

Firewise Town Hall Meeting Questions

- 1. How should people with mobility issues prepare for an evacuation?** Make a plan with relatives, friends, or neighbors to help when warnings are issued. Think about your medicine, pets, etc. Consider early evacuation rather than waiting for a mandatory evacuation.
- 2. What will Rossmoor Walnut Creek (RWC) and Rossmoor Walnut Creek Property Management (RPM) do during a fire emergency?** They account for RWC and RPM employees, mobilize them and make assignments. RWC will work closely with police and fire officials to address the emergency. During emergencies RWC takes direction from law enforcement agencies.
- 3. How can residents receive official notifications during an emergency?** Sign up for WC Alert, the Contra Cost County Community Warning System, or go to [Protect.Genasys.com](https://protect.genasys.com) (previously Zonehaven) for official notifications. In addition, sign up for Rossmoor's and Walnut Creek's Nixles. Rossmoor cannot declare an evacuation but can repeat what is broadcasted by the city or county's notification systems. For more information you can also use the Watch Duty and Pulse Point apps. They are available in the app store.
- 4. How will the police and fire officials facilitate our exit from Rossmoor?** The police will control and direct traffic to facilitate evacuations by zones. The fire department will be fighting the fire.
- 5. Are there alternate exits if Rossmoor Parkway is too congested or not available?** There are alternate emergency access points. These may be used to bring additional fire department units and police into Rossmoor. Residents will be directed by the police to an alternate exit if necessary. Do not go to an alternate exit unless directed by a first responder.

6. **Once people leave, are there shelters or other places to go?** The Red Cross and the city will set up shelters if needed. If a mandatory evacuation is declared, they will provide information on where the shelters are located. You should include possible alternative places to go in your plan.
7. **How will people know when it's safe to return?** Civil authorities will notify residents when it is safe to return. Check [Protect.Genasys.com](https://www.protectgenasys.com), WC Alert, Contra Costa Community Warning System, or the Watch Duty app. Don't return unless your zone is opened by civil authorities.
8. **What should residents do if they have concerns about trees or other flammable vegetation near their home?** Contact the Workorder Desk and your Mutual board or Mutual landscape committee.
9. **What plans are there to implement the 5-foot clearance zone around our buildings?** Your Mutual will decide what will be done in Zone 0. Zone 0 requirements have not been fully developed by the State Board of Forestry --
--- Zone 0 - The Ember Resistant Zone or Home Ignition Zone extends from 0 to 5 feet from any structure, attached deck, or outbuilding. This defensible zone should not have materials that can be ignited by embers, reducing the possibility of structure ignition.

ZONE 0: (0-5 feet) Recommendations:

- Remove all combustible ground cover, such as mulch and bark, within 5 feet of all structures;
- Create a 1-foot vertical clearance from foliage to ground for any plants within 5 feet of the structure;
- Remove all dead or dying trees and/or rubbish;
- Remove all non-irrigated brush;

- Remove or cut grasses and weeds to a height of less than 3 inches or less. **Must be cut no later than June 1 of every year.
- Remove any Monterey Pine or Eucalyptus located within 5 feet of a structure or attached decks;
- Remove all tree branches that are within 6 vertical feet of the roof;
- Trim trees to create 10 feet of clearance from the chimney outlet;
- Remove all dead or combustible material from trees or any other plantings;
- Remove all material, such as branches, leaves, and needles, from the roof and gutters. This needs to be redone on a periodic basis.
- Trim trees to create 6 feet of vertical spacing between branches or foliage and ground.

10. Are there plants that are fire resistant? Yes, there are fire resistant plants, but your Mutual will decide what will be planted or removed.

11. How will we pay for Firewise improvements? Each Mutual needs to budget for Firewise enhancements. There may be some grants available. RWC will also make Firewise improvements to RWC properties.

12. What about defensible space for carports? Defensible space applies to all buildings.

13. What is Rossmoor doing to deal with brush and other debris? Along the shaded fuel break, there will be some controlled burning conducted by Contra Costa Fire District in the wet months. Shaded fuel break map:
<https://rossmoor.com/residents/public-safety-security/shaded-fuel-break-around-rossmoor/>

14. Are the roofs on our homes fire resistant? Yes, all roofs are Class A fire resistant but not fireproof.

15. You mentioned screens to keep embers from starting fires at our homes. Can you elaborate? There are vents that are ember resistant. That improvement is being investigated for eave and crawl space vents and will be up to your Mutual to implement.

16. Is the siding on our buildings fire resistant? It depends, stucco yes, wood no, composite maybe.

17. Will the LA fires increase the premiums for RWC and the Mutuals? We secured our insurance for 2025 before the fires. It is unknown what will happen in 2026.

