Emergency Management Impact & Cost Summary

Teton Valley Workshop | Teton County, Idaho Emergency Management | July 2026

Teton Valley experiences complete closure of every road into and out of the valley several times each winter — as many as twelve times in a single season over the past twenty years, occasionally lasting up to a week — cutting the community off from outside emergency assistance entirely. Under ordinary disaster conditions, mass care shelters serve approximately 5% of an affected population; in a valley-wide road closure coinciding with on-mountain capacity of up to 8,000 skiers, the County could instead face an unprecedented sheltering demand. The County's shelter sites — local schools and churches — lack the physical capacity for an event of this scale, and the County currently maintains supplies sufficient for only 120 people. Recruiting, training, and retaining shelter staff is already a persistent challenge for the County. Additionally, the increase in visitors to the community and responders needed to support them will put expanding pressure on our public safety communication system.

Capital Costs (One-Time)	Scenario A Sheltering 50% of maximum GTR guests	Scenario B Sheltering 100% of maximum GTR guests
Shelter cache: cots, blankets, hygiene kits, sanitation[5]	$229,000 – $458,000	$591,000 – $1,182,000
Backup power: generators at priority shelter sites[1]	$160,000 – $600,000	$320,000 – $1,200,000
Storage facility: construction to house shelter cache[2]	$274,000 – $366,000	$368,000 – $578,000
Shelter facility at Teton County Fairgrounds[3]	$16,000,000	$34,000,000
Increased capacity for Public Safety Communications	$500,000	$500,000
CAPITAL TOTAL	**$17,163,000 – $17,924,000**	**$35,779,000 – $37,460,000**

Annual Costs (Recurring)	Scenario A — Sheltering 50%	Scenario B —Sheltering 100%
Cache lifecycle / replacement	$11,000 – $46,000	$30,000 – $118,000
Generator maintenance	$1,000 – $4,500	$2,000 – $9,000
Storage facility utilities & maintenance[2]	$9,000 – $18,000	$21,000 – $42,000
Fairgrounds shelter facility: utilities, maintenance & capital reserve[6]	$794,000 – $1,842,000	$1,940,000 – $4,520,000
EM Capacity / Liaison FTE, fully loaded[4]	$93,000 – $121,000	$93,000 – $121,000
Multi-agency training & exercises for Responders	$15,000 – $30,000	$15,000 – $30,000
Communication expansion support & warranty	$12,000 - $15,000	$12,000 - $15,000
ANNUAL TOTAL	**$935,000 – $2,076,500**	**$2,113,000 – $4,855,000**

Notes & Sources

1 Sized to 2–3 priority ARC-designated shelter sites (Scenario A) or 4–6 sites (Scenario B); $300–$450/kW equipment plus installation typically equal to equipment cost.

2 Facility sized to hold the shelter cache using standard palletized-storage planning assumptions; final size and cost require a site-specific facilities/logistics assessment. Reflects insulated post-frame/pre-engineered construction engineered for Teton County snow loads; assumes construction on county-owned land.

3 Reflects the estimated cost of a permanent, code-built congregate shelter facility at the Teton County Fairgrounds (approx. 127,000 sf / 320,000 sf, sized to the ARC 4496 40-sf-per-person post-impact standard). Requires an independent architectural/engineering cost estimate before use in formal negotiations.

4 Base salary plus 38.5% BLS state/local government benefits load.

5 Reflects a 120-person existing shelter-supply baseline, consistent with the County's documented cache inventory.

6 Utilities, custodial, and routine maintenance at $5–$12/sf annually (BOMA/IFMA commercial facility benchmark); capital reserve for major system replacement (roof, HVAC, life-safety) at 1–2% of construction cost annually, standard public-facility reserve practice.

Sources: American Red Cross ARC 4496 (shelter capacity standard); national post-frame/pre-engineered building market data (2026); BOMA International / IFMA facility benchmarking; U.S. BLS Employer Costs for Employee Compensation, State & Local Government; Idaho Office of Emergency Management compensation ranges.