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May 8, 2025

Storey County Prepares for Virginia City Highlands Wildfire Evacuation Drill

Virginia City, NV— On May 6, Storey County Emergency Management and other county officials hosted a Town Hall meeting to share details about the upcoming **Virginia City Highlands Wildfire Evacuation Drill**, scheduled for **June 14, 2025**, at **7:30 a.m.**

The drill is designed to test evacuation readiness in this high-risk wildfire zone and to help local responders evaluate coordination and communication systems.

What Residents Can Expect:

- At 7:30 a.m. on June 14, residents will receive a **Smart911 alert** by text, phone call, and/or email instructing them to evacuate.
- Residents should be prepared to leave with their go-bags as if responding to a real wildfire.
- Pets and livestock do **not** need to be included in the drill.
- The **evacuation route will be communicated the morning of the drill**, and residents will be directed to a staging area with local safety resources.

“This drill is an important step in making sure our community is prepared in the event of a wildfire,” said Storey County Sheriff Mike Cullen. “We want residents to take it seriously, but also remember it’s a practice run so everyone can learn what to do.”

How to Stay Informed:

All residents, regardless of where they live in Storey County, are strongly encouraged to sign up for **Smart911 Alerts**, the county’s official emergency notification system.

Residents can sign up at: www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=storeycounty.

On the day of the drill, the **Storey County Sheriff’s Office** will also be driving through the area using a megaphone system to alert residents.

Help Spread the Word:

County officials are asking residents to **let their neighbors know** about the drill, especially those who may not be active on social media or who may not have access to online updates.

Evacuation Alert Levels:

Emergency Manager Adam Wilson reviewed Nevada's standardized evacuation alert system:

- **Level 1 – Be Ready:** Prepare to evacuate; have your plan and go-kit ready; assist people with special needs.
- **Level 2 – Be Set:** High danger in the area; follow your evacuation plan.
- **Level 3 – GO NOW:** Imminent danger; leave immediately without delay.

Addressing Community Concerns:

At the Town Hall, residents asked about home security during the drill. The **Sheriff's Office** assured residents that deputies will **patrol the area, secure access points, and verify IDs** of anyone entering.

For households with residents unable to evacuate due to illness or mobility concerns, please contact **Storey County Health & Community Services** at **775-847-0957** so arrangements can be made in the event of an actual emergency.

Next Steps:

More details will be provided in the coming weeks on the county's social media and website. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to:

- Sign up for Smart911 Alerts
- Review the wildfire evacuation checklist on the [county website](#)
- Prepare a go-bag

For more information or to verify your contact information in the emergency system, contact **Storey County Emergency Management** at **775-847-3577** or visit: www.storeycounty.org/297/Emergency-Management.

Contact Information:

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About Storey County

Nestled in the mountains of Western Nevada, Storey County is a historic region renowned for its rich mining heritage, vibrant community, and progressive approach to economic development. Home to the iconic Virginia City, the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center (TRI-Center), and a thriving business environment, Storey County blends its historical legacy with a forward-looking vision for the future. The county government is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its residents through effective public services, public safety

initiatives, and economic growth strategies. With a commitment to community well-being, Storey County ensures that both its rural and industrial areas prosper while preserving their unique character.

For more information, visit www.storeycounty.org.