



TIMBERLAKE COMMUNITY CLUB

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~Pride in Ownership~

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Re: **TIMBERLAKE WILDFIRE RESIDENT EVACUATION INFORMATION**

With the recent $\frac{3}{4}$ mile near miss of the King's Landing fire affecting Timberlakes a couple of weeks ago, members have been asking what would have happened if this fire actually threatened our community. It was frightening to watch this fire creep towards us as it burned. In talking with Central Mason Fire & EMS Chief Tim McKern, he stated that WILDFIRE firefighting efforts and Public Information are coordinated using a Unified Command Structure of Mason County Fire District, Mason County Sheriff Department and the Department of Natural Resources. Briefly, this command structure uses a three level threat rating system consisting of:

LEVEL 1: READY. No immediate danger, but the fire may be moving towards you. Ready your plans for evacuation, gather things you'll need, make efforts to plan for animals if evacuation is directed. You may wish to identify the area shelter that is set up by local authorities.

LEVEL 2: SET. There is a significant risk to your area. The fire is moving closer. A mandatory evacuation order may be issued at any time. You may wish to relocate at this time or be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. When this level is called, refuge sites such as the Pioneer School are opened for community use.

LEVEL 3: GO! You are in immediate danger. Go now, do not wait. There are no further warnings. Fire trucks and emergency vehicles may move to your neighborhoods in order to save structures if possible at this time.

The Firefighting Command uses multiple methods as the fastest way to notify residents the status of threatening fires and the threat level their area. Social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, news outlets and Mason County Sheriff Department and Central Mason Fire cars and trucks are all used to notify residents as threat levels change.

Timberlake will be looking at the following as a result of this near miss wild fire:

- Identifying and posting secondary evacuation signage within the HOA.
- Developing a policy for when the secondary evacuation gate is opened. It is kept normally locked at this time as this egress is only a single width gravel road and the immediate neighborhood roads are not designed for continuous traffic.
- Leaving this gate permanently open was tried in the past, the results being increased theft in our community.

If you are a member that would like to help develop this policy and figure out where signs should be placed, please send me an email with your name and phone number, I'll get back to you. Using the Timberlake Web Site, click on my name found under the CONTACTS tab.

Thank you all for your concern on this subject.

Tom Hanson – Timberlake Board President