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# RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL

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## Domestic violence survivors face housing need, report says



A woman sits where her tent used to be in a local homeless camp in between the Truckee River and the railroad tracks east of downtown Reno on May 19, 2021. JASON BEAN/RGJ

### Economic abuse creates barriers to housing security for many victims

**Camalot Todd**  
Nevada Current

Housing is the most common unmet need for domestic violence survivors in Nevada, according to the recently released National Network to End Domestic Violence's 17th annual Domestic Violence Counts report.

The Nevada annual report is based on 571 people who sought domestic violence services in a 24-hour period on Sept. 7, 2022, including the services needed, barriers to care, and impacts of federal policy changes.

Of those 571 people, 291 victims of domestic violence were placed in emergency shelters, transitional housing, hotels, motels, or other housing provided by local domestic violence programs, the Nevada Current reported. The other

280 survivors received non-residential supportive services which included housing advocacy, legal support, and mental health.

Of the 33 whose requests went unmet, 23 were for emergency shelters, hotels, motels, and other housing.

"The thing we are least able to provide is housing," Elizabeth Abdur-Raheem, the executive director of Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDVS), said. "Another big thing that has to do with domestic violence and housing is that 99% of victims and survivors of domestic violence have experienced financial abuse."

Nearly 44% of Nevada women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, according to a 2022 "Women's Safety in Nevada" report from UNLV's Women's Research Institute.

But policies have failed to successfully confront the ways financial and economic abuse plays a role in domestic violence.

Some studies have found that more than 90% of domestic violence survivors also experience economic abuse, which can include coerced debt like applying for loans or credit cards in the victim's name without their permission damaging their credit score, refinancing a home without a victim's knowledge, forbidding them to work, and repeatedly filing costly lawsuits during separation.

Nevada does not define economic abuse in state law, offer litigation protection, safe banking protections, or coerced debt protections, according to FreeForm, a collective grassroots movement dedicated to understanding the intersection of domestic violence and economic abuse.

Domestic violence is the leading

See **HOUSING**, Page 3A



A Dixie Valley toad sits atop grass in Dixie Valley in 2009. The developer of a geothermal power plant planned in Nevada says it intends to sue U.S. wildlife officials to try to overturn the endangered species listing of a toad that lives in adjacent wetlands.

MATT MAPLES/NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE VIA AP, FILE

### Court battle brewing over endangered Nevada toad

Geothermal developer wants to delist amphibian

**Scott Sonner**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENO – In an unusual move that could pit two Biden administration agencies against each other, the developer of a planned Nevada geothermal power plant says it intends to sue U.S. wildlife officials to overturn the endangered species listing of a toad in adjacent wetlands.

Ormat Technologies said in a 60-day notice of its intent to sue the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service that the listing of the Dixie Valley toad in December was illegal.

"The toad does not meet the definitional standard for a threatened – let alone endangered – species, and the service failed to base its decision on the best scientific and commercial data available," Reno-based Ormat said.

It's the latest legal maneuver in a series of conflicts underscoring challenges President Joe Biden faces in vowing to protect fish and wildlife while also pushing development of so-called green energy projects on U.S. lands to help combat climate change.

See **TOAD**, Page 2A

## Lawsuit: Officials 'mocked' Nevada prison-firefighter burns

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARSON CITY — A group of prison firefighters said their feet burned and their socks melded to their feet during a gruesome fire clean-up assignment that left several unable to walk, stand or shower without assistance for days, according to a new lawsuit.

Still, the firefighters were "mocked and ignored" when they initially told their supervisors of what would later be determined as second-degree burns and blisters, according to the Thursday filing by the ACLU of Nevada.

The 35-page civil complaint alleges negligence, intentional infliction of emotional distress and violations of state and federal constitutional bans on cruel and unusual punishment. It seeks

at least \$700,000 in damages for seven plaintiffs in Nevada, several changes in training and policy, and discipline for state employees "whose negligence and/or intentional conduct results in injury to ... people required to work while incarcerated."

The firefighters were trained at Jean Conservation Camp, the only training facility owned by the Nevada Division of Forestry designed for incarcerated women. State corrections employees supervise the camp.

The defendants include the Nevada Division of Forestry and Department of Corrections, their respective department heads and several forestry employees who were on-site and allegedly did not act on complaints.

Division of Forestry and Department

of Corrections officials declined Thursday to comment, citing pending litigation.

The lawsuit describes a morning of cleaning out "red-hot embers, churning burning soil and ripping out tree stumps" during a wildfire clean-up assignment in an area carpeted by hot soil and burning embers in April 2021.

The lawsuit alleges that when the sole of one plaintiff's boot melted off from the heat, a Nevada Division of Forestry supervisor duct-taped it back on and told her to continue working. When another plaintiff started crying from pain, the supervisor allegedly said, "You can keep crying as long as you keep working."

See **LAWSUIT**, Page 3A



An inmate crew from Georgetown, Calif., works to fortify a trail they built on Angora Ridge during the initial stages of the fire. The crew was one of the first on the scene and worked 36 hours straight before getting a break. They were back on the line with hoses on Tuesday, going after remaining hotspots. TIM DUNN/RGJ

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