



DEB | Decatur Emergency Brigade Community Communication | June 30, 2023

Dear Decatur Neighbors,

We hope you're as excited as we are to celebrate the 4th of July! Regardless of your island plans, we hope you have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend. To ensure our community's safety and preparedness, we would like to provide you with some crucial updates and recommendations to prevent fire hazards.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has generously donated their time, expertise, and resources to the Decatur Emergency Board (DEB). Your invaluable contributions not only play a crucial role in the preparedness of the island, but also lay the foundation for our community's future progress. If you haven't done so already, we warmly invite you to consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#) this year. Your support will help fund training, equipment maintenance, upgrades, and insurance coverage for our dedicated volunteers and resources.

Special thanks to our island neighbors:

- Jason Rathbone: Your mechanical expertise in replacing truck #3's coolant pump ensures that all four wildland trucks are ready to respond promptly. We are grateful for your skilled contributions!
- Jeff Carl and The Wide Format Company: The 10 fire condition signs in fabrication by you and your team will serve as important reminders for our community. We appreciate your professional resources and community contribution!
- Steve and Anabel Reese: Your generosity in providing accommodation for our wildland fire consultants and trainers is deeply appreciated!
- The Loveless family and DNW: Your continued support of DEB and provision of storage for the four wildland trucks and gear across the island form the basis of our readiness.

Thank you!



TRAINING UPDATE

We are delighted to announce that 20 Islanders recently participated in the Wildland Firefighting Basics Training Course on June 17th. Their involvement brings us ever close to an important milestone - 100 Islanders having completed this essential training. This achievement not only substantially strengthens our community's preparedness but also cultivates unity and camaraderie among those committed to serving the entire island community.

Moreover, we conducted a successful 911 call-drill with the San Juan County Interagency Wildland Response Team during our annual training. We'd like to extend a special thanks to DEB responder, Eddie Rivera, who expertly managed communication as DEB Incident Command and successfully passed that to the responding team. Our gratitude also goes out to the SJC Interagency Team and the Lopez wildland fire crew for their prompt response and ongoing partnership, and the San Juan Sheriff's office who provided vessel support and dispatch coordination.

It's important to note the remarkable dedication demonstrated by our neighboring volunteer responders. Their commitment includes maintaining residency on Lopez, completing over 100 hours of both on and off-island training (with an additional 300+ hours for structure response), attending bi-weekly 3+ hour training sessions with over 75% attendance, passing physical exams and agility tests, clearing background checks, and pledging to respond to events promptly in a sober and drug-free state! For more information, please review [this application](#) to become a volunteer responder on Lopez.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:

CALL 911

INSTRUCT DISPATCH THAT YOU ARE ON
DECATUR ISLAND, SAN JUAN COUNTY

note your street address above.

we'll help you with locating your address - contact us:
www.deb.team



EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In case of an emergency, dial 911. This will connect you to San Juan County Dispatch, which is linked to us and all our neighboring aid and resources. Please know, post, and use your official San Juan County street address, as it is critical for a swift and coordinated response. If you're uncertain about your address, we can assist you in identifying it.

Additionally, we have printed magnets with this information for easy access in your homes. We will be distributing these through local HOA's, in person, and other channels. Please collect yours at the 4th of July parade, Saturday Market, Mail Shack, or DNW Caretaker.

FIRE DANGER TODAY

MODERATE

BE SAFE WITH FIRE

FIRE DANGER ASSESSMENT AND SAFETY

Please note that the current Fire Status for San Juan County is "Moderate". Recreational Campfires are permitted, provided you follow safety precautions, such as ensuring the fire size is no larger than 3' x 3', building on bare soil or gravel, or using a fire bowl, and having a shovel and water source close by.

However, Residential (debris) Fires and Commercial (Slash) Fires are now banned until October 2023.

For additional information, you can visit:

1. [SJC Open Burn Info](#)
2. [SJC Fire Marshal Info](#)
3. [DNR Fire Danger Status and Burn Restrictions](#)



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Please ensure your home fire extinguishers are up to date and ready for use. Consider purchasing a refillable 2.5 gallon water class A pressurized fire extinguisher. This tool is highly versatile for basic fire response and is recommended by fire professionals. If you need assistance with filling and pressurizing, we are happy to help.

You can order one [here](#).

SMOKE AND CO DETECTORS

Also, friendly reminder if you haven't already; change the batteries in your smoke detectors and CO detectors at least once a year, preferably twice a year.



FIREWISE PROGRAM

Many Islanders have asked how they can prepare their homes and properties against fire threats. The Firewise Program can assist you in assessing and taking steps towards achieving this. Learn more [here](#).



We are eager to see everyone at the 4th of July Parade where we'll be kicking off our 2023 Fundraising Drive. We'll be sending an email with more details just after the Holiday weekend. We appreciate all of you who have supported us in spirit and financially.

Wishing you all the best,

DEB Board of Directors

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