

The banner features a dark blue background. On the left, a large satellite dish is shown. In the center, the Maricopa County seal is visible, featuring a scale of justice and a cactus. On the right, a control room with multiple computer monitors displaying maps and data is shown. The text 'Maricopa County' is in the top left, and 'Department of Emergency Management' is in large white letters across the middle.

Maricopa County

Department of Emergency Management

5630 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85008 ♦ (602) 273-1411 24 hrs ♦ www.maricopa.gov/emerg_mgt

Our Mission

The mission of the Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management is to provide community-wide education, planning, coordination, and continuity of government for the people of Maricopa County in order to protect lives, property and the environment in the event of a major emergency.

Our Role with Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

A Joint State/County Offsite Emergency Response Plan for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station provides guidance and actions to be taken by State, County and local agencies in the unlikely release of radiological material from the plant.

Specific responsibilities include:

- **Activating the Maricopa County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).** The Department of Emergency Management is the lead in activating a regional operation center in order to coordinate emergency response and recovery operations from various county agencies, including Transportation, Public Health, Sheriff's Office, Environmental Services and Animal Care and Control. Coordination activities include supporting evacuations, road blocks and area security.
- **Preparing appropriate warning messages.** Emergency Management coordinates with the State in the development and transmission of Protective Action Decisions to ensure maximum protection for the community. This includes preparing and transmitting the Emergency Alert System (EAS) message and sounding sirens located within the ten-mile radius of the plant.
- **Coordinating shelter operations.** It is the county's responsibility to establish a Reception and Care Center for residents evacuating from within the ten-mile radius. The Reception and Care Center is the focal point for evacuee monitoring, decontamination, registration, and sheltering; as required.
- **Planning and providing for additional needs of residents.** Maricopa County maintains a register of resident's assistance needs within the ten-mile radius and coordinates resources to meet those needs in the event of offsite response event. Residents are encouraged to register their needs in advance with an Assistance Request Survey which are mailed annually and are available via the Department of Emergency Management website.
- **Drilling and exercising the emergency plan.** Emergency Management exercises the Offsite Emergency Response Plan for Palo Verde with its partners annually. Multiple exercises are held to validate existing plans and procedures, meet federal guidelines and ensure public safety.
- **Informing the public of vital information.** The county is also an active participant in a Joint Information System comprised of all responding agencies. This system is designed to provide the public with critical, accurate and timely information during an incident at the plant, as well as information on how the public should prepare ahead of time.
- **Reviewing development plans within the ten-mile radius.** The Department of Emergency Management works with the Planning & Development Department to review development proposals near the plant and make recommendations regarding access to evacuation routes, warning siren coverage and notification of closeness of the plant to promote the safety of residents in the area.