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Department of Public Safety  
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
2003 Legislative Session

B/A 3673 – 1/29/03 Legislative Budget Subcommittee Presentation

The Division of Emergency Management's mission, under the authority of NRS 414, is to coordinate and facilitate the many efforts of the state and its political subdivisions together in partnership with private and volunteer organizations and tribal nations, through planning, training, exercise and equipment initiatives in mitigating against, preparing for, responding to and recovering from the impact of a natural, manmade or technological emergency/disaster. Through multiple federal programs, the Division provides financial and technical support to state agencies and local governments in preparing for and maintaining a readiness capability to respond to and recover from all hazards.

As the central point of coordination for all state assets during an emergency/disaster, the Division maintains responsibility for maintenance, staffing and activation of the state's emergency operations center for support to state agencies and local governments in responding to an event. Further, in the face of a catastrophic event, the Division provides a crucial link for local government to access state and federal disaster assistance programs.

The Governor's budget for the Division is supported primarily by 90% in federal funds consisting of grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Energy and Department of Justice. The remaining 10% of the budget is funded by state general funds to meet the necessary matching requirement for the Federal Emergency Management Agency grant program.

The top three priorities for the Division for the next biennium are as follows:

- Ensure the continual, comprehensive and integrated development, revision and exercise of emergency operations planning and training
- Program and financial management of approximately \$14 million from the multiple federal grant programs received by the Division with a 94% pass-through to state and local agencies
- Maintenance and management of the state's Emergency Operations Center to include the continual training of emergency response staff

The Governor's budget was prepared to enable the Division to meet the above objectives. If the above objectives are not met, there is an increased risk that a coordinated, effective and efficient response to an emergency would not be accomplished resulting in an increased threat to loss of life, safety, health and property.

It should further be noted that the federal government continues to place responsibility on the states for the administration of all homeland security grant programs with little, or in most cases, no assistance to the states for staffing or operational costs. Management and administration of these grants funds include numerous unfunded federal mandates such as: statewide strategic plans, local government plan revisions, intrastate mutual aid agreement, management and oversight of additional subgrants, and state plans to standardize equipment, communications and emergency first responder training. If these mandates are not met, the state cannot qualify for funding and therefore will jeopardize receipt of millions of dollars for state and local agencies.

Finally, the Governor has recommended a capitol improvement project proposing the building of a new emergency management facility/operations center. The existing facility is in much need of significant renovations and upgrades to make it fully functional and maintain a reasonable level of employee health and safety. Specifically, the existing facility experiences problems with raw sewage backup and moisture seeping through the walls. The Division will be seeking federal funds to assist in the construction costs associated with the proposed new facility.