

Nevada Floodplain Management News

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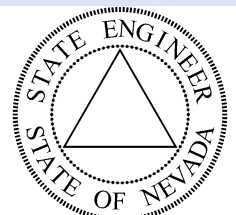
Monsoon season... We certainly need the moisture but it is not without a dangerous catch. Stay safe out there!



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES



A Tale of Two Covids

Written by Sarah Fichtner, NDWR Nevada Floodplain Mapping Coordinator



Well, here we are; Nevada is out of quarantine, over 3 million vaccine doses have been administered in our state and we are getting reacquainted with some of our pre-Covid routines. Here in the Nevada Division of Water Resources Floodplain Management Group, it has been a tough 15 months without being able to do our typical in-person outreach events. Our annual Flood Awareness Week, where we get the overwhelming majority of our contact with the public, had to be conducted virtually in 2020. While we were proud of the virtual material we created, communicating flood-risk is not the same without that face-to-face conversation. So after that long hiatus, it was so exciting to dust off our flood model and get back to conducting outreach and education for flood awareness! You may have spotted our booth at one of these events:

July 14: Douglas County Public Works at Westwood Park (Minden)

July 16: Great Basin Institute’s Galena Summer Camp Presentations (Reno)

Please come say “Hi” if you see our booth at one of our upcoming events:

August 27 - 29: Cantaloupe Festival (Fallon)

September 25: Be Aware, Prepare! (Carson City)

October 3: Smith Valley Fun Day (Wellington)

November 14 - November 20: Flood Awareness Week

We are scheduling more events in the near future. As COVID requirements allow, we will bring our presentation to you at festivals, schools, outreach events and more! Please contact Carlos

Rendo, our Public Outreach Manager, at 775-684-2860 and we will do our best to be there!

It has been a long road, and the surge of Delta Variant Covid cases threaten to make the journey even longer. Regardless of what comes next, we will endeavor to bring flood awareness to Nevadans, one way or another! ~💧💧~



The Nevada Division of Water Resources Floodplain Management booth and flood model eagerly await further outreach events after a lonely 15 months in storage.



Drainage Master Planning and Implementation in Douglas County

Written by Courtney Walker, Stormwater Program Manager

Douglas County has come a long way in planning for mitigation of existing and future drainage and flooding issues around the County. The Johnson Lane community has had flash flooding issues for decades, as development continues to fill in the remaining vacant lots.

Two consecutive summers of intense flash flooding occurred in the Johnson Lane area in 2014 and 2015, prompting a lawsuit between several residents and Douglas County. The County collaborated with the Carson Water Subconservancy District to receive a \$285,000 grant from FEMA to create the Johnson Lane Area Drainage Master Plan (JLADMP). The primary purpose of the JLADMP was to identify the flooding hazards based on existing conditions and provide a prioritized list of projects that will allow the drainage facilities to function to current Douglas County standards.

A settlement agreement was negotiated and finalized in May of 2019. As ordered in the settlement agreement and a subsequent proposed order, four detention basins have been fully funded to be constructed on property owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Douglas County is currently working with the BLM on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to gain approval to construct the detention basins. If the project stays on schedule, the basins could be constructed in the field season of 2022.

Additionally, the County has been working with the plaintiffs to address the remaining drainage issues after the four basins are constructed. A few of the projects that are being considered are the installation of a new culvert, acquisition of drainage easements and po-

tentially purchasing private property to construct an additional detention basin within the subdivision to alleviate further impacts in the area.

A lot of progress has been made in the Johnson Lane area with the drainage master planning and implementation. In addition to that work, Stormwater Maintenance staff have been

improving the road crossings where the Johnson Lane wash crosses Nye Drive, East Valley Road, and Henning Lane. The improvements have consisted of rip-rap on the banks and downstream of the streets to prevent erosion, and pouring concrete in the dip section of Nye Drive to prevent the road from washing out in high flows.



Photos of Nye Drive in the Johnson Lane area before (above) and after (below) drainage improvements.

The Stormwater Management Division has accomplished several projects in a relatively short amount of time! We are hopeful these projects will have a meaningful impact on the Johnson Lane community for decades to come. ~☹☹☹~

Virtual Knowledge Sharing: A Nevada Dam Safety Success Story

Written by Hunter Merritt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources
 Edited by Sarah Moore, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District

Disasters are not positive events. Nobody hopes for them, people rightly fear them, and only rarely are people adequately prepared for them. But opportunities come from disasters too, and if someone with a resilient mindset can look beyond the dark cloud of tragedy brought on by a disaster, there are silver linings to be appreciated. One such silver lining came from this pandemic: the realization that remote work can be as good, perhaps even better in some ways, than the same work in person. This is a story of such a realization.

