



**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS  
Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** December 16, 2025

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Alex Keeble-Toll – Director of Emergency Services

**SUBJECT:** Informational presentation from the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services and local agency stakeholders regarding collaboration and preparedness for the 25/26 winter weather season.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Accept the presentation from the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services and local agency stakeholders.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**BACKGROUND:** The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) works under the Emergency Preparedness Board Objective, leading the community in all hazards planning, preparedness, response, and recovery with a focus on wildfire. OES focuses on improving county-wide evacuation routes and safety, continuing to strengthen early alert and critical communication systems, and working with residents and community partners in emergency preparedness, defensible space, home hardening, green waste disposal, and fire-safe land stewardship.

Nevada County continues to face significant winter storm threats as climate change drives increasingly severe and unpredictable weather patterns. In recent years, atmospheric rivers and low-elevation snow events have produced storms capable of crippling the community for extended periods, compromising essential infrastructure and putting residents' lives at risk.

The December 2021 Winter Storm triggered a two-week major disaster, resulting in both State and Local Emergency proclamations. Similarly, the February 2023 Winter Storm devastated wide portions of the county, requiring local, state, and federal emergency declarations as well as coordinated disaster assistance. Across both events, prolonged

power outages, tree failures, and damage to telecommunications systems disrupted mobility, commerce, and access to critical services.

These storms demonstrated that Nevada County can experience weeks-long impacts from a single weather system. Downed trees, snapped power lines, blocked roadways, and widespread communication outages have repeatedly halted daily life and hindered emergency response. With the increasing unpredictability of winter storm behavior, including the potential for low-snow events, proactive, community-level preparation is essential.

To meet this challenge, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and a broad coalition of local partners have initiated a coordinated winter-season preparedness effort. This includes operational readiness exercises, planning meetings, infrastructure hardening, communication improvements, community education, and interagency collaboration.

This presentation will provide the Board of Supervisors with:

- A concise review of lessons learned from the 2021 and 2023 Winter Storm disasters.
- An overview of the coordinated, cross-sector preparedness actions underway for the 2025–26 winter season.
- Key priorities and recommendations to strengthen community resilience and protect lives, property, and critical infrastructure.

Our goal is to ensure Nevada County is better positioned, better coordinated, and better equipped to withstand the next major winter storm.

**Item Initiated by:** Paul Cummings, OES Program Manager

**Approved by:** Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services