as "MNF-E024," representing a particular geographic area within the county.
 - MNF – Mendocino National Forest
 - UPP – Upper Lake
 - LAK – Lakeport
 - NIC – Nice
 - LUC – Lucerne
 - CLE – Clearlake
 - CLO – Clearlake Oaks
 - KEL – Kelseyville
 - LOW – Lower Lake
 - COB – Cobb
 - MID – Middletown
 - HID – Hidden Lake
- **Status Indicators:** Zones are monitored continuously, with statuses indicating current conditions:
 - Normal: No active incidents reported.
 - Evacuation Warning: Potential threat identified; residents should prepare for possible evacuation.
 - Evacuation Order: Immediate threat; residents must evacuate promptly.

Use of Hi-Lo Siren

In accordance with California Vehicle Code section 27002, as amended by Assembly Bill 909 (2020), emergency vehicles are permitted to be equipped with a Hi-Lo warning siren specifically designated for evacuation purposes. This distinctive two-tone signal is used to notify the public of an immediate need to evacuate and is intended to be clearly distinguishable from standard emergency sirens. The law promotes a consistent statewide approach to evacuation alerts and is supported by guidance and training developed by the California Office of Emergency Services.

Use of Road Barriers

Road barriers are a critical component of traffic control during an evacuation. They should be used in conjunction with other transportation strategies to manage the flow of



evacuees and enhance public safety.

Road barriers should be deployed by trained personnel and coordinated through the Incident Command structure, with oversight from law enforcement and traffic management teams. Their placement should consider visibility, signage, and accessibility for emergency responders.

These barriers serve to clearly delineate open and closed routes, ensuring that evacuees remain on designated evacuation paths and are prevented from entering hazardous or restricted areas. Barriers may be placed at:

- Road closure points to prevent entry into areas under evacuation orders or those deemed unsafe
- Intersections to guide traffic toward safe egress routes
- Perimeter access points, including soft or hard closures, as coordinated with law enforcement and public works agencies.

Use of Designated Markings

Clear and consistent signage is essential to support a safe, orderly, and efficient evacuation. Designated markings, including signs, flags, cones, and other visual indicators, play a critical role in guiding evacuees along evacuation routes and helping them make informed decisions under stressful conditions. To be effective, signage should be highly visible, weather-resistant, and easy to understand, with consideration given to multilingual messaging where appropriate. These markings may be used to:

- Identify official evacuation routes and direction of travel
- Indicate road closures or restricted access areas
- Direct traffic at key intersections or alternate routes
- Mark locations for Temporary Evacuation Points (TEPs), shelters, or transportation assistance
- Reinforce messaging provided through emergency alert systems

Lake-based Evacuation

Coordinated evacuation via the lake is **not a planned evacuation** strategy for Lake County, due to the resource constraints that would be needed.

Contraflow

Contraflow operations, which involve directing vehicles to travel against the normal direction of traffic on designated roadways, have been assessed as an unlikely potential evacuation strategy for Lake County. This **is unlikely to be widely implemented** in Lake County due to several operational and logistical challenges.

One of the primary concerns is the need to maintain access for emergency response vehicles, including fire apparatus, ambulances, law enforcement units, and utility crews, that must travel into the impacted area during an active incident. Redirecting all lanes for outbound traffic could delay these critical resources and compromise life safety and incident response operations.



Additional limitations include:

- The complexity of setting up and managing contraflow transitions, especially at entry and exit points
- The requirement for significant traffic control personnel and equipment to implement contraflow safely
- The narrow and rural design of many Lake County roadways may not support safe contraflow use
- The limited time available during no-notice events such as wildfires or earthquakes, which typically do not allow for the 24 to 72 hours needed to plan and activate contraflow systems.

Community Considerations

Evacuation of Schools

If an evacuation occurs during school hours, the school district is responsible for coordinating the evacuation of students and staff, and it should relay relevant information to the OA EOC.

School buses usually serve as the primary mode of transportation for student evacuations. However, depending on the scale and urgency of the incident, additional transportation resources may be necessary to support these efforts.

If schools are not in session at the time of the evacuation, school transportation resources, including buses and qualified drivers, may be reassigned to support broader community evacuation needs. Coordination between the school district, local jurisdictions, and the OA EOC is crucial to ensure these resources are effectively integrated into the overall evacuation plan. The school district has a school system reverse notifications and evacuation notification should be sent through this system as well.

Table 7: Lake County School Districts

School District	Locations	District Contact
Kelseyville Unified School District	• Ed Donaldson Education Center (9-12) • Kelseyville Elementary School (K-5) • Kelseyville High School (9-12) • Kelseyville Learning Academy (K-12) • Mt. Vista Middle School (6-8) • Riviera Elementary School (K-5) • Shade Canyon (K-8)	4410 Konocti Road Kelseyville, CA 95451 (707) 279-1511 http://www.kvusd.org/



School District	Locations	District Contact
Konocti Unified School District	• Blue Heron School (9-11) • Burns Valley Elementary School (K-7) • East Lake Elementary School (TK-7) • Highlands Academy (2-8) • Lewis School (Independent Study) (K-12) • Lower Lake Elementary School (TK-7) • Lower Lake High School (9-12) • Obsidian Middle School (6-8) • Pomo Elementary School (TK-7) • William C. Carle High School (Cont.) (9-12)	9430-B Lake Street Lower Lake 95457 (707) 994-6475
Lake County Office of Education	• Clearlake Creativity School • Hance Community School (7-12) • Lake County Adult School	1152 South Main Street Lakeport, CA 95453 (707) 262-4100
Lakeport Unified School District	• Clear Lake High School (9-12) • Lakeport Alternative School (K-12) • Lakeport Community Day School (6-10) • Lakeport Elementary School (K-3) • Natural Continuation High School (9-12) • Terrace Middle School (4-8)	2508 Howard Avenue Lakeport, CA 95453 (707) 262-3000
Lucerne Elementary School District	• Lucerne Elementary School	3351 Country Club Drive Lucerne, California 95458 (707) 274-5578
Middletown Unified School District	• Cobb Mountain Elementary School (K-6) • Coyote Valley Elementary School (K-6) • Lake County International Charter School (K-8) • Loconoma Valley High School (Continuation School) (11-12) • Middletown High School (9-12) • Middletown Middle School (7-8) • Minnie Cannon Elementary School (K-6) • California Connections Academy @ North Bay	20932 Big Canyon Road Middletown, CA 95461 (707) 987-4100
Upper Lake Unified School District	• Clover Valley High School (Continuation School) • Upper Lake Elementary School (K-5) • Upper Lake High School (9-12) • Upper Lake Middle School (6-8)	675 Clover Valley Road Upper Lake, CA 95485 (707) 275-2655



Evacuation of Individuals with Disabilities and Other AFNs

Evacuation strategies for reaching AFN populations and facilities, such as residential care homes and skilled nursing facilities, need to be incorporated into the evacuation response. Accommodating Access and Functional Needs in evacuation may include modifications to programs, policies, procedures, architecture, equipment, services, supplies, and communication methods; examples are included in Table 8.

Table 8: AFN Assistance

Population	Assistance
Seniors and People with Disabilities Includes people living both independently and in care facilities	• Arrange personal care assistance if in-home care support is unavailable. • Distribute food, water and other supplies to seniors and people with disabilities living alone or in isolated areas. • Provide meals for people dependent on home-delivered meals if deliveries are interrupted. • Assist seniors and people with disabilities fill prescriptions for life-sustaining and other important medications, and replace vital personal equipment (e.g., hearing aids, wheelchairs, and batteries) damaged or lost in the disaster. • Ensure that care facilities serving seniors and people with disabilities have emergency plans in place. • Contact isolated and homebound seniors and people with disabilities to check their status and to support them in getting the services they need. • Check on and, if necessary, evacuate people who cannot be self-sufficient for 3-5 days following a large-scale disaster. This includes people who are severely disabled or ill, on life support systems, frail elderly and people in dependent care.
Non-English Speakers Includes people who are culturally or geographically isolated, and/or because of cultural differences or geography, function outside the mainstream population	• Identify people with immigrant or undocumented status. • Make disaster resource information available in a variety of languages. • Provide coaches or advocates to help non-English speakers best present their case or need for disaster assistance. • Make certain that information and services are available to isolated neighborhoods and residents. • Reach out to ensure people who need services are getting them (particularly for undocumented



Population	Assistance
	populations who will fear involvement with government agencies). • Deliver culturally appropriate services, such as meeting the dietary needs of culturally diverse populations in feeding operations.
People who are Homeless, Marginally Housed, or Shelter-Dependent Includes homeless individuals in or out of shelters, homeless families, and individuals in shelter programs for domestic abuse reasons	• Coordinate planning with homeless service providers to support the transition of the chronic homeless population out of disaster shelters. • Provide mental health and substance abuse support services to the homeless population in disaster shelters. • Help individuals who are victims of abuse find alternate community-based shelters if evacuation is necessary. • Children with special circumstances include unattended minors or latch key children, children living in foster care, group or halfway homes, and other residential assisted living programs. • Identify appropriate alternative shelters if necessary and connect emotional support services to children as needed. • Ensure facilities have emergency plans that meet the needs of the children they serve.
Single-Parent Households	• Provide day care support and family support services to single parents with children who have limited personal resources.
People Living in Poverty Includes many of the individuals identified in the above categories as well	• Identify post-disaster emergency, temporary, or subsidized housing. • Plan for long-term recovery needs. • Provide community services to people living in poverty.
People with Mobility Disabilities Includes people who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids (e.g., crutches, walker)	• Ensure shelters are physically accessible (e.g., entrance ramps, bathrooms, sleeping areas). • Evacuate the chair and other equipment with its user. • Provide accessible transportation for people with mobility disabilities both during evacuation and to reach alternate sites.
People with Visual Disabilities	• Provide assistance (guides) to help with navigation at disaster service locations. • Keep service animals or guide dogs with the person at all times.
People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	• Include American Sign Language interpreters and Text Telephones/Telecommunications Device for the



Population	Assistance
	Deaf (TTY/TDD) equipment with trained personnel at locations where disaster assistance is provided.
People who are Energy Dependent	Relocate people dependent on electrical power so they can maintain their life support systems during short or long power outages.
People with Developmental or Cognitive Disabilities	Present information and instructions slowly for individuals who have difficulty understanding information that is rapidly given or quickly flashed (e.g., as on a television screen).
People with Psychiatric Disabilities	- Provide mental health support to prevent people with psychiatric disabilities from going into shock or a crisis. - Identify backup sources for obtaining essential prescription medications.
People with Communication or Speech Related Disabilities	Be creative and patient with people who are non-vocal, but still capable of making their needs known to listeners.

Since AFN considerations are included in many aspects of an emergency response, Mass Care and Shelter and Transportation resources will be working in coordination with many of the OA EOC representatives. They will support and coordinate resources for those with access and functional needs. Personal preparedness is key for coordination in order to identify needs and resources. The OA EOC will support requests that are made during the evacuation.

- **Public Health** - Work to address the needs of AFN throughout emergency operations, especially those involving public health threats.
- **Public Information Officer** - Work to provide approved messages that are accessible to all sectors within the AFN population, including the deaf, blind, and those who require messages in a different language.
- **Mass Care and Shelter** - Work to accommodate AFN in the shelter locations, ensuring that medical and health services are available, including access to medications, medical supplies, counseling, translation services, etc.

Table 9: AFN Actions

Action	Completed (Y/N)	Resources/Special Considerations
Identify and inventory disability transportation resources.		Examples: Paratransit, motor coaches, ambulances, etc.
Identify time estimates for executing moderate- and large-scale evacuations of Persons With Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs (PWD/AFN).		



