

Mutual Aid Evacuation Agreement

Washoe County is at risk for many natural and technological disasters, and it is not unthinkable that at least one healthcare facility might have to be evacuated during a disaster.

In order to ensure compliance of patient safety and business continuity concepts, as well as acknowledging the need to comply with standards and requirements for evacuation planning for healthcare facilities, a plan has been developed. Best practices and nationally recognized standards include Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) Hospital Evacuation Decision Guide (July 2018), California Hospital Association Hospital Evacuation Plan Checklist (August 2017), the Nursing Home Incident Command System Incident Evacuation Response Guide (2017) and the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) Hospital Evacuation Incident Planning Guide.

The Mutual Aid Evacuation Agreement (MAEA) aims to optimize the medical care and safety of patients who have been evacuated from a healthcare facility with minimal disruption to the community's acute care system. The goal is to integrate this plan into the current medical disaster planning efforts of the Washoe County Health District (WCHD), as well as the Washoe County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). It is also intended to be coordinated with other applicable city and county emergency procedures.

In 2016, the WCHD expanded the scope of healthcare evacuation planning efforts to include skilled nursing, long-term care, rehabilitation, memory care. By adding non-acute care facilities into the MAEA there is an increased bed capacity, and agencies could send patients to similar facilities within the community.