

**The following meeting summary was generated by A.I. and subsequently reviewed by staff for accuracy.*

The quarterly meeting held by Inyo County Supervisor for District 1, Trina Orrill, focused on emergency response and disaster preparedness in Inyo County. The meeting aimed to inform the community about preparedness and response strategies, with attendees encouraged to ask questions during the presentation.

Emergency Preparedness

The panel, including representatives from Inyo County Department of Health and Human Services, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services, and Bishop Fire Department, discussed their roles in disaster situations.

Assistant Sheriff Tim Bachman explained the use of the Genasys platform for emergency notifications, and Emergency Services Manager Lisa Cox presented how to find resources on preparedness using the ReadyInyo website, while Chief Brett Russell outlined public safety measures and the operations of the Bishop Fire Department.

Emergency Notification System Overview

Assistant Sheriff Bachman explained the Genasys system, which is used for disseminating emergency notifications, primarily during wildfires and floods. He emphasized that while the system is an additional tool, the primary method of evacuation remains door-to-door notifications. Bachman described the system's components, including a resident signup for notifications via phone, text, or email, and a forced notification system using the IPAWS system.

Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Planning

Lisa Cox presented information on emergency preparedness and evacuation planning, highlighting the importance of advance planning to ensure quick and decisive action during emergencies. She introduced the ReadyInyo website and Genasys app as tools for accessing real-time data on weather, road closures, and evacuation alerts, emphasizing the ability to customize notifications and register multiple addresses for alerts. She also explained the Genasys zone system, which allows for targeted notifications to specific geographical areas, and mentioned the existence of an Access and Functional Needs database for individuals requiring assistance during evacuations.

ReadyInyo Website Registration for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs

Health and Human Services Deputy Director Melissa Best-Baker explained the process for registering with ReadyInyo's Access Center for Functional Needs, which collects personal information including name, address, phone number, and emergency contact details, along with specific needs such as oxygen dependency and mobility issues. During evacuation warnings, HHS contacts registered individuals to confirm their readiness and provides information about evacuation centers and transportation needs. The system maintains confidentiality, sharing information only with emergency services like the Sheriff's Department and fire departments during crises. Also in attendance and explaining the AFN program was Jonathan Hogan and Gina Ellis from HHS.

Community Fire Safety

Chief Brett Russell discussed the importance of checking smoke detectors and CO alarms, as well as the volunteer nature of the local fire department, which currently has about 40 volunteers. He emphasized the need for early fire reporting and explained the process for potential volunteers to join the department. The meeting also covered the collaboration with the Whitebark Institute on a defensible space program to reduce fire risks, and the role of the fire department in setting up evacuation centers when triggered by law enforcement. Participants were encouraged to sign up for Genasys alerts and visit the ReadyInyo website for more information.