Action	Completed (Y/N)	Resources/Special Considerations
Ensure evacuation operations include service animals and comfort animals.		Service Animals are covered by the ADA. Comfort Animals are not covered by the ADA. Policies on comfort animals vary by jurisdiction. Consult state and local laws.
Ensure transportation evacuation operations include mobility devices and durable medical devices on transit equipment.		
Provide accessible transportation information to PWD/AFN at transportation staging areas.		
Ensure that traffic control points (TCPs) provide accessible communication.		
Identify alternate transit/paratransit operational facilities.		
Inventory licensed Board and Care Homes, Activity Centers and other licensed businesses providing care and support for people with AFN.		
Identification of "like" facilities within variable distances for relocation shelters. These locations can contain unconventional spaces like common areas and dining rooms.		

Evacuation of Animals

Evacuees who relocate to the homes of relatives or friends, or to commercial accommodation, often do so with their pets and may not need additional public assistance. However, evacuees seeking public transportation or sheltering services with pets present unique operational challenges. Past incidents have shown that some individuals may refuse to evacuate if they cannot bring their pets with them. These behavioral considerations should be recognized and addressed in emergency communications.

**Table 10: Animal Evacuation Actions**

Action	Completed (Y/N)	Resources/Special Considerations
Maintain inventory of available animal shelters, trailers, crates, feed, and veterinary supplies.		Resource logs, EOC asset board
Pre-identify small and large animal sheltering sites, including overflow capacity and transport routes		GIS shelter mapping, MOU documents
Develop public outreach materials on pet and livestock preparedness (go-kits, ID tags, trailer safety)		Ready.gov/pets, CALFire “Pet Evacuation” guide
Train staff and volunteers on animal handling, intake tracking, and health protocols.		FEMA Animal Response Training, Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) guidance
Coordinate activation of animal evacuation sites as part of the sheltering plan.		Co-locate where feasible with human transfer sites
Assign an Animal Services Liaison in EOC to coordinate resources and information flow.		Should link with Care & Shelter and Logistics branches
Track incoming animals and owners using identification bands, tags, or barcoded forms.		Use pre-filled forms or digital apps where available.
Provide feeding, watering, and veterinary checks in shelters.		Coordinate with NGOs and on-call veterinarians.
Communicate shelter status and public instructions through alert systems and media.		Include pet instructions in all evacuation messages.

Restricted Access Livestock Pass Program

Lake County understands that many residents may hesitate to evacuate because of concerns regarding livestock or agricultural property. In response, the County has created a Restricted-Access Agricultural Pass Program, managed by the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner in coordination with the County Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff’s Office, and Community Development Department.

This program offers pre-vetted commercial agricultural producers restricted access passes, enabling them to reenter evacuated areas to care for crops and livestock. This access helps reduce agricultural losses and supports overall emergency operations by minimizing unauthorized entry. Passholders may request reentry through on-scene law enforcement or public safety personnel, but entry is strictly subject to the approval of the incident commander or their designee and may be denied at any time if conditions are considered unsafe, even after evacuation orders are lifted.



Temporary Evacuation Points and Sheltering

When an evacuation order is issued in Lake County, the responsible agency should coordinate with the Incident Commander and leaders from the affected jurisdiction to identify and establish a Temporary Evacuation Point (TEP). TEPs serve as short-term, safe staging areas where evacuees can receive information, wait for transportation, or determine their next steps. These sites are especially important during fast-moving incidents when emergency shelters may not yet be open or accessible.

TEPs typically do not provide long-term support services such as food, water, or restrooms. Their primary purpose is to serve as safe and accessible locations for temporary congregation, with staff available to provide directions, transportation assistance, or referrals to emergency shelters once those are operational.

If emergency shelters are necessary, representatives from the American Red Cross, working within the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and/or the Incident Command Post (ICP), should coordinate site selection, activation, and shelter operations. Emergency shelters are outlined in the Lake County EOP Shelter Annex.

In some cases, a TEP may be converted into an emergency shelter if the site is suitable, and the necessary resources can be mobilized. The decision to convert a TEP should be based on anticipated needs, site capacity, and coordination with sheltering partners.

Traffic Routes and Evacuation Transfer Sites

Efficient evacuation routes and transfer sites during wildfire emergencies in Lake County require interagency communication and adaptive decision-making rather than relying on static routing instructions. Wildfire conditions may make primary evacuation routes inaccessible due to fire proximity, debris, congestion, or power outages (which can disrupt signals and signage).

- Evacuation transfer sites are essential for assisting those without personal transportation, including residents with AFN.
- Coordination among jurisdictions is crucial to prevent conflicting route decisions and to ensure transfer sites are staffed, supplied, and effectively communicated to the public.

Overall, evacuation routes need to be coordinated across jurisdictional boundaries. Sustained inter-jurisdictional coordination may be needed between evacuated and host communities along or near the evacuation routes. The following map images show a closer view of the regions and communities within Lake County.

- Figure 1A - Lake County
- Figure 1B - Lake County Inserts
- Figure 1C - Lake Pillsbury
- Figure 1D – Upper Lake
- Figure 1E – Lakeport
- Figure 1F – Kelseyville
- Figure 1G – Middletown



- Figure 1H – Clearlake Oaks
- Figure 1I – Lower Lake
- Figure 1J – Clearlake
- Figure 1K – Lucerne
- Figure 1L – Glenhaven
- Considerations for the contingency route are outlined in [Appendix C – Contingency Routes](#).

Table 11: Evacuation Route Traffic Control Point Actions

Action	Completed (Y/N)	Resources/Special Considerations
Identify and map primary, secondary, and tertiary evacuation routes based on terrain, capacity, and historical fire patterns.		Caltrans Traffic Maps, Fire Behavior Models, GIS evacuation overlays
Establish potential transfer site locations throughout the county with input on ADA accessibility, parking capacity, and utility backup.		County facility databases, school transportation plans, Shelter Agreements
Develop a unified traffic control point (TCP) plan for major intersections and rural access points.		Existing TCP schematics, Cal OES Evacuation Planning Guide
Pre-position signage, message boards, and traffic cones near identified routes and TCPs		Equipment inventories, maintenance yard lists
Coordinate evacuation routes and transfer site planning with transit agencies and para-transit providers.		Route maps, emergency operations agreements, and AFN needs.
Confirm route availability and transfer site activation status using GIS and field reports.		Validate via real-time data, road sensors, WAZE, and observer teams.
Activate the Traffic Group Supervisor and assign units to TCPs		Use ICS 204 assignments; coordinate with Public Works for barricade placement.
Activate and staff designated evacuation transfer sites.		Notify the public through Alert Lake, social media, and PIO updates.
Ensure ADA-compliant transport options are routed to activated transfer sites.		Deploy para-transit units and update EOC Documentation Boards.
Maintain situational awareness of road closures, fire progression, and traffic congestion.		Display data on EOC maps and incorporate it into public messaging cadence.



Transportation Coordination

Staging areas may be established to stage transportation resources and then obtain control of and manage the transportation resources in support of transportation point operations. First Responder vehicles can maintain communication with authorities via radio, allowing them to coordinate real-time information on road conditions, evacuation and transportation points, and other critical details.

Modes of Transportation

The primary mode of transportation used during jurisdictional evacuation efforts will be privately owned automobiles.

The OA maintains working relationships with partner organizations, including advocacy organizations, agencies that serve transportation-dependent populations, and faith and community-based organizations.

During the evacuation process, it may be necessary to assist non-ambulatory individuals or those who require mobility assistance, assistance with wayfinding, supervision, and language interpretation. 9-1-1 call centers and the OA EOC will coordinate with responding agencies to provide transportation assistance to those requesting help. It may be necessary to utilize ambulances and other public safety personnel during the early stages of an incident while other transportation services are implemented.

- **Public Schools in Lake County:** According to recent data, Lake County has 37 public schools with school buses, which can be utilized during emergencies.
- **Lake Transit Authority:** Lake Transit has established routes, schedules, and buses that can be utilized in an evacuation.
 - Fixed Routes:
 - Route 1 - North Shore, Clearlake to Lakeport
 - Route 2 - Hwy 175, Kit's Corner to Middletown
 - Route 3 - Hwy 29, Clearlake to Deer Park
 - Route 4 - South Shore Clearlake to Lakeport
 - Route 4a - Soda Bay Kit's Corner to Lakeport
 - Route 7 - Lakeport to Ukiah
 - Route 8 - Lakeport City
 - Route 10 - Clearlake to Clearlake Park North Loop
 - Route 11 - The Avenues Loop

Routes & Schedules



Figure 3: Lake Transit Route Map

- Dial-a-Ride
- Flex Stop
- Medi-Links
- **Lake Links** Lake County's Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) provides social service transportation services for vulnerable, transit-dependent populations (elderly, disabled, and low-income residents). Programs include:
 - Lake County Tribal Health Center
 - Partnership HealthPlan of California
 - Veteran's Shuttle Services
- **Redwood Coast Regional Center:** Community-based resource coordination to connect those with needs to resources. RCRC has vendors that could potentially provide transportation resources.

Repopulation Procedures

Repopulation efforts are generally initiated by Unified Command, in coordination with the OA EOC. In most situations, the OA EOC will remain activated throughout the repopulation process to support coordination and ensure safe and effective operations. Repopulation will be guided by the following priorities:

- Protection of public safety
- Maintenance of security and public order
- Completion of damage assessments
- Restoration of critical services
- Effective and timely communication with the public

Before authorizing repopulation, the impacted areas must be thoroughly evaluated to confirm that conditions are safe for return.



Table 12: Repopulation Assessment

Status	Assessment
	Structures, trees, and the surrounding environment are stable and do not pose safety risks.
	There are no ruptured or leaking gas lines, and downed power lines have been cleared.
	Search and rescue operations have concluded.
	No hazardous materials are present that could endanger returning residents, or appropriate warnings have been issued.
	Major transportation routes are open, and debris has been removed from public rights-of-way.
	Any significant threats to public health and safety have been mitigated or eliminated.
	Damage assessments are ongoing or complete.
	Power, communications, water, and wastewater systems are being repaired or restored.
	Potable water is available, or appropriate boil water notices and warnings have been issued.

The public will be notified of authorized repopulation through the multi-modal notification systems outlined in this plan. These may include:

- LakeCoAlerts
- Emergency broadcast systems (radio and television)
- Press releases and public service announcements
- Community briefings
- Information updates are posted at shelters and evacuation sites

Upon reentry, clear procedures should be in place to verify returning residents and critical support personnel. Law enforcement should staff repopulation checkpoints to:

- Confirm residency or authorized access
- Screen contractors, insurance adjustors, and other third-party personnel to ensure legitimacy
- Maintain overall safety and traffic flow

Evacuees who need help returning from shelters or Temporary Evacuation Points (TEPs) to their communities may require transportation assistance. These transportation operations should be planned and coordinated through the OA EOC. Traffic management plans should identify primary reentry routes and support the safe and efficient return of residents.

Repopulation planning should take into account the specific needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. Returning to damaged homes or facilities may be difficult or unsafe for these individuals, particularly if essential features like ramps or lifts have been destroyed. To address this, short-term accessible housing should be identified and coordinated with community partners. Suitable



accommodations may include:

- Hotels or motels with accessible rooms
- Apartment units that meet accessibility standards
- Portable trailers or temporary housing equipped with ramps and other accessibility features

These housing options should be located near key support networks, including health care providers, caregivers, and service organizations, to ensure continuity of care and support during the transition back into the community.

Post-Incident Evaluation

Following an evacuation within Lake County, at a minimum, the county should:

- Conduct a joint after-action review (AAR) with all jurisdictions involved in route activation or transfer site operations.
- Update evacuation route conditions and GIS layers based on incident findings.
- Incorporate public feedback on signage, instructions, and accessibility into future plan revisions.



Section 6 – Direction, Control, and Coordination

The authority to issue evacuation orders for Unincorporated Lake County resides with the Sheriff's Department, which includes the Sheriff, Undersheriff, or a designated representative at the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), in coordination with local law enforcement and fire agencies.

