

MARIN COUNTY EVACUATION RISK ASSESSMENT

COMMUNICATION

FACTORS

PURPOSE

Why?

The Evacuation Ingress/Egress Planning Tool Project Study was undertaken to understand and address the risks associated with evacuation routes in Marin County. The goal is to construct an inventory of risk factors and dynamic models of wildland fire spread, communications processes, and transportation networks to simulate wildfire evacuation scenarios in Marin County. Risk ratings are assigned to address how road, fire, and communication characteristics affect evacuation. This fact sheet addresses communication risk ratings.

METHODOLOGY

What was the process?

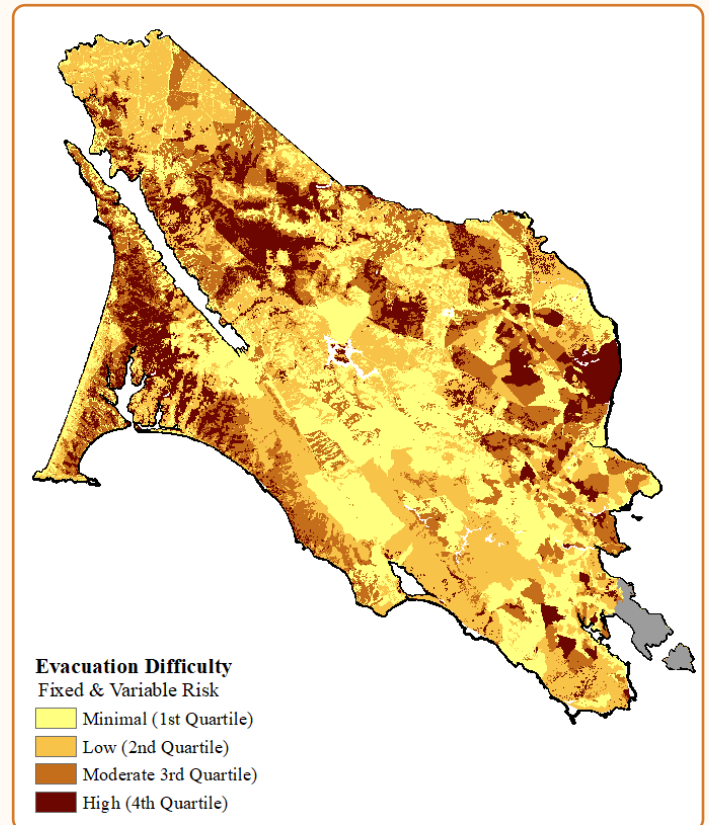
Communication risks affect the ability to notify the public of an evacuation and the effect of low-risk perception on the decision to evacuate. Areas with limited cellular service, low percentage of Alert Marin subscribers, high tourism population levels, low income and auto ownership levels, large elderly populations, and/or large non-driving student populations have higher communication risk scores.

NEAR-TERM BENEFITS

What will be done to help now?

MWPA and partner agencies are using the communication risk ratings generated by the Study to generate near-term community benefits as follows.

- » Prioritized NOAA radio deployments
- » Targeted notification outreach plans



LONG-TERM BENEFITS

What are the next steps?

MWPA and partner agencies plan to implement measures such as communication equipment hardening and advanced evacuation communication systems. These long-term strategies will require grant funding that MWPA and partner agencies are actively pursuing. Co-benefits of communication facilities are that they can be used to manage traffic during other events.