

# **Del Mesa Carmel Community**

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE**

### **AUGUST EMERGENCIES**

**August 22, 2020**

Understandably, there has been increasing concerns over emergency response to local threats and I felt it necessary to stop and communicate some very important information with the intent of addressing the inquiries and calm fears. First, and foremost, we are presently safe here at Del Mesa Carmel and, the fact is, we are safer than most, whether protecting ourselves from the pandemic, responding to medical emergencies or protecting our residents from the threat of fire. Our “first responders” are relatively close and well qualified. We control who enters our grounds and can increase restrictions at any time. For the most part, we know who is here and who belongs. The board of directors has been keenly aware and involved with all our emergency responses and changes in policies and procedures. And many steps have been taken over the past few months to improve our readiness for emergencies.

Although there has not been a formal emergency preparedness plan adopted yet, I am very experienced in emergency preparedness, emergency response, and Incident Command (IC). In fact, I have overseen many emergency incidents for more than three decades and have received State and Federal training and certifications to include Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Training; NIMS IS-100.LE, FEMA Training NIMS IS-200, FEMA Training NIMS IS-700, FEMA Training NIMS IS-800.A, FEMA Training NIMS ICS-300, and FEMA Training NIMS ICS-400.

As a result of training and experience, I am familiar with and maintain a working relationship with local emergency administrators and understand our responsibilities as an association and community. Please understand, all emergency response will be guided by the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol and Cal-Fire. To resist, interfere or failure to comply with these agencies' direction during an emergency is a crime. Our duty as a community is to comply regardless of our personal concerns or demands.

The activation of an emergency response such as an evacuation, for example, will be determined by local authorities, at which time I will be notified and will respond – my response time is about (10) minutes - I will notify the Board of Directors. Local authorities will, more than likely, activate a “mutual aid” request, thereby requesting other agencies to assist with door to door evacuation notifications. The television, radio and our Pitera systems will also be activated and utilized. More than likely, evacuation notices will be determined far enough in advance as to facilitate a coordinated exit, as present fire conditions are being monitored very closely.

I want to emphasize, as stressful as the thought of a potential emergency can be, we are prepared. As many of you know, we recently completed the brush removal from the perimeter of our grounds and this effort greatly reduced our fire exposure. Most of the roofs on our grounds have been replaced with fire-resistant shingles and we have plenty of open space at the clubhouse parking area to assemble for evacuation. We are in constant communication with local authorities and are receiving updates routinely. For now, we can only continue to shelter-in-place and prepare for instruction – also know we are all surrounded by neighbors who care. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any inquiries you might have.

Respectfully,  
Richard A. Cox  
Del Mesa Carmel  
General Manager