The cities of Clearlake and Lakeport have the authority to order evacuations for their respective jurisdictions. The primary responsibility for issuing evacuation orders rests with the local governing body or another entity they have authorized through an ordinance, resolution, or verbal delegation. Once authorized, this entity initiates the evacuation order and coordinates public notification and operational response via the OA EOC.

This Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan should be activated when an incident necessitates evacuation efforts affecting the Lake County Operational Area.

Command and Control

In any emergency or disaster, the basic command and control of a multi-jurisdictional evacuation effort in Lake County aligns with its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the statewide California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement when managing multi-jurisdiction evacuation responses. All jurisdictions within the county adhere to the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) during emergencies.

Coordination

For large-scale incidents, coordination should occur through the ICS structure, with unified command involving local fire, law enforcement, the local EOC, and the OA EOC. The Lake County Sheriff's Department serves as the lead agency for evacuating the unincorporated areas of Lake County. Unified Command assesses and evaluates the need for evacuations in collaboration with cooperating agencies, while the Lake County Sheriff's Department or local law enforcement issues and carries out evacuations in accordance with the procedures established in this Plan. Furthermore, as part of the Unified Command, the Sheriff's Department or local law enforcement will identify available and suitable evacuation routes and coordinate evacuation traffic management with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the California Highway Patrol (CHP), other supporting agencies, and jurisdictions.



Section 7 – Information Collection and Dissemination

During an evacuation, the OA Emergency Operations Center (OA EOC) relies on critical incident information provided by the Incident Commander or Unified Command, along with updates from local EOCs, to support and coordinate evacuation efforts across the county.

Maintaining situational awareness is crucial for an effective evacuation. To accomplish this, the OA EOC should collaborate closely with first responders, city leadership, and supporting agencies to gather comprehensive incident data. Key information includes:

- Nature, location, and severity of the incident
- Number of injuries, fatalities, and damage estimates
- Identification of critical facilities (e.g., hospitals, schools)
- Estimated evacuee counts, transportation needs, and sheltering needs

The OA EOC typically oversees evacuation operations in unincorporated areas, while evacuation efforts in Lakeport and Clearlake should be coordinated jointly with Incident Command and local EOC staff, as well as the OA EOC. The OA EOC team provides real-time updates on:

- Incident status
- Resource availability, deployment, and shortfalls
- Responding agencies and their roles

First responders are tasked with identifying necessary protective actions, such as evacuation orders or shelter-in-place directives. These decisions should be communicated promptly to the OA EOC and relevant partners to ensure a cohesive and coordinated response. Key information to relay includes:

- Current protective actions implemented at critical infrastructure, schools, healthcare facilities, residential areas, and large work sites
- Provisions for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs
- Transportation directives and limitations
- Additional protective measures recommended, and identifying stakeholders for coordination

A standardized evacuation coordination checklist, [Appendix A](#), is used to ensure essential data is collected and shared efficiently.



Section 8 – Communications

Effective, reliable, and interoperable communication systems are essential for the success of any evacuation effort. Communication must be timely, redundant, and accessible to support informed decision-making, coordinated response efforts, and public safety throughout all phases of an incident. Strong information management practices ensure that information is collected, verified, and disseminated consistently across jurisdictions and agencies.

Key components of an effective evacuation communication strategy include:

- **Initial Public Notification:** Clear, authoritative messages should be issued as soon as an evacuation is ordered. Notifications should be delivered through multiple, redundant systems such as Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), LakeCoAlerts, social media, television, radio, and community sirens. Messaging should be concise, action-oriented, and available in multiple languages.
- **Inter-jurisdictional and Intra-agency Coordination:** Seamless communication among local, county, state, tribal, and federal agencies is essential. Agencies should maintain open lines of communication between Incident Command, Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), field personnel, and supporting partners to ensure coordinated actions and consistent messaging.
- **Situation Reports and Operational Updates:** The timely exchange of situation reports, resource status, damage assessments, and incident updates supports a shared understanding of evolving conditions. These reports allow leadership at all levels to make informed decisions regarding protective actions, resource allocation, and public messaging.
- **Real-time Communication with Evacuees:** Ongoing updates to evacuees are vital throughout the evacuation process. These updates should provide information on evacuation routes, shelter locations, transportation availability, road closures, reentry status, and other essential services. Communication tools should reach individuals whether they remain at home, are in transit, or are at a shelter.
- **Accessible Communications for Individuals with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs:** All public messaging should comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and be accessible to individuals who are blind, deaf or hard of hearing, have cognitive disabilities, or have limited English proficiency. This includes the use of visual and audio formats, plain language, closed captioning, American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, and translation services. Outreach must also be designed to reach individuals who do not have access to traditional media or technology.



Inter-Jurisdictional and Inter-Agency Communications

Effective evacuation operations require seamless coordination across agencies through Incident Command Posts, OA EOC, and all supporting departments and jurisdictions. Established communication systems and procedures should guide information exchange and decision-making.

- **Emergency Operations Integration:** Agency liaisons stationed within the OA EOC facilitate direct communication between the EOC and their respective agency operation centers. These liaisons support real-time collaboration and help streamline the flow of critical incident information.
- **Data Sharing and Situational Awareness:** Ongoing situational awareness is maintained through the sharing of data regarding incident locations, resource deployment, road conditions, infrastructure status, and population movements. Effective data exchange facilitates swift decision-making and improved operational coordination.
- **Resource-Informed Evacuation Planning:** Emergency managers should continuously evaluate evolving risks, available resources, and agency capabilities to guide protective actions. As the situation develops, they should identify alternative evacuation corridors, adjust traffic control plans, and address infrastructure damage.
- **Operational Updates and Public Communication:** Any changes to operational strategies or evacuation routes should be promptly communicated to the relevant public safety partners and the general public. Agencies should utilize all available channels, including emergency alerts, social media, and traditional media, to deliver consistent and accessible updates.
- **Systematic Communication Protocols:** All updates concerning incident status, operational changes, and public information should adhere to established communication protocols. This includes maintaining clear messaging, redundancy in delivery methods, and accessibility for individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency.

Emergency Public Information, Notification, and Communications

Clear, timely, and accessible public notifications are essential to ensure the safety and cooperation of residents during an evacuation or shelter-in-place directive. To be effective, these messages must provide essential information that helps the public understand the reason for the action, how long it is expected to last, and what steps they need to take.

Residents will want to know why evacuation or sheltering in place is necessary, where transportation and evacuation points are located, whether shelters are available, and what personal items they should bring with them, such as medications and important



documents. Information on how pets will be accommodated, how to secure their homes, and the level of security that will be provided during their absence is also critical. If an event occurs on a weekday and involves the evacuation of schoolchildren, parents and guardians will require immediate and accurate information about reunification and where to pick up their children.

To reach as broad an audience as possible, Lake County employs a multi-channel emergency communication strategy.

Genasys Protect

Current Evacuation Zones established for Lake County, California, are identified with prefixes for the communities throughout the county. The Zone numbers are established with the lowest to the north and the highest numbers to the south. Figures 5-14 (pages 62 – 71) show the zones established in Lake County. Lake County has a Know Your Zone campaign for residents and visitors to know their evacuation zone.

Caltrans

Caltrans has a **QuickMap** to check road closures and conditions during emergencies and coordinate with law enforcement to ensure accurate road information is posted for public use. District External Affairs office can support evacuation efforts with press releases and social media posts.

Ready Lake County

Preparedness information and non-emergency response information are available online at <https://Ready.LakeCountyCa.gov>.

LakeCoAlert

Lake County's official emergency notification system provides critical alerts via phone calls, text messages, emails, and public broadcast systems. Managed by the Lake County Sheriff's Office and Office of Emergency Services (OES), it enables officials to issue geographically targeted warnings and countywide alerts during major emergencies.

- Lake Co Alerts will utilize these zone numbers, as found in Genasys Protect, to issue targeted warnings, evacuation orders, and shelter-in-place advisories.
- While landline numbers are automatically included, residents and visitors are encouraged to register their cell phones, VoIP numbers, and email addresses to ensure they receive important updates.
- LakeCoAlerts is integrated with the *Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)*; it can also broadcast messages through the *Emergency Alert System (EAS)* and *Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)*.

Emergency Alert System EAS

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a dedicated system that interlinks all commercial radio and television stations in Mendocino and Lake Counties. A direct transmitter in the Sheriff's Dispatch Center in Mendocino County can activate this system. Special countywide advisories and warnings can be issued on a live air feed during major emergencies if necessary.



Clearlake NIXLE Information

Clearlake utilizes NIXLE as a dedicated system that interlinks registered cell phone holders. During major emergencies, special advisories and warnings can be issued to an individual's cell phone.

Integrated Public Alert Warning System

IPAWS The Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) is a dedicated system that interlinks all cell phone users in a geographical area within Lake County. If necessary, special countywide advisories and warnings can be issued during major emergencies.

Redwood Coast Regional Center

RCRC amplifies LakeCoAlerts through their Everbridge Reverse 911 and will activate individual phone calls to their clients and vendors through service coordinators.

Reverse Notification Systems

The local school districts utilize a communication tool to alert parents, guardians, students, and staff about emergencies, school closures, or important updates. It operates by sending out mass notifications via phone calls, text messages, emails, and sometimes through social media platforms in urgent situations.

California Emergency Services Radio System

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) maintains three statewide microwave inter-tied communications systems with dial-in access in the North Coastal Area: Mt. Pierce in Humboldt County, Red Mountain in Lake County, and Laughlin Ridge in Mendocino County.

Notification Considerations

Effective initial communication with the public is essential for ensuring an efficient evacuation and minimizing the physical and emotional stress associated with emergency events. A well-crafted initial notification helps the public quickly understand the situation, take appropriate protective actions, and seek additional information as needed. At a minimum, the message should include the following critical elements:

- Identification of the agency issuing the alert
- A brief explanation of the incident prompting the notification
- The specific zone, neighborhood, or address affected
- Clear instructions on what actions the public should take to ensure their safety
- Where to go for further updates and reliable information

Delivering this information in a concise, accessible format supports rapid decision-making, builds trust in the emergency response system, and contributes to a more orderly evacuation process.

Additionally, communications with transit agencies should reinforce compliance with California Senate Bill 397, which directs transit operators to implement best practices that allow for the evacuation of household pets on public transit vehicles during emergencies. These practices help ensure a higher rate of voluntary evacuation and reduce the likelihood of residents remaining in hazardous areas to care for their animals.



Coordinated Communications

Incorporated cities within Lake County may request support from the OA EOC staff to assist in coordinating evacuation operations within their jurisdiction. Public messaging should use multiple platforms to ensure broad and accessible communication, including LakeCoAlerts, social media, radio, television, Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), and other available tools.

Ongoing Informational Updates

It is crucial that evacuees receive timely and accurate updates throughout the duration of an evacuation. This information should include the locations of transportation pickup points and TEPs, the status of evacuation routes, road and area closures, traffic conditions, and the availability of medical care, shelter space, and other essential services. Evacuees should also be informed about any changes to evacuation plans, current weather conditions, and security measures being implemented in affected areas.

