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Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

EM NEWS FLASH

10 Years and 10-Million Dollars for Emergency Response!

Nevada's rural communities are better equipped and better trained to handle emergencies, thanks in part to the Emergency Preparedness Working Group's (EPWG) 10 years on the job and more than \$10 million distributed in grant money.

Since 2000, the EPWG has distributed an [annual grant](#) among six participating counties (Clark,



EPWG members representing Esmeralda, Elko, Lincoln, Clark and White Pine counties join Nevada Site Office and State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management staff in commemorating 10 years of service and \$10 million in grant funding.

Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine), through which low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste shipments travel en route to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly the Nevada Test Site). This [community grant program](#), supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office, has allowed the counties to acquire emergency resources such as ambulances, fire trucks, and communication equipment, as well as to construct vital training facilities and emergency services buildings.

The Nevada Site Office acquires grant funding every year by charging its national network of waste generators a fifty-cent fee for every cubic foot of waste disposed at the NNSS. The fifty cent per cubic foot fee is in addition to the regular fee charged to the generators for disposing *low-level* and *mixed low-level waste** at the site.

Radioactive waste defined as **low-level or **mixed low-level** means that it is not high-level waste, spent nuclear fuel, transuranic waste, or radioactive by-products. Typical **low-level waste** includes items such as rags, papers, filters, equipment, discarded protective clothing, and construction debris. **Mixed low-level waste** contains low-level waste and hazardous (waste constituents as identified in 40 CFR 261) materials.*

While the entire EPWG group is responsible for determining how grant money is divided among the counties, it is the job of Federal and State members to review and approve individual requests for specific items, such as vehicles, equipment, training, and facilities.

“The community grant program has definitely improved the emergency response capabilities of rural counties in Nevada,” said Federal Project Director Frank DiSanza. “Lincoln County, for example, was able to upgrade its entire emergency communication system in 2003,” explained

DiSanza, “which greatly increased the range of communication for emergency responders in the area, in addition to providing much needed versatility for future modifications/upgrades.”



EPWG members review grant applications.



Emergency Response Vehicles for Lincoln County, Nevada

Emergency Equipment and Facility for Esmeralda County, Nevada

The EPWG consists of representatives from each of the participating counties, as well as the Nevada Site Office and the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management. By the end of 2011, the group will have allocated a total of \$10,985,465 in grants.

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