



WASHOE COUNTY'S FLOOD FAQ'S

Questions for March 29 Lemmon Valley Community Meeting

- 1. If my house is red tagged, does it have to be fixed by contractors?**
 - a. Under Nevada State Law, the work does not need to be completed by a contractor if this is your primary residence and you are not renting or leasing the property. The initial review by staff is based on life safety and is not intended to identify or uncover all damage that needs to be repaired at the home. We suggest that a design professional be consulted in the necessary repairs, to make sure that all repairs needed are identified and completed. A design professional can review the home in depth and recommend the repairs necessary to be completed by either a contractor or homeowner. Please see the [attached handout](#) for more information.
- 2. Can I clean up home by myself?**
 - a. [Home cleanup](#) can be completed by the homeowner and generally does not require a permit. Please see [attached handout](#) for information related to what activities will require a permit vs. those that do not.
- 3. Are the barriers waterproof?**
 - a. The barriers might have small amounts of water seeping out, but it won't affect operations. Crews are monitoring neighborhoods most affected to ensure that progress is maintained. Water pumps will continue to be in place on site until the level of Swan Lake recedes. Back-up pumps are also on hand if needed.
- 4. What is the plan for further development in flood zones?**
 - a. Development has and will continue to be a concern in these closed basins. Washoe County and City of Reno have processes in place for development in flood plains based on the Truckee Meadows Drainage Manual to address impacts of impervious development on native ground. Events like this one require that we review the development code in the context of new information arising from storm events like we have experienced. If changes warrant being made, those recommendations will be put through the code amendment process. As mentioned before this is a collaborative process with the City of Reno and Washoe County in these areas where we both have jurisdiction.
- 5. What is the long term plan to prevent this from happening again?**
 - a. Washoe County and the City of Reno will have to work together to determine whether the information gathered from this record water year is enough to change the development code in these closed basins related to flood management practices followed in the Truckee Meadows Drainage Manual. The mitigation of future flooding will need to be a community/countywide discussion as potential mitigation measures will be extremely expensive to carry out. We have seen past Washoe County flood control projects discussed, studied, and fail due to the lack of appropriate cost vs. benefit ratios.
- 6. Is my water safe to drink?**
 - a. If you are connected to the public water system (Truckee Meadows Water Authority) your water is safe to drink. If you are on a well, water testing kits are available Nevada State Lab on the UNR campus next to Student Health Services and the Mackay Stadium North Parking lot, 1660 N. Virginia Street. For more information please call 775-688-1335. The cost to test is \$12. You can view the [most recent water quality report](#) on the TMWA website. <http://quality.tmwa.com>
- 7. When will Lemmon Drive reopen?**
 - a. Lemmon Drive will reopen when we can ensure it is safe to do so. A timeline is contingent upon many variables leading to the water receding.





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8. What specific locations can residents return sandbags to?

- a. Residents are asked **not** to return or dispose of sandbags and the contents until Washoe County establishes demobilization procedures.

9. How can businesses get in contact with North Valleys Incident Command to offer services?

- a. Go to www.lemmonvalley.recovers.org. Additional services are available through Social Services and through Community Services by contacting 311 (328-2003).

10. If you have any questions about portable restrooms and septic:

- a. Contact the Health District 775-328-2430 or HealthEHS@washoecounty.us.

11. Can we get access to burn barrels?

- a. Burn Barrels are prohibited in the County.

12. Where can we sign up for burn permits?

- a. You can sign up online or at the TMFPD office at 1001. E. 9th St., Bldg. D. or at www.tmfpd.us.

13. What's the status with mail service in Lemmon Valley?

- a. Mail service for most residents will be unaffected; however a few mailboxes have been relocated to Arkansas Drive.

14. What is the SBA loan program?

- a. A U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan is a low interest federal disaster loan. For more information please refer to [flyer included in your information packet](#).

15. Are there any suggestions for mosquito abatement for residents on their property?

- a. Remove all free standing water, including water in containers or low spots on the property. Pump out crawl spaces. Wear long sleeves and pants in the early mornings and evenings, and use mosquito repellent with DEET in it. Make sure screens on windows and doors are in good repair.

16. Is it safe to eat produce grown in garden?

- a. Produce which was submerged or in contact with flood waters should be considered contaminated and discarded. Produce grown in a garden now that flood waters have receded should be washed in the same manner as all other produce to remove exterior contamination.

17. How can I prevent mold in my house?

- a. The home needs to be dehumidified. Flood and water damaged materials, items and goods need to be removed.

18. How can I be added to the Lemmon Valley resident email distribution list?

- a. You can call 311 (328-2003) or email washoe311@washoecounty.us

Website:

www.washoecounty.us

Click on the light blue banner for Flood Resources