Communication Modalities

To ensure evacuation information is accessible and actionable for the entire community, it should be delivered in a variety of formats that accommodate diverse communication needs and abilities. Emergency messaging should be designed with accessibility in mind, allowing individuals with disabilities, those with limited English proficiency, and others with specific needs to receive and understand life-saving information. Jurisdictions should incorporate the following accessibility features and communication methods into all evacuation-related messaging:

- Use of American Sign Language (ASL) for live and recorded video messages
- Delivery in plain, clear, and concise language that is easy to understand
- Translation into multiple languages commonly spoken in the community
- Compliance with Section 508 accessibility standards, including:
 - Proper alt text for images
 - Adequate color contrast
 - Logical reading order and use of descriptive headings
 - Overall accessible graphic design and layout
- To reach the widest possible audience, messages should also be disseminated using multiple communication platforms and modalities, including:
 - LakeCoAlerts
 - Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
 - Emergency Alert System (EAS)
 - Official emergency websites
 - Local television and radio stations
 - Low-power community radio broadcasts
 - Social media platforms
 - Public address systems



- Changeable message signs (CMS) along evacuation routes
- Hi-Lo sirens used by law enforcement for evacuation alerts
- Police vehicles equipped with bullhorns
- Door-to-door notifications, especially for individuals with limited mobility or no access to technology

Changeable Message Signs

A **Changeable Message Sign (CMS)** is primarily used to give motorists real-time traffic safety and guidance information about planned and unplanned events that significantly impact traffic on the State's highway system.

In areas where both permanent and portable signs are used, it is important that no conflicting messages are displayed. Changeable Message Signs in Lake County

- SR 20- West of JCT. 29
- SR 20- East of Lucerne Roundabout
- SR 20- West of JCT. 53
- SR 20- East of JCT. 53
- SR 29- South of Lower Lake
- SR 29- West of Lower Lake
- SR 29- North Lakeport
- SR 53- South of Clearlake
- SR 53- South of 20/53 interchange
- SR 29- South Hwy 29 at Lake St/ Hwy 175 interchange
- SR 29- South Hwy 29 South of the 29/53 interchange

Caltrans recognizes the benefits of properly using CMS to manage traffic and inform motorists. At times, traffic congestion information is displayed on CMS. CMS are also used to inform motorists of unexpected conditions and should not be used until such conditions warrant their use.

- **Caltrans Changeable Message Sign (CMS) Guidelines 2021**

CMS should be used as a supplement for conventional traffic control devices and not as a substitute.

Traffic Operations can also assist with permanent and portable CMS messages.

Caltrans points of contact for Lake County as of October 2025:

- Maintenance Region Support is the main operator of the CMS Boards.
 - Joeinne Lingard, Dispatch and Emergency Management Support - (707) 572-7167 joeinne.lingard@dot.ca.gov
- The Work Zone Operations and Mobility Programs team oversees the Transportation Management Center (TMC) and develops the Transportation Management Plans
 - Paul Hailey, Chief WZO&MP - (707) 496-1562 paul.hailey@dot.ca.gov
- Public Information Office (PIO) for public and media affairs
 - Cori Reed, Chief Public and Media Affairs - (707) 834-



9530 cori.reed@dot.ca.gov

- Manny Machado, Lake County PIO Lead - (707) 496-6879 manuel.machado@dot.ca.gov

Communication Contingency Plans

In the event that all local electronic communication systems are rendered inoperable due to a catastrophic incident, Lake County may need to rely on radio broadcasters to disseminate emergency information to the public in affected areas.

- Local radio stations are critical in reaching residents when internet, cellular, and other digital communication platforms are unavailable.
- Lake County may activate its network of trained Amateur Radio (HAM) volunteers to support emergency communications. When conventional systems are overwhelmed or nonfunctional, these operators can provide essential backup communication by relaying information between emergency responders, the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the public.



Section 9 – Administration, Finance, and Logistics

The Lake County EOP establishes the financial, administrative, logistical, and recovery framework for managing emergencies and disasters.

The EOP aligns operational activities with SEMS and NIMS/ICS, which provide standardized frameworks for coordinated action across all levels of government, as well as among private-sector and nonprofit partners. The California Master Mutual Aid Agreement and related mutual aid agreements enable the sharing of personnel, equipment, transportation, shelter, and feeding resources across jurisdictions.

Under SEMS, both cities and special districts are classified as “local governments” and included in operational planning. The OA EOC coordinates with all operational area entities, including the City of Lakeport, City of Clearlake, Lake County departments, special districts, neighboring counties, the State of California, and federal agencies.



Section 10 – Plan Development and Maintenance

The preparation of this report was funded through the Lake Area Planning Council's 2023/24 Regional Transportation Planning Work Program, Work Element 615, developed by The Resiliency Initiative.

The methodology for this plan centered on a multi-faceted approach that thoroughly reviews current evacuation protocols, infrastructure, and community needs within the analysis of existing transportation and evacuation routes. Additionally, our approach prioritizes the needs of vulnerable populations, ensuring equitable and accessible evacuation options as reviewed through the lens of wildfires in the Hazard Planning Profile. This methodology provides a comprehensive foundation to strengthen wildfire evacuation planning and enhance community resilience through collaborative evaluation of agency practices, public communication, and route maintenance. Throughout the project, the Technical Advisory Group and Public Outreach engaged community stakeholders, responders, and the overall public input into the planning process.

It is written to align with the policies, procedures, and practices outlined in the Lake County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), as well as the Emergency Operations Plans for the Cities of Lakeport and Clearlake.

Maintenance

Lake APC will be responsible for maintaining and updating the Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan. At a minimum, this Plan should be reviewed every four years to remain consistent with the maintenance cycle established for the Lake County EOP.

Revisions may also occur outside the scheduled review period in response to policy or procedural updates, lessons learned from real-world incidents, or recommendations from exercises or evaluations. Proposed updates should be submitted to Lake APC and reviewed in collaboration with relevant jurisdictional partners to ensure alignment and consistency across all entities.



Appendices

Appendix A – Quick Evacuation Checklist

This checklist offers a flexible, cross-jurisdictional framework for initiating, coordinating, and supporting wildfire evacuation activities. It is designed for use by local EOCs, Incident Command, and public safety agencies to ensure timely and organized evacuation activation and notification.

Immediate Actions For Any Incident

- ☐ Gain jurisdictional situational awareness.
- ☐ Create (or combine) an incident in WebEOC.
- ☐ Determine response status.
- ☐ Review the status of initial protective actions.
- ☐ Consider additional protective actions.
- ☐ Evaluate public information needs.
- ☐ Determine the next steps to coordinate and implement protective actions.
- ☐ Establish OA-led jurisdictional conference call, if necessary.

Situational Awareness

If an incident has occurred, what happened (including where and when)?

- ☐ Type of incident (natural disaster, accident, terrorism)
- ☐ Estimated number of injuries/fatalities
- ☐ Estimated damage to or status of critical infrastructures (transportation, power, medical, water)
- ☐ What facilities (schools, health care facilities, large residential complexes, workforce facilities) are in the hazard area

What jurisdictions/neighboring jurisdictions have been evacuated or sheltered?

- ☐ Estimated number of people and animals evacuated?
- ☐ Are temporary evacuation points (TEPs) being used?
- ☒ Estimated number of people and animals that will require sheltering?
- ☐ Have shelters been identified?
- ☐ Coordination with adjoining jurisdiction(s)?

What is the latest information/intelligence about threats to the jurisdiction if the incident has not occurred? What is the potential impact?

- ☐ Estimate of potentially affected population?
- ☐ What neighborhoods should be evacuated?

Response Status

- ☐ Is the emergency operations center (EOC) activated, and at what level?
- ☐ Is the incident cascading, or is the incident stabilized?
- ☐ What is the impact on neighboring jurisdictions/zones?
- ☐ Who is leading the response or investigation?
- ☐ What resources/agencies are on scene, available, or needed?
- ☐ What additional resources/agencies are needed, including those required to support individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs?



Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan

Initial Protective Actions (Schools, Workforce, Transportation)

What initial protective action (i.e., shelter-in-place or evacuation) has been implemented for the following:

- ☐ Critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR)
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Healthcare facilities
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Large workforce facilities

How have the needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs been addressed?

Has any initial protective action occurred for transportation (i.e., public transit operational)?

What other protective actions (see step D below) should be considered, and who else should be involved in discussions?

Additional Protective Actions

What additional protective actions may be needed to protect the general public, schools, workforce, etc.?

- ☐ Consider evacuation, shelter-in-place, quarantine, school/work dismissal, reunification, cancellation of public meetings, and closing of government facilities.
- ☐ Inform the health services sector, mass care facilities, and transportation assets, request mutual aid, and issue public advisories.

Will additional resources be needed to support protective actions?

What considerations should be made when making protective action decisions? Many factors affect decisions and should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The following are general *considerations*.

- ☐ For a **wildfire**, consider using emergency vehicles to direct traffic through areas with poor visibility due to smoke.
- ☐ For an **extended air release of toxic chemicals** (e.g., a continuous leak), consider local evacuation of people downwind of the release.
- ☐ For a **threat or hazard involving local impact**, consider partial local evacuation unless addressed below.
- ☐ For a **threat or hazard involving regional impact**, consider partial or full-scale evacuation of a potentially impacted area.
- ☐ For a **short air release of toxic chemicals** (i.e., brief plume), consider initial sheltering-in-place of people downwind of the release.
- ☐ For an **explosion**, consider evacuating the impacted area and consider secondary devices.

Emergency Public Information

- ☐ What should be communicated, when, how (tools or mediums being used), and by whom?
- ☐ What information has been communicated to the general public/schools/workforce?
- ☐ Ensure the message is uniform and consistent across all jurisdictions involved.
- ☐ Is the message accessible?



Next Steps

- ☐ What response actions need to be coordinated?
- ☐ What resources are needed, and how are they being coordinated?
- ☐ For evacuations, numerous operations need to be coordinated. Below is a summary of the significant evacuation tasks and the agencies that have a lead role in implementing these tasks.
- ☐ **Identify evacuation routes:** Incident Command/Unified Command, OA EOC, law enforcement officials, California Highway Patrol (CHP), Public Works, local law enforcement agencies and other applicable agencies/departments assist in identifying evacuation routes.
- ☐ **Identify and establish accessible temporary evacuation points:** OA EOC, law enforcement officials, CHP, Public Works, American Red Cross, and other applicable agencies/departments work together to establish TEPs.
- ☐ **Coordinate and manage traffic and provide roadside assistance:** Incident Command/Unified Command works with the Sheriff's Department/law enforcement agencies, and CHP.
- ☐ **Provide support for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs:** OA EOC, Sheriff's Department/law enforcement agencies, Transit System, faith-based, community-based, and nongovernmental organizations, and other key stakeholders will provide support for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.
- ☐ **Provide shelter:** Health and Human Services Agency, American Red Cross, Lake County, City of Lakeport, City of Clearlake, and other community-based organizations and private agency resources will provide shelter for people and their pets.
- ☐ **Deconflict sites as needed:** OA EOC coordinates using the site deconfliction matrix to identify alternate sites as appropriate.
- ☐ **Assist with other response operations as needed:** OA EOCs, Public Safety, and supporting federal and state agencies will assist with other response operations as needed.



Appendix B – Evacuation Maps

Evacuation Routes in Lake County will depend on the reason for evacuation and the determination of which direction the evacuees need to travel. The potential evacuation routes identified in this analysis are designated based on roadway classification. This does not ensure that these routes are accessible, are the preferred evacuation routes in all situations, or are suitable for the conditions of the roadway. Always follow the instructions of emergency personnel.

The following map images show a closer view of the regions and communities within Lake County.

