

SUN MOUNTAIN RANCH CLUB EVACUATION PLAN
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www.sunmountainranchclub.org

Description:

Located between the towns of Twisp and Winthrop, WA, the Sun Mountain Ranch Club (SMRC) is a 298-lot development situated on 750 acres around Big and Little Twin Lakes. The development contains a variety of structures ranging from travel trailers to large residences. Ongoing building is upgrading the development and some of these are significant structures.

Most of the structures are still used for recreational purposes but about 1/4 to 1/3 of the lots are permanently occupied. Many of the structures will require maximum effort to defend. At the time of an incident, the designated OCFD6 Triage Officer (or their designee) will determine if a structure is defensible or not.

Fires may originate from individual structure fires, outside burning, or traveling forest fires.

Communications Frequencies / Channels:

All communications channels for assigned resources will be developed by the appointed Incident Commander.

Notification of Evacuation status will be through the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office, Okanogan County Fire District #6, and Incident Command.

Personnel/Equipment Needs:

(To be determined by Okanogan County Fire District #6 at the time of the incident)

Access:

The development is accessed by two entrances at the north and south ends from Okanogan County Twin Lakes Road. The interior Twin Lakes Drive ties in with the County Road at both the north and south ends and is the primary evacuation route. The interior roads are graveled, but narrow, and not suited for passing heavy amounts of traffic. Fuels have been treated along the roads to form shaded fuel breaks. There are several dead-end roads, but they are signed.

An emergency access exists in the northeast corner through the Cascade Concrete property that is accessible by the OCFD6. The gate is normally locked and as such is not considered a usable escape route.

Tactics:

(to be developed by OCFD6 at the time of the incident)

Hazard Concerns:

- Limited access
- Traffic/civilian population
- Propane tanks
- Many unoccupied vacation homes
- Complex internal road system
- Timbered, rolling terrain

Water Sources:

- Portable pump/draft from Big Twin Lake usable in non-winter months only
- No domestic water source of sufficient capacity for fire suppression use

Staging Area:

- Liberty Bell Jr./Sr. High School

Safety Considerations:

- Dusty roads
- Civilian traffic
- Winter access limited by snow and steep road inclines
- Large safety zones available
 - Community Park(Larkspur Park)/Clubhouse area
 - Open field at north end junction of Twin Lakes and Shooting Star Roads
 - Big and Little Twin Lake shores
 - Cascade Concrete gravel pit
 - Okanogan County gravel pit adjacent to South Entrance

Utilities:

- Underground power and phone lines
- Individual wells – no domestic water system
- Residence propane tanks
- Century Link phone patch panel at South (church) entrance

EVACUATION OVERVIEW

To facilitate the most effective method of informing the public of changing evacuation designations, the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office has developed three levels of evacuation urgency. Evacuation levels will be decided by the Sheriff's Office with input from Incident Command. The intent of issuing evacuation notifications is to aid in the protection of life and property within the affected area.

Evacuation of residents is a law enforcement action and fire crews shall assist upon request. Evacuations are recommended and residents can refuse to leave. However, in the event residents have left the area and are requesting to return for belongings, law enforcement can prevent re-entry to the affected evacuation area.

Triggers for activation of the evacuation process will be determined by cooperation between the Sheriff's office and Incident Command.

The levels of evacuation are:

Stage 1 Evacuation: 72 Hour Warning

Evacuation has become a likely possibility and it is suggested that you begin preparations for evacuations. The purpose is to identify resources at risk, obtain detailed information, and to provide for the safety of responders and residents.

Stage 2 Evacuation: 24 Hour Warning

The situation now warrants notification to affected persons that evacuation may become necessary in the immediate future. It is suggested that you complete necessary preparations and be ready for the order to evacuate on a moment's notice.

Stage 3 Evacuation: Immediate Action Required

In the interest of protecting life and property, the Sheriff's Office strongly suggest that affected persons evacuate immediately due to an immediate threat. Protection and security of the evacuated zone will be high priority of the Sheriff's Office and access to the area will be restricted to emergency response personnel only.

For a wildfire escaping initial attack within the SMRC, a Stage 3 Evacuation may be ordered immediately on the spot without Stage 1 or Stage 2 warnings. This would be due to an immediate threat to the entire community.

Evacuation Routes:

Twin Lakes Dr. is the main evacuation route with outlets at both the north and south ends of SMRC. All interior roads lead to the Twin Lakes Drive arterial, which empty onto the paved Twin Lakes Road.

A system of directional signs located at key intersections inside the SMRC that indicate which way to turn for either the North (West) or South exits, and the distances, are posted.

Check in and additional information will be provided at a temporary station in the Liberty Bell School parking area if deemed necessary by the Sheriff's office. This area will also serve as the fire-fighting equipment staging area.

Information Sources:

Information regarding evacuation levels will be disseminated via local radio station and at the information center at the staging area at the discretion of the Sheriff's office. The SMRC Board will make a reasonable effort to post the evacuation status on the bulletin boards located at both of the entrances to the SMRC off of Twin Lakes Road, as well as at the pool/clubhouse bulletin board, if possible.

Owners at SMRC are encouraged to sign up for the Okanogan Emergency Alert Notification System. Instructions to do so can be found at this link

https://www.okanogancounty.org/departments/emergency_management/okanogan_county_alerts/okanogan_county_alert_system.php

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