18. Does the Firewise Certificate help reduce my personal insurance? It depends on the insurance carrier. Please talk to your insurance agent. The certificate is available at <https://rossmoor.com/rossmoor-firewise-usa-site/>

19. Has the Firewise Program helped RWC reduce the Master Policy premiums? Firewise did not reduce the cost of insurance, but it was cited by our insurance broker as a major factor in reducing proposed increases.

20. What should I put in my grab and go bag? The EPO website has lists, Rossmoorepo.org.

21. If there's no EPO in my entry, how can I start one? Contact EPO, check Rossmoorepo.org.

22. If a couple has two cars, should they take only one car or try to use both so they can take more property with them? It depends on the time you have to evacuate. If a voluntary early evacuation, maybe. In a mandatory evacuation take one car. Time is of the essence, and it will reduce traffic.

23. How much is Rossmoor spending on wildfire mitigation measures? Will that change based on the LA experience? The response will depend on each Mutual's and RWC's budget decisions.

24. After the Los Angeles experience, how confident are we that the EBMUD fire hydrants will work? The hydrants are tested annually. The white hydrants are

owned and maintained by EBMUD. The yellow hydrants are owned and maintained by your Mutual.

25. How do we work with PG&E to reduce exposure? RWC is constantly working with PG&E to reduce exposure. PG&E does annual tree fuel removal near power lines. RWC now clears and mows under the PG&E towers.

26. What are the chances of a fire in Rossmoor? The majority of Rossmoor is considered at medium risk and not in the highest risk category by wildfirerisk.org. We have excellent response times by the fire crews. If we have a fire, response likely will be rapid to contain it. The recent California fire risk maps show Rossmoor in three different zones (some are in a no fire risk zone; some are in moderate risk; and some are in high risk; none are in very high risk, which requires mandatory actions).

27. Can the water in the pools be used during a fire? The golf pond has been used by fire department helicopters in the past. The fire department is allowed to use any source of water during an emergency.

28. Should you lock your door when you leave during an evacuation? If you lock your door, fire crews may need to force it open if they need to enter, but it will help keep out looters. However, residents may obtain a lockbox and register it with Securitas. We encourage you to use the orange vacant or white/red "Need Help" notice and place it on your door. The orange vacant or white/red "Need Help" notice is in the Rossmoor Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation Guide booklet (these are available at Gateway, Public Safety, Rossmoor News, MOD and online at Rossmoor.com or Rossmoorepo.org)

29. Is there any plan to remove trees by species, for example, Eucalyptus, or will that remain case-by-case? It is on a case-by-case basis with the goal of removing all of the Eucalyptus and other highly flammable trees over time, starting with the most dangerous.

30. There was an evacuation exercise for Mutual 68. What was learned? We learned that the notification alerted all residents who signed up for the evacuation

exercise. We can evacuate a lot of cars through the gate quickly. Residents should program the Contra Costa County Community Warning System phone number (925-655-0195) into their cell phones so it shows up as the warning system and not a spam call or something else that you wouldn't answer.

31. What are some advance planning suggestions? Think about important papers that you will want access to in an emergency and make copies and store them in a safe place, possibly on your phone, in the cloud, or on a flash drive in your go bag.

- Insurance info and contacts
- Passports
- Vehicle titles
- Heirloom photos, etc.

32. What is the plan for the 300+ residents of Waterford? It is the same as for the rest of Rossmoor. Each Waterford resident needs to make a plan for what they need to do if an evacuation is ordered, but you are strongly encouraged to leave well before an evacuation is ordered. Self-evacuation is extremely important for the entire community. If you feel unsafe due to a situation, you should self-evacuate on your own.

33. What should residents with pets do if there is an evacuation order? Most Red Cross shelters only accept service animals. If you have a pet, make a plan that accounts for the pet. You might consider putting a notice near your front door detailing what pets you have. These are available online. If you are away and your pets are home when a disaster strikes, this can facilitate their rescue. Please make a plan with your neighbors in case you happen to be away, and your pets are at home during an emergency.

34. Are there any emergency walking paths from the homes in the hills to the valley? No. If you need to walk, you should use the sidewalks as roadways are fire breaks. You are also likely to be seen by first responders and others who may be able to help you.

35. Who is responsible for turning off the gas in manors during a wildfire emergency? If you smell a strong odor of gas, then you should call 911 or Securitas. Otherwise, you should focus on evacuating and leave the gas issues to the first responders.

36. What is Rossmoor Walnut Creek doing to help with fire prevention? RWC with help from Contra Costa County Fire Protection District obtained a \$3.1 million grant to create the shaded fuel break around Rossmoor. In addition, RWC and the Mutualls spend money every year on reducing fire risk by creating fire breaks around the community, removing brush, cutting back vegetation from residences and facilities, and mowing grasses below power lines. RWC facilitated the creation of the Firewise Committee to work on lowering the fire risk in Rossmoor.

37. What about extending the irrigation system to rooftops? This would reduce the water pressure in the fire hydrants and be counterproductive.