- Figure 1A – Lake County
- Figure 1B – Lake County Inserts
- Figure 1C – Lake Pillsbury
- Figure 1D – Upper Lake
- Figure 1E – Lakeport
- Figure 1F – Kelseyville
- Figure 1G – Middletown
- Figure 1H – Clearlake Oaks
- Figure 1I – Lower Lake
- Figure 1J – Clearlake
- Figure 1K – Lucerne
- Figure 1L – Glenhaven



Figure 1A - Lake County

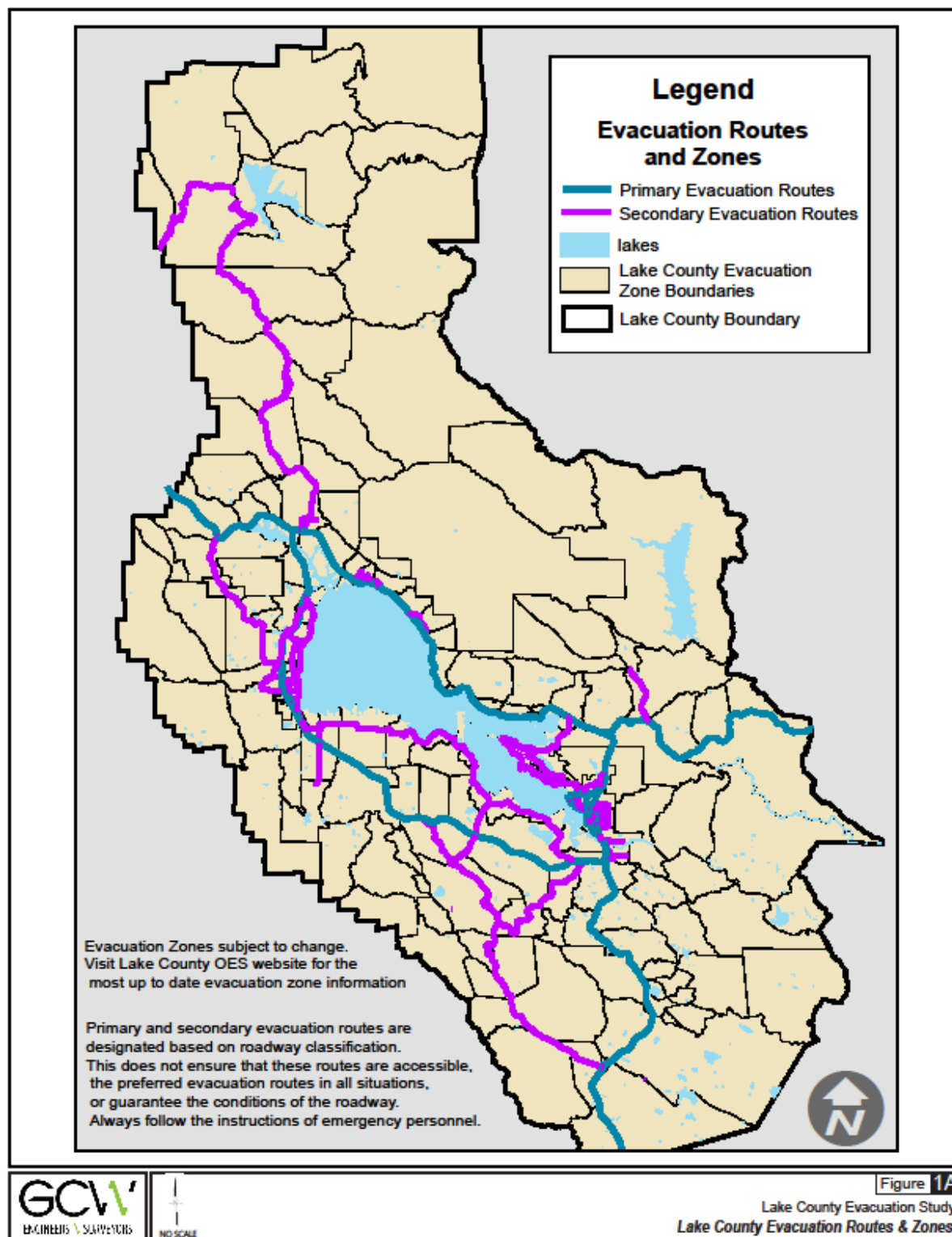


Figure 4: Lake County Potential Evacuation Routes



Figure 1B - Lake County Inserts

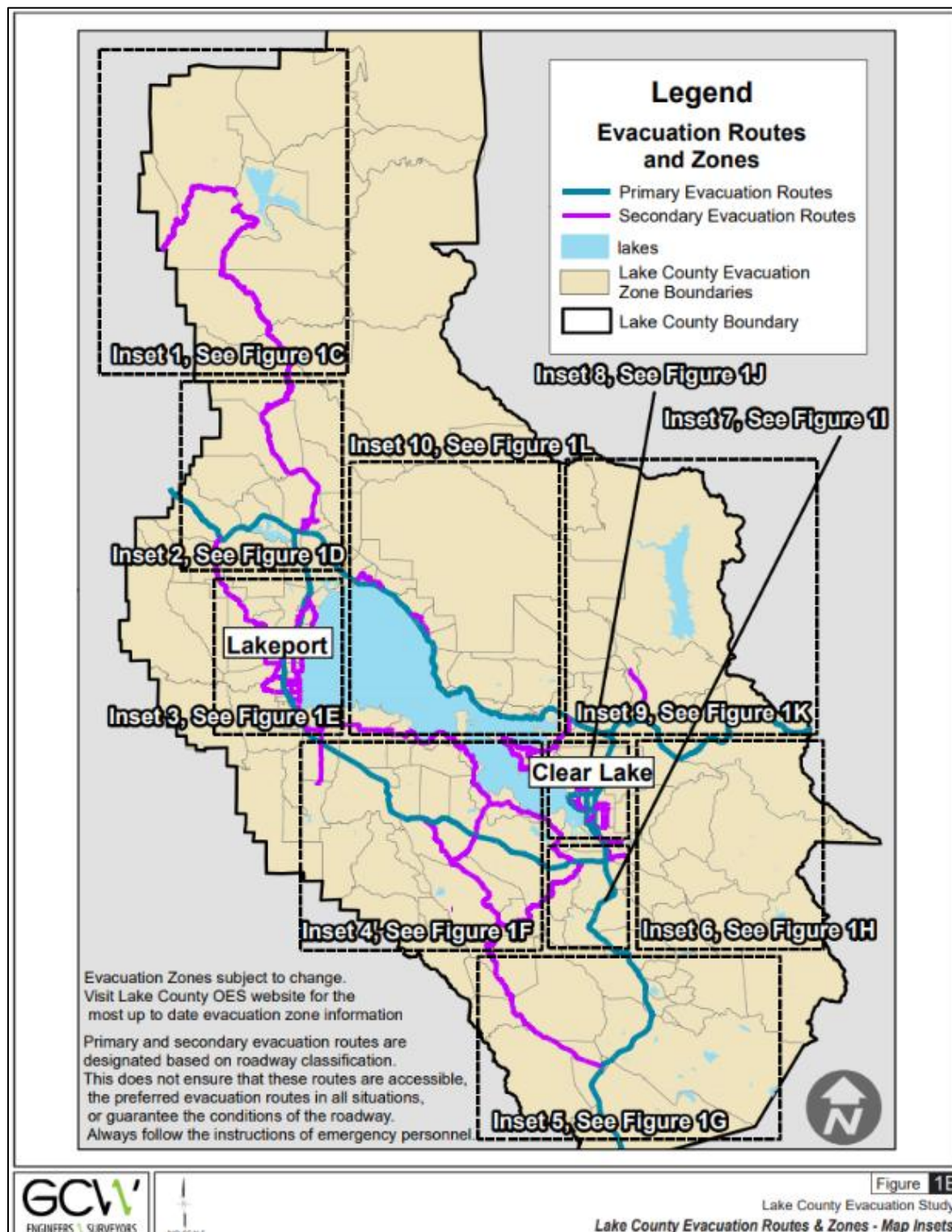


Figure 5: Lake County Evacuation Routes and Zones Map Inserts



Figure 1C - Lake Pillsbury

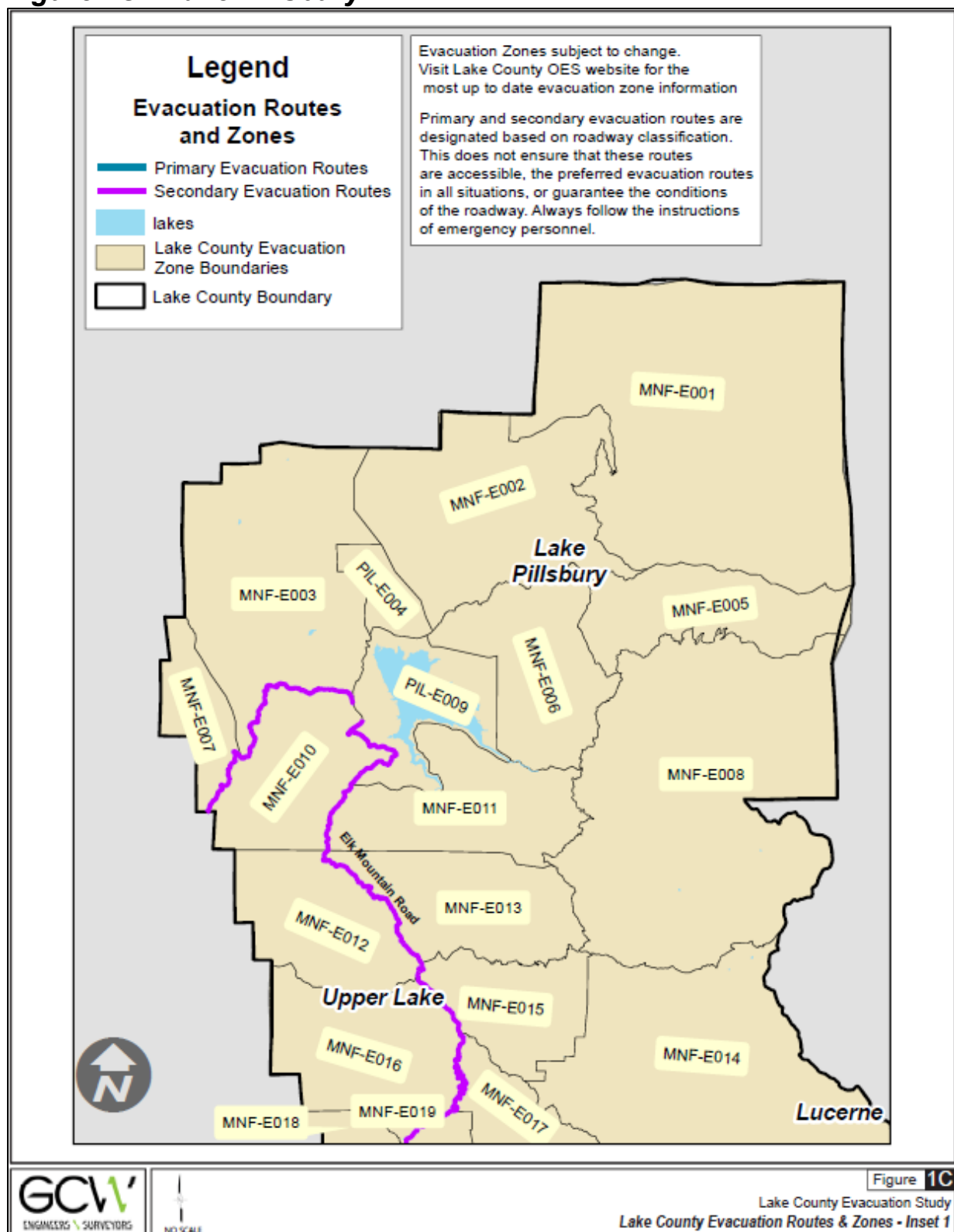


Figure 6: Evacuation Routes and Zone – Lake Pillsbury



Figure 1D – Upper Lake

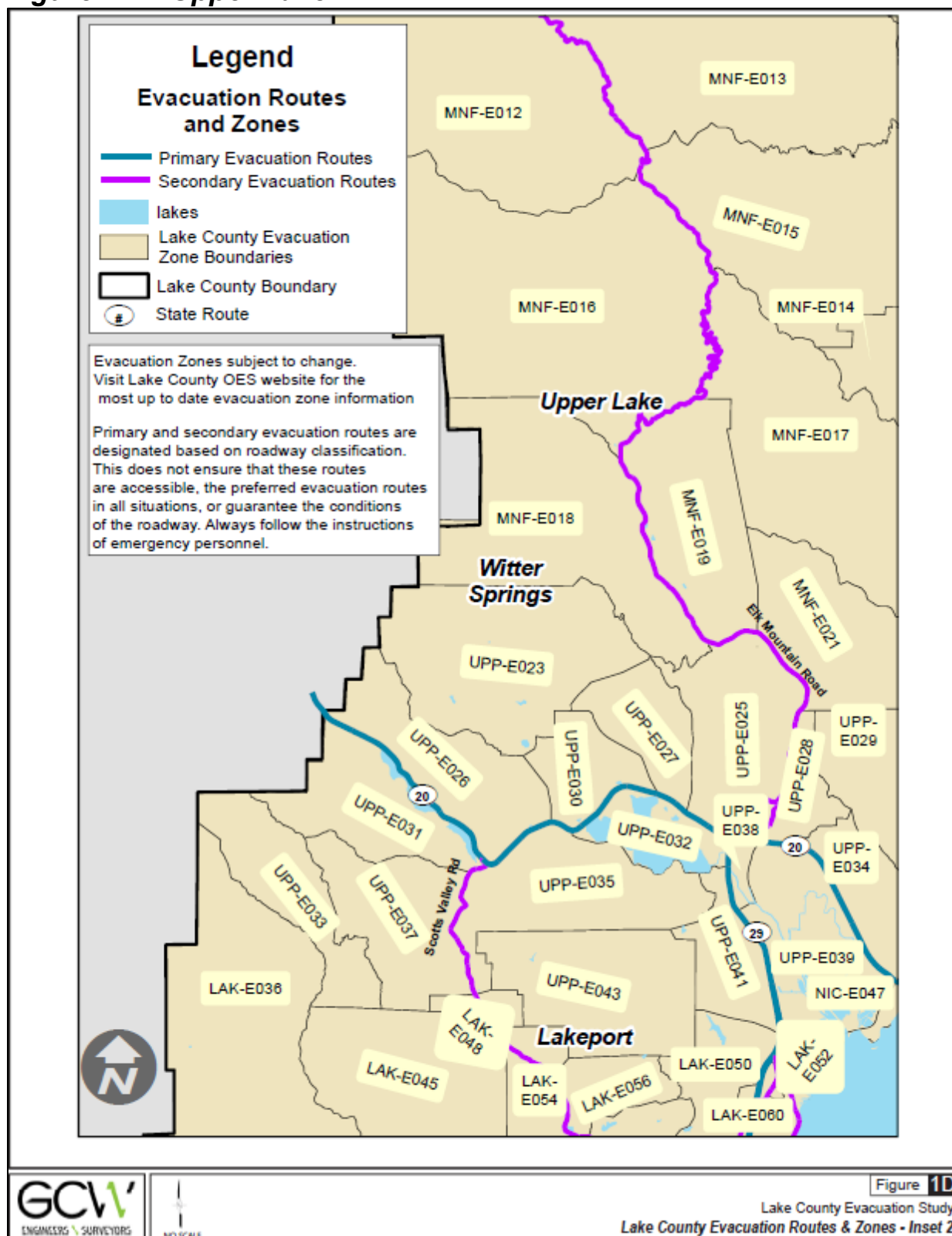


Figure 7: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Upper Lake



Figure 1E – Lakeport

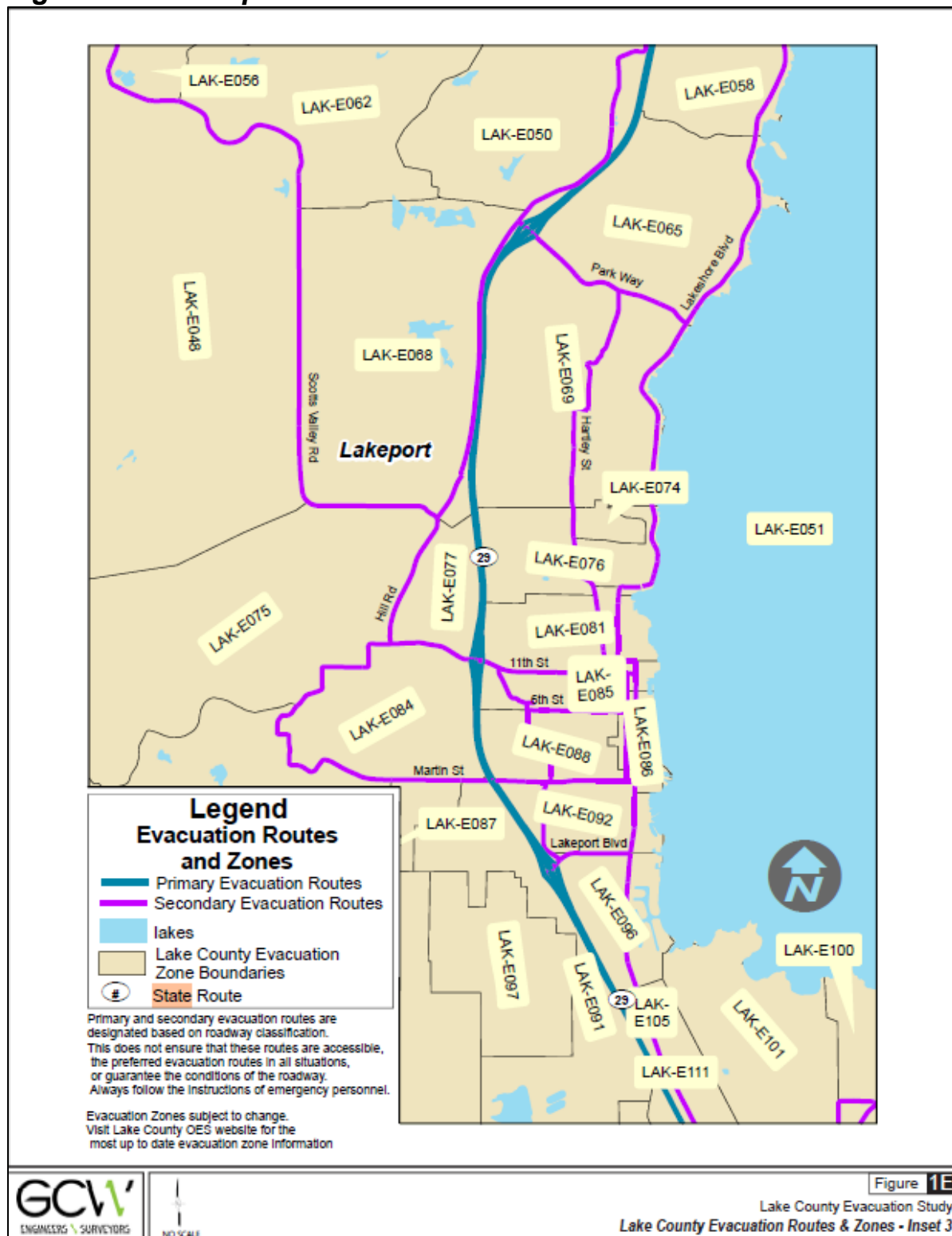


Figure 8: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Lakeport



Figure 1F – Kelseyville

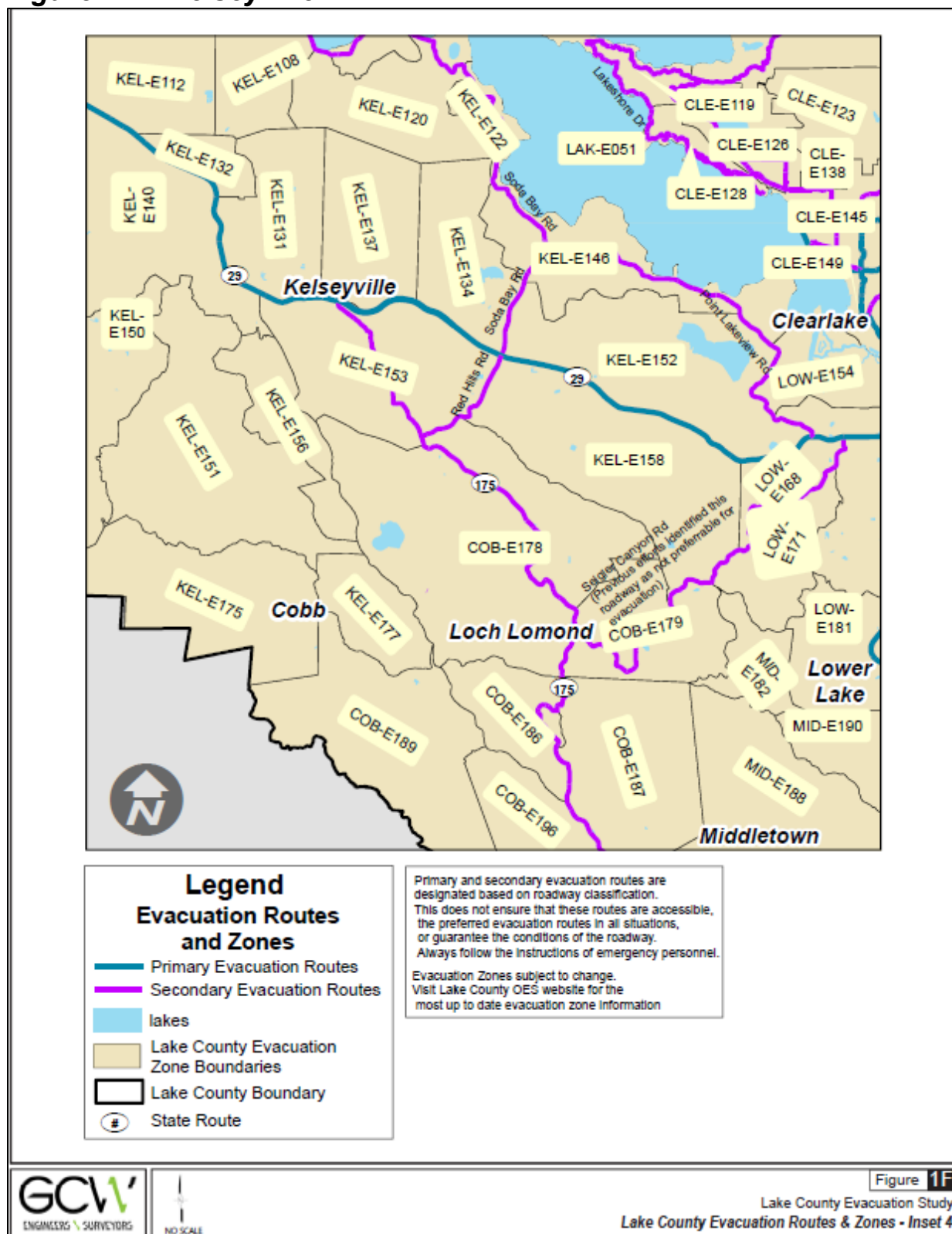


Figure 9: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Kelseyville



Figure 1G – Middletown

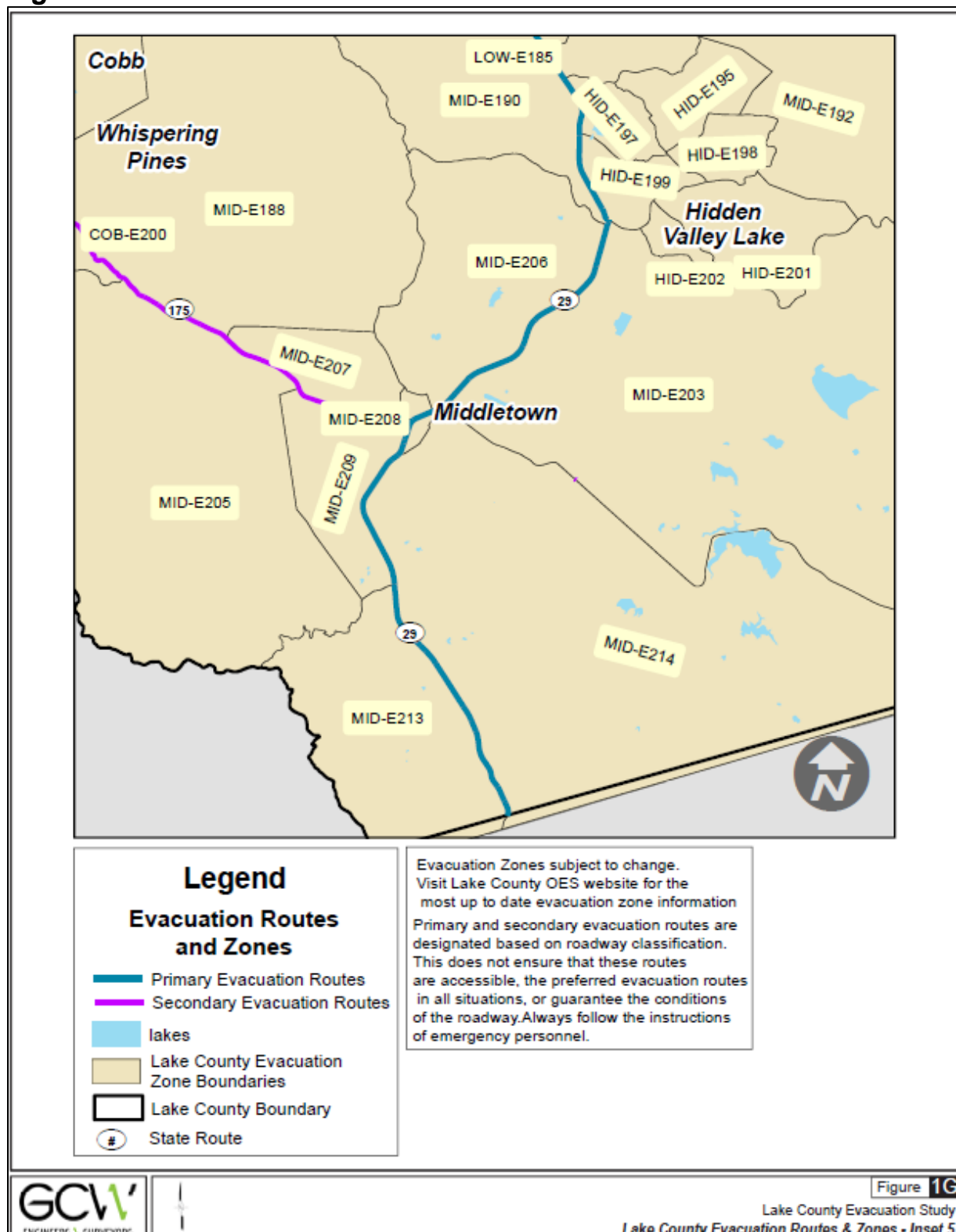


Figure 10: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Middletown



Figure 1H – Clearlake Oaks

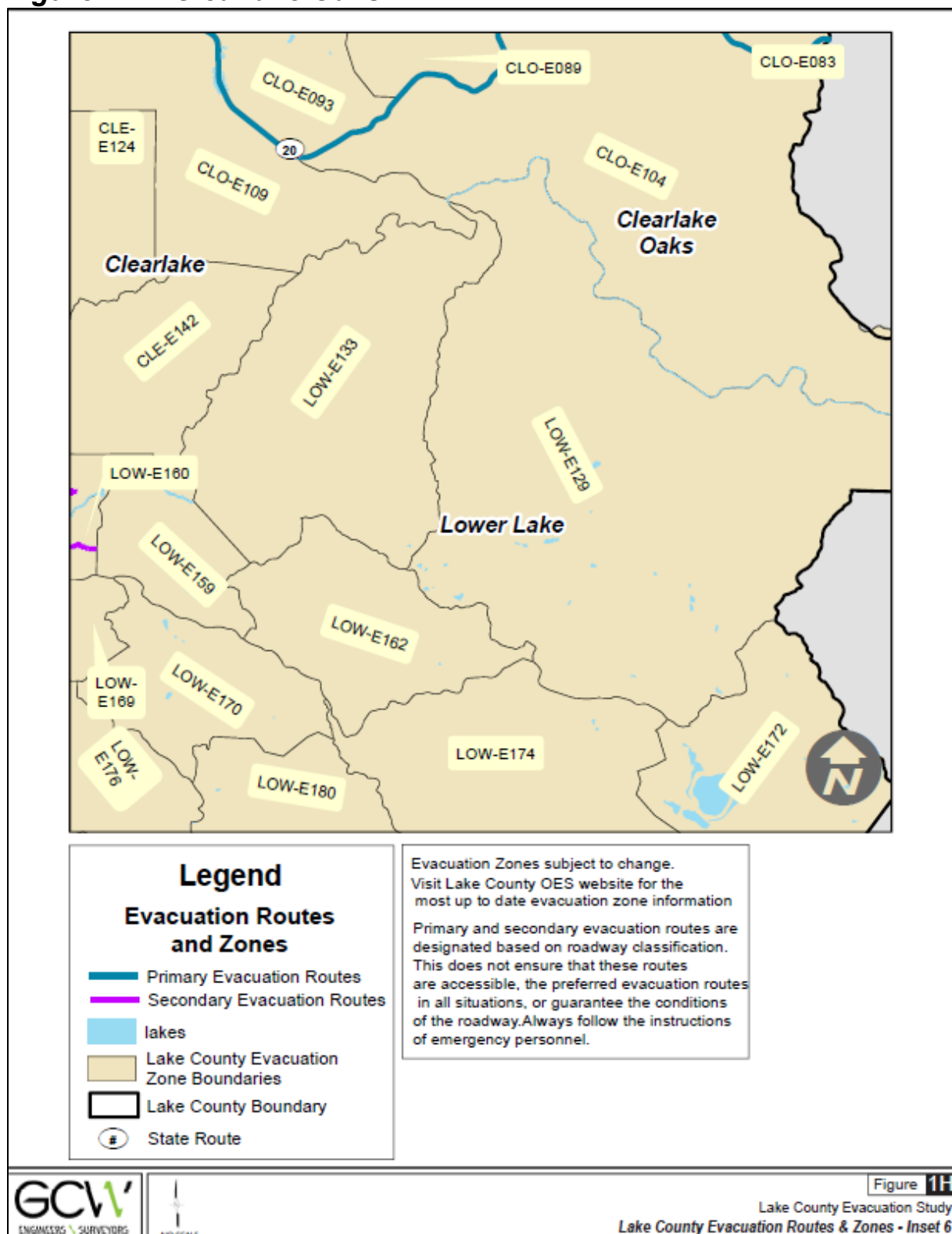


Figure 11: Evacuation Routes and Zone – Clearlake Oaks



Figure 11 – Lower Lake

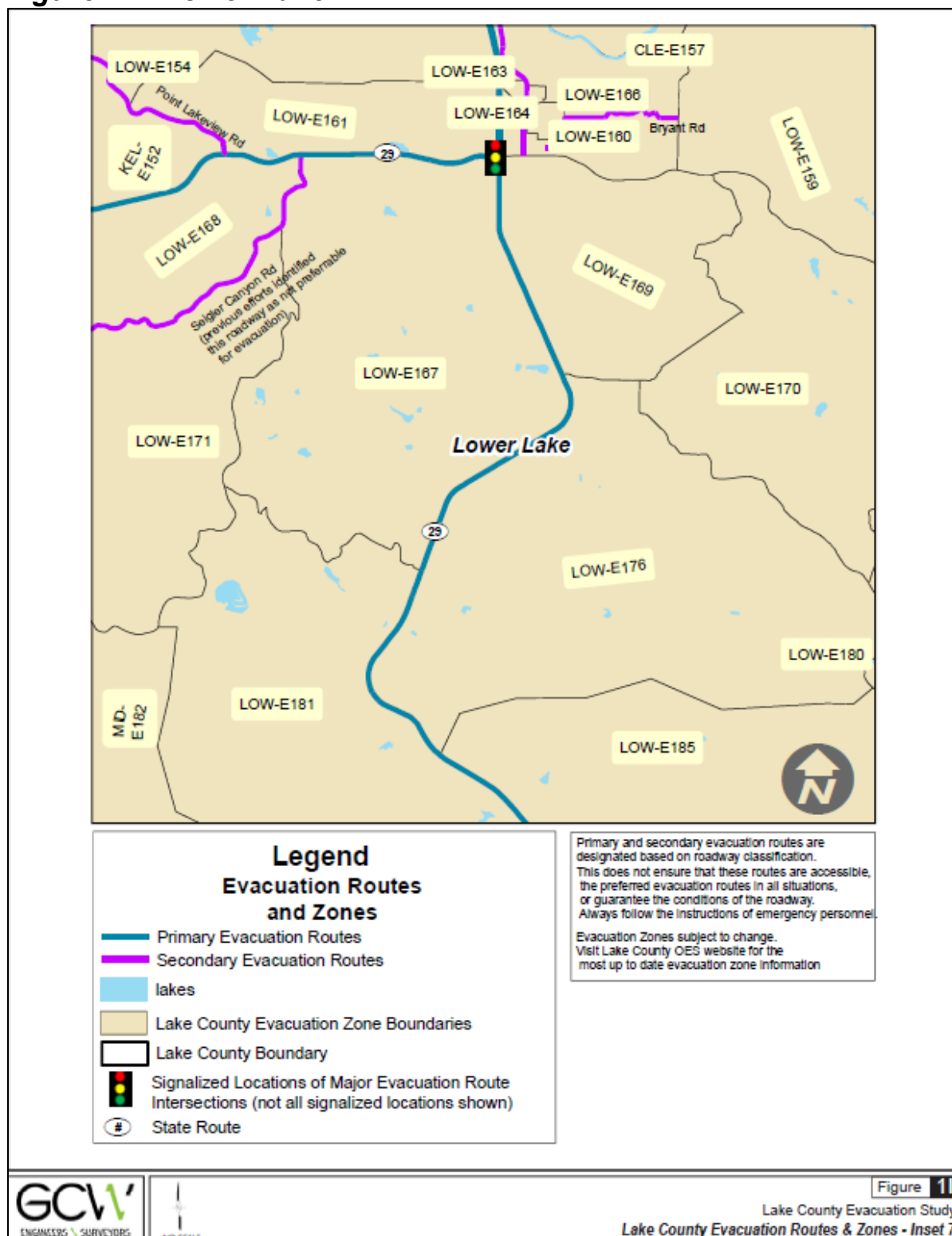


Figure 12: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Lower Lake



Figure 1K – Lucerne

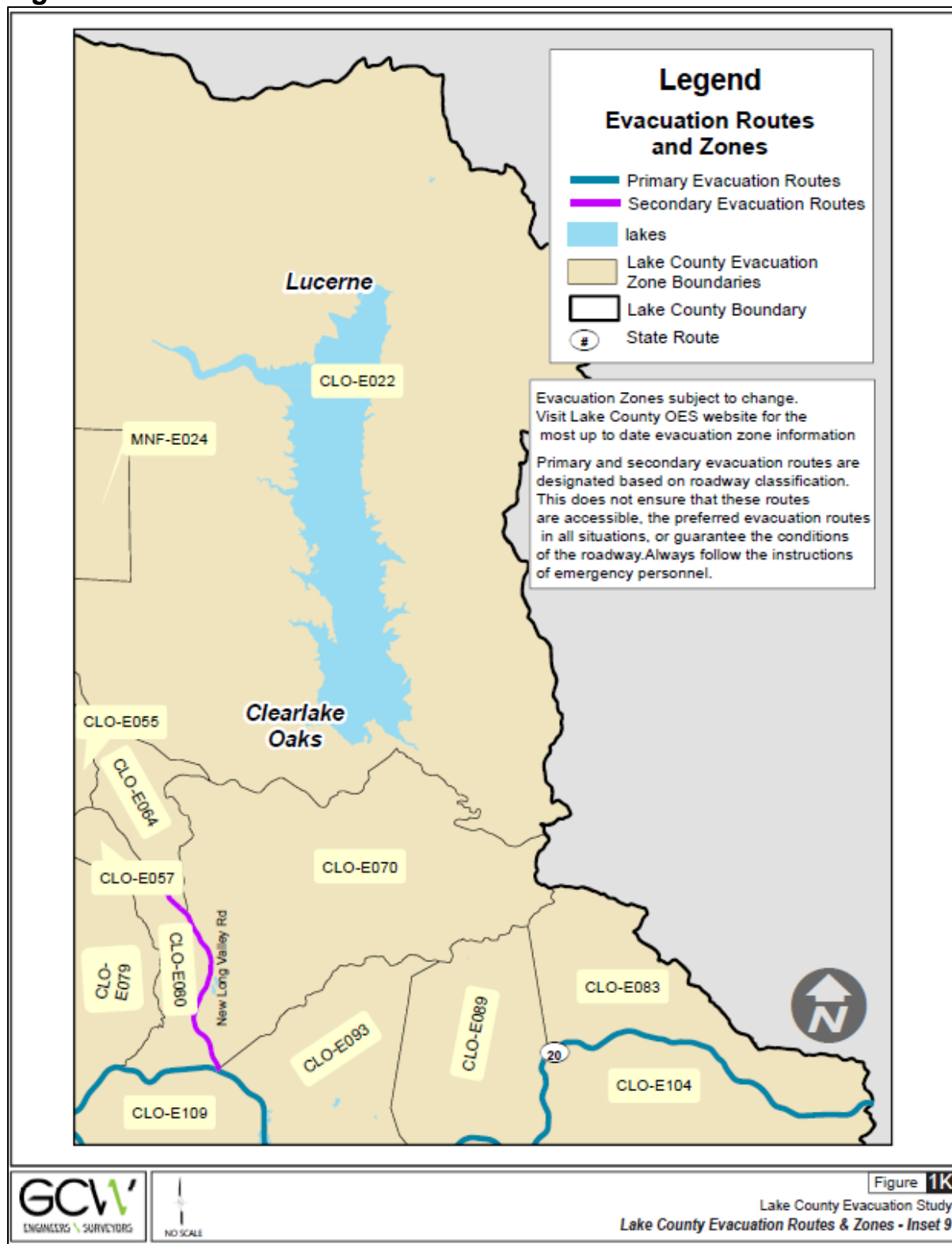


Figure 14: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Lucerne

Figure 1L – Glenhaven



Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan

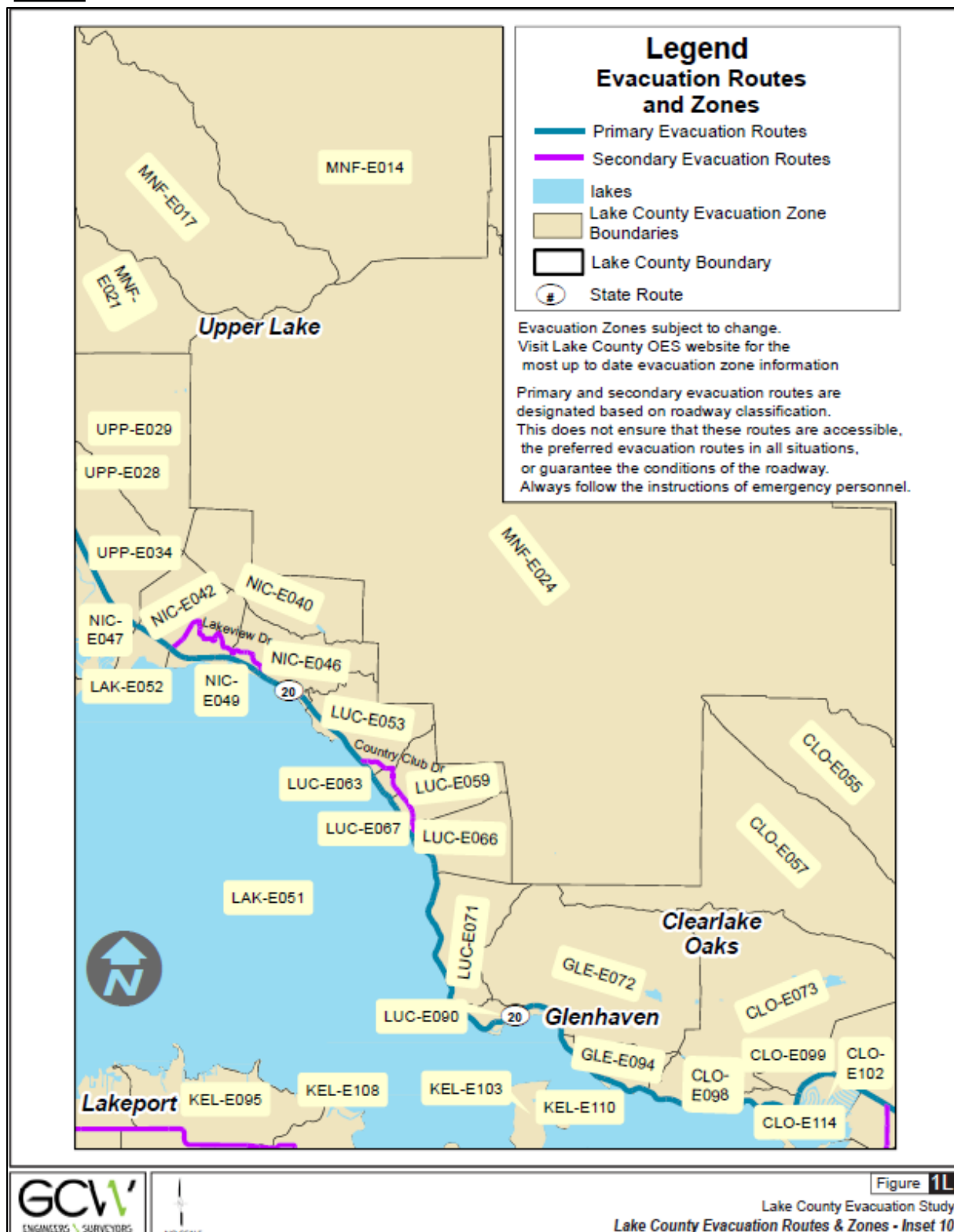


Figure 15: Evacuation Routes and Zone - Glenhaven



Appendix C – Contingency Routes

