

Contact: Ron Supp, Undersheriff Telephone: 775.738.3421 Email: <u>rsupp@elkocountynv.net</u> Date: February 11, 2017 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elko County Flood Update

Elko, NV – February 11, 2017, during the past 24 hours the Sheriff's Office has observed a significant rise in the Humboldt River which has caused significant flooding in the low lying areas of the City of Elko. Additionally, there have been reports of further road wash outs in the Ryndon, Osino and Elburz areas. County road crews are attempting to mitigate these problems as well as they can.

In Elko County, the Montello and surrounding areas including Pilot Valley continues to be the most impacted area due to the washouts of all major roads in and out of the area. SR-223 is completely shut down due to several areas of the highway that have been entirely washed out. Pilot Valley road is currently impassable due to the washout of a culvert near SR-223.

Citizens are advised stay away from these areas and not attempt to travel these roads; as it is likely to be dangerous due to water of the roadways that could conceal the road being washed out or other unseen hazards. The presence of additional unnecessary persons in the area could impede ongoing rescue efforts as well as the need to divert resources if they become in need of rescue themselves.

Current operations by the Elko County Sheriff's Office include;

- Deputies with the assistance of the Nevada National Guard in high water rescue vehicles are attempting to reach residents in the isolated reaches of the Montello area. They are facilitating evacuation of residents who wish to be evacuated. There is no mandatory evacuation order in place at this time. Deputies and the National Guard also have the capability to distribute emergency rations of food and water as needed.
- Also, deputies with the assistance of a crew and helicopter are flying the extreme remote regions of the impacted area of Montello attempting to located residents who have no means of leaving and/or are in need of supplies. These crews are also able to provide emergency rations of food and water to those residents.
- These operations are expected to continue for approximately the next 12 hours.



The Sheriff's Office is continuously monitoring the situation and is responding accordingly. We are appreciative of and ask for the patience of citizens as the crisis unfolds. If you are in need of evacuation or have questions regarding the current situation at your location please call the Elko County Sheriff's Emergency Operations Center at 775-777- 2520. You can also visit the Sheriff's Office website at elkosheriff.com for continued updated information.