



COUNTY OF LAKE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
P.O. Box 9000
Lower Lake, CA 95457

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Social Services Director
Public Guardian/Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR – SHELTERING UPDATES

15975 Anderson Ranch Parkway, Lower Lake, CA

As residents of Lake County, we are familiar with the threat of wildfire the summer season brings. While our county has experienced some relief from the drought, the threat of wildfire continues to be a concern during the successive days of increased temperature. As usual, the Department of Social Services will work with the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, American Red Cross, Lake County Public Health, Lake County Office of Education, Lake County Animal Control and many other partners to ensure that sheltering is available for those residents who come under evacuation orders. Sheltering operations will not be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions this year so shelters will return to pre-COVID operation practices.

However, meals provided by shelters will continue to follow COVID operation practices, in that meals will be provided in a pre-packaged individual format rather than reverting to buffet style self-service. This has proven effective at mitigating the spread of other non-COVID infections such as the flu and norovirus.

There is significant work being done by the American Red Cross and Lake County Animal Control to allow for certain shelters to potentially have designated household pet friendly areas. Depending upon available resources and the situation, household pets may need to be housed at a different location and/or certain shelters may be designated as "pet friendly" while others are not.

It is highly recommended that Lake County residents consider what alternatives they have to sheltering. For example, if you have friends or family outside of the evacuated area, you may consider staying with them. Check with your home or rental insurance carrier, many will pay for the cost of a motel and meals during an evacuation.

Make sure your home is as fire proofed as possible, visit the Lake County Fire Safe Council website for more information: www.firesafelake.org/home-hardening/

One alert and warning method utilized by the Lake County Sheriff's Office to notify residents in case of emergency is *LakeCoAlerts*— register today and maintain current contact information by visit www.lakesheriff.com and click on "Emergency Notifications". Alerts will include the zone numbers of

Administration
Phone (707) 995-4260
FAX (707) 995-4294

Adult Services
Phone (707) 995-4680
FAX (707) 995-4661

Child Welfare Services
Phone (707) 262-0235
FAX (707) 262-0299

Eligibility
Phone (707) 995-4200
FAX (707) 995-4204

Employment Services
Phone (707) 995-9015
FAX (707) 995-9055

impacted areas. Do you Know Your Zone? Visit www.lakesheriff.com/about/oes or <https://community.zonehaven.com/> to look up your zone number by address.

Follow the Lake County Sheriff's Office and Office of Emergency services on social media for the latest updates and important information, including a budget friendly "8 Weeks (steps) to Prepare for Fire Season with OES": <https://www.facebook.com/lakesheriff> and <https://www.facebook.com/LakeCountyOES/>.

Prepare your "go bag" now! You will need enough supplies for at least three to five days. This is a critical step in preparing your family for emergencies. Based on your unique needs consider the following:

- food and water
- personal hygiene items - deodorant, a toothbrush, clean clothing, tissues
- infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes
- important documents
- contact information for healthcare, pharmacy, and medical equipment providers
- medication
- face coverings for every member of your family
- hand sanitizer
- pet food
- cash, credit or debit cards

Plan to bring any durable medical equipment such as mobility aids or oxygen devices with you when evacuating.

Every Lake County resident must do their part to prevent wildfires and prepare for evacuation. However, if sheltering is needed, you can count on us to help.

Crystal Markytan, MA
Director
Lake County Department of Social Services
PA/PG/PC
Area Agency on Aging – PSA26
Lake County Housing Authority

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