To provide guidance for identifying and activating alternate or contingency evacuation routes when primary routes are unavailable or unsafe during a wildfire incident. This appendix supports flexible, risk-informed decision-making and coordination between law enforcement, fire agencies, transportation partners, and emergency management personnel.

- Wildfires may block or threaten primary evacuation routes with little warning.
- Smoke, debris, downed power lines, or accidents may render primary roads impassable.
- Alternate and contingency routes may require real-time validation and support to be usable.
- Effective coordination is essential to prevent bottlenecks, miscommunications, and route conflicts.

Table 13: Contingency Route Types to Evaluate

Route Type	Use Case	Considerations
Rural/mountain crossovers	When highway routes are blocked (e.g., SR 175 to US-101)	May require signage, escort vehicles, or communication relays.
Ferry or lake-based evacuation	If all land routes are blocked or communities are cut off	Requires marine coordination, launch access, and safe dock sites.
One-way/reverse-lane flow ("contraflow")	High-volume escape from bottleneck-prone areas	Requires extensive law enforcement and signage.
Service/dirt/fire roads	As last-resort options in rural areas	Use only if scouted and confirmed safe; avoid AFN transport use.
Parallel local roads	Temporary redirection when highways are gridlocked	Assess traffic signal control, intersections, and narrow segments.

Table 14: Contingency Route Considerations

Action	Completed (Y/N)	Resources/Special Considerations
Identify contingency routes based on current road conditions.		
Monitor fire behavior and road conditions near primary routes.		Use AlertCalifornia cameras and Fire Behavior Analyst forecasts.



Action	Completed (Y/N)	Resources/Special Considerations
Assess route capacity, grade, signage, and access limitations. Validate contingency route accessibility in real time.		Send scout units or drones where possible.
Develop signage and barricade deployment for contingency routes.		Coordinate activation with law enforcement, traffic supervisors, and Caltrans.
