



To: Jackie Craig  
From: Brian Keeley, Division Chief of Administration Services

We are in receipt of your request for our evacuation plan in the event of a large-scale emergency in the Dove Mountain community. The information contained in this letter is intended to illustrate the broad options available to emergency responders, however our actions can vary depending on the circumstances surrounding an actual incident. It is our hope that the impression you take away from this letter is our unwavering commitment to our mission of saving lives, protecting property, and caring for our community.

In the event of an emergency within or near the Dove Mountain community that resulted in the need to evacuate some or all residents, we would take several important steps to ensure this was done in a safe and efficient manner. The first critical element is to cooperate and coordinate with our partners at the Marana Police Department (MPD) to ensure all available resources are being deployed to meet the same objective. This is accomplished using a unified command structure and the use of joint radio frequencies that reduce communication barriers. Evacuations generally begin with those closest to the hazard area and then fan outwards from there. Using this approach allows us to move those at the greatest risk away from any danger without creating unneeded congestion along the evacuation route. Since the objective is to evacuate the area, we would coordinate with MPD and request that they restrict access into Dove Mountain. Denying access into the area allows us to utilize all paved roadways for egress purposes. This means that rather than having a two-lane road for egress we can utilize all four lanes and therefore move twice the volume as normal. It may be possible to divert some of the evacuees onto Moore Road and evacuate them to the east which continues to reduce the congestion at the southern end of Dove Mountain.

It is important to note that a truly unprecedented and catastrophic incident would have to occur to require a full or even a partial evacuation of the community. The most referenced concern we receive from residents of Dove Mountain is the threat of wildfires. This summer several fires occurred in the Tortolita Mountains; however all the fires were contained without the need for any evacuations. Three critical factors exist in the Dove Mountain community that are to the benefit of firefighters and residents alike.

- **The fuels that exist in and around the community tend to burn quickly and do not produce the same extreme temperatures that are found in fires at higher elevations.** This does not suggest that the fires are not dangerous, but they simply do not burn with the same intensity of those seen in areas like California. A visual example would be lighting a tumbleweed and a Christmas tree on fire at the same time. The tumble weed will be consumed much quicker and produce far less heat than the Christmas tree. This allows firefighters to get ahead of the fire and stop its progress quickly.
- **Natural and man-made fire breaks that exist in the area.** Fire must have a continuous source of fuel to consume if it is to grow. Natural elements like sandy washes and rock faces are a natural barrier to fire spread. In addition, the roadways, golf courses, brick walls around yards and any other human disturbance to the natural environment further reduces the threat of spread. The homes themselves can be a deterrence since most of the homes have limited vegetation in the front and rear yards which reduce the opportunity for a fire to spread to a structure. The homes in the area also have exterior finishes of stucco and tile roofs which are not as susceptible to embers which are the primary concern in most urban interface fires.
- **The robust water system that allows firefighters to quickly access a water source.** Most wildfires occur in remote areas where accessing the fire is difficult or impossible and water is scarce. This is not the case in the Dove Mountain Community. In the event of a fire near a structure, firefighters would have quick access to large volumes of water that would aid in extinguishment.

It is our hope that this information brings some comfort to you and your neighbors. While we cannot guarantee that there will never be a significant event in the Dove Mountain community, we can guarantee that we stand ready 24 hours a day to deploy the full weight of our resources in response to such an event. If you or your neighbors have any additional questions, I would be happy to come to any community events or HOA meetings to answer questions. Thank you for taking the time to contact us and please let us know if we can ever be of any assistance.