



COUNTY OF EL DORADO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: March 16, 2009
To: Laura Schwartz, Principal Administrative Analyst
From: Jim Ware, Interim Director of Transportation
Subject: **Winter Response to Road Related Emergencies**

2009 MAR 17 AM 9:15
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

The Department of Transportation is recommending that ten maintenance supervisors be granted permanent assignment and overnight retention of a County vehicle from November 1st through March 31st each year. While the need to respond to road-related emergencies occurs all year, it is most common during the winter months when high winds, rain, snow and ice are likely to occur and result in situations that require staff to respond outside of regular business hours.

The Department of Transportation has divided the County into seven regions and three specialties for maintenance and response to road-related emergencies and assigned a supervisor and fully equipped vehicle to each area or specialty as follows:

<u>Regions</u>	<u>Specialties</u>
El Dorado Hills/Cameron Park	Bridges
Georgetown Divide	Sign and Paint
Somerset/Grizzly Flat	Utility – drainage and sweeping
Pollock Pines/Camino/Placerville	
West Shore of Lake Tahoe	
South Shore of Lake Tahoe (divided in two areas)	

Often, weather-related emergencies require a timely response to multiple incidents necessitating several staff being called out at the same time. Supervisors who are located in the regions closest to the emergencies, or with the appropriate specialty, will be called to respond first. The availability of appropriately equipped staff within close proximity of a road-related emergency allows the Department of Transportation to respond quickly, in most cases within the twenty minutes typically expected by law enforcement. A call by Sheriff's Dispatch or the Highway Patrol is often followed by a call requesting the estimated time of arrival by DOT staff.

If, instead of the current procedure, one "on-call" supervisor is assigned to respond to after hours calls and additional staff are required to respond to multiple locations, the response time would be significantly increased due to the need for staff to drive to the Maintenance Yard to get a vehicle and then to the area of the emergency.

The Department is asking the Board to allow the Maintenance Division the flexibility to provide continued, quick response to road emergencies by granting this request. The primary concern of the Department is that an increase in emergency response time may not be in the best interest of safety for the public.