Communicate contingency route through identified communications channels.		Use zone-based messaging and real-time updates.
Evaluate AFN implications (e.g., road grades unsuitable for para-transit or ambulances).		Cross-reference with any available AFN registries and medical transport assets.
Map contingency routes and integrate them into evacuation zone planning.		



Appendix D – Alternative Fuel Sites

This appendix supports collaborative planning and rapid decision-making, recognizing that wildfire conditions may shift rapidly and fuel needs will vary by location, duration, and incident scale.

- Wildfires may compromise access to retail fuel sites due to road closures, power outages, or fire behavior.
- First responders, public transit, utility repair teams, and evacuees may require priority refueling access.
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure may be limited, require backup power, or face grid instability.
- Local and regional mutual aid resources may arrive without full situational awareness of fuel site conditions.

Table 15: Alternative Fuel Coordination Considerations

Action	Completed (Y/N)	Resources/Special Considerations
Create a shared fuel site inventory including hours, generator backup, and access routes.		Gasoline, Diesel, Propane, & EV
Execute MOUs with key fuel stations for emergency refueling priority.		Ensure mobile fuel tankers are identified in vendor or mutual aid agreements.
Identify alternative fuel depots with above-ground tanks.		City yards, school bus depots, PG&E sites, etc.
Assess the operability of known fuel sites.		Status Backup power Accessibility
Identify which sites are closest to major response zones or evacuation corridors.		
Activate priority fueling procedures and communicate with response partners.		
Track usage and project fuel needs for at least 48–72 hours.		
Identify EV charging limitations and direct evacuees accordingly.		



Appendix E – Acronyms