In the spring of 2020, teams across the Nation, in every sphere of work, learned the value of internet access and technology as they pivoted to virtual platforms to stay on task. Teams also learned the value of personal connections beyond the internet-driven virtual space, tapping into the social credit built by networking that happened prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

And how did this major shift in teaming play out for emergency response and water management folks? Well, for at least one such team – the Nevada Division of Water Resources Dam Safety section – this challenge inspired a new level of knowledge sharing on disaster planning, preparation, and response. The evidence of this “level up” is in the Virtual Webinar Series on Emergency Action Plans and Tabletop Exercises, recorded and available at the Nevada flood risk awareness website www.nevadafloods.org.

The virtual workshops included -

- 26 August 2020: “Dam Safety Emergency Action Plans and Table Top Exercise – A Primer”
- 21 April 2021: “Emergency Action Plans (EAP)”
- 26 May 2021: “Exercising Your Emergency Action Plan”

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Photo 1: Participants joined the workshops virtually.

Virtual Knowledge Sharing: A Nevada Dam Safety Success Story

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The value and comparison of this virtual method to in-person meetings has already been exhaustively analyzed, in all types of forums, from teambuilding to education (for example, click [HERE](#) for an article on HyFlex teaching methods). One can simply perform a search of the topic on a browser and a litany of articles will expound on the subject; most of the conclusions are in favor of in-person for the quality of the meeting, connection of participants, and communication between individuals with non-verbal media such as body language and facial expressions to indicate emotion.

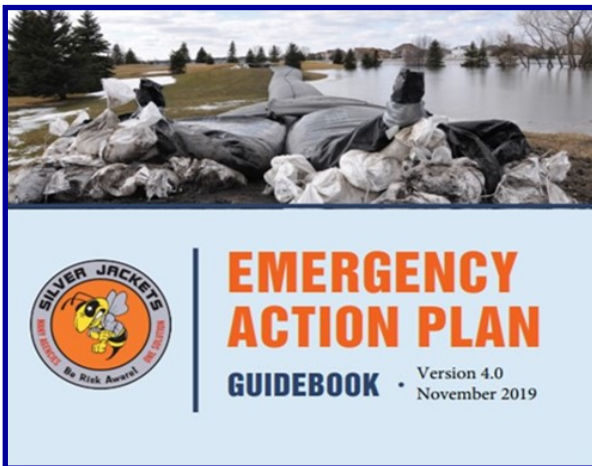


Photo 2: USACE [Emergency Action Plan Guidebook](#) was referenced throughout the virtual workshops.

What are some of the benefits of virtual meetings? Well, for one, look at the cost savings: what would it cost to have every emergency response office bring in an expert from another state and have them present for an hour? A round trip flight from, Huntington, West Virginia, to Reno, Nevada, two nights in a hotel, rental car, and three days of labor. That adds up, quickly! Multiply that times a half dozen, and you can see thousands of dollars in savings, enough to offset the investment in an enterprise virtual technology platform.

Aside from the cost savings, the ability to bring together folks from their desks is really not unlike what might happen in a real disaster scenario. The “pivot to virtual” is here to stay and learning the mechanics of virtual meeting ahead of time is just as important as understanding the details of an actual flood or other natural hazard event.

The agencies charged with emergency response are appreciating that the pandemic may have closed many doors, but twice as many windows have now opened. The challenge will be for our workforce to adapt – as we always do – to incorporate virtual technologies in all aspects of our business, and to make the silver lining the focus of our effort, not the cloud of disaster. ~💧💧💧~



Nevada’s Flood After Fire Guide: Coming Soon!!!

Written by Danae Olsen, **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District**
and Elise Jarrett, **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Water Resources Planner**



The Nevada Silver Jackets Team is currently developing a statewide flood after fire guide, a consolidated resource that will provide pertinent flood risk information to help residents be better prepared for what comes before, during, and after a wildfire. This effort is part of the Nevada Post-Wildfire Workshops project, which is an inter-agency effort between Federal, State, and local agencies working to reduce flood risk throughout Nevada. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Sacramento District is scheduled to present on the guide at the September 2021 [Living with Fire](#) virtual workshop. In addition to the guide, other deliverables that will be developed include education and outreach materials to help convey post-wildfire flooding risks and a flood after fire workshop. ~💧💧💧~



Upcoming Training and Conference Announcements

June thru September | Hazard Mitigation Grant monthly Q&A sessions with Janell Woodward- last Monday of each month

Sept. 7 - 10 | Floodplain Management Association (FMA) Annual Conference

Nov. 14 - 20 | Nevada Flood Awareness Week

The next issue of the Nevada Floodplain Management News will feature:
**A Collection of useful Video Resources, Better Know a Watershed,
And new Flood Education materials for your Community**



Nevada Floodplain Management News is a Publication of the Nevada Floodplain Management Program

To Submit New Content, or if you have Questions or Comments

If you have any questions or comments regarding the content of this newsletter or are interested in contributing articles to future Nevada Floodplain Management Bulletin, please contact Nevada Division of Water Resources, Floodplain Mapping Coordinator, Sarah: sfichtner@water.nv.gov or our Public Outreach Manager, Carlos: crendo@water.nv.gov.