AAR: After-Action Report	MHOAC: Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator
ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act	MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
AFN: Access and Functional Needs	NEMT: Non-Emergency Medical Transport
APC: Lake Area Planning Council	NGO: Non-Governmental Agency
ARC: American Red Cross	NIMS: National Incident Management System
ASL: American Sign Language	NMT: Non-medical Transport
CalEPA: California Environmental Protection Agency	NRF: National Response Framework
CalOES: California Office	OA EOC: Operational Area Emergency Operations Center
Caltrans: California Department of Transportation	OA: Operational Area
CDC: Centers for Disease Control	OEHA: Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
CDSS: California Department of Developmental Services	OES: Office of Emergency Services
CHP: California Highway Patrol	PIO: Public Information Officer
CIKR: Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources	PPD-8: Presidential Policy Directive 8
CMS: Changeable Message Sign	PSPS: Public Safety Power Shutoff
COAD: Community Organizations Active in Disaster	PWD/AFN: Persons with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)	RCRC: Redwood Coast Regional Center
CPG: Comprehensive Preparedness Guide	SEMS: Standardized Emergency Management System
EAS: Emergency Alert System	SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
EMS: Emergency Medical Services	TAG: Technical Advisory Group
EOC: Emergency Operations Center	TCP: Traffic Control Points
EOP: Emergency Operations Plan	TEP: Temporary Evacuation Point
ESF: Emergency Support Functions	USGS: United States Geological Survey
EV: Electric Vehicle	VA: Veterans Affairs
FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency	WEA: Wireless Emergency Alert
GIS: Geographic Information Systems	WUI: Wildland Urban Interface
ICS: Incident Command System	
IPAWS: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System	
JIC: Joint Information Center	
LNU: Lake-Napa Unit	
LTA: Lake Transit Authority	