

August 17, 2009

FIRE COMES TO FISHER'S LANDING RESORT

Most of you are aware of the terrific fire that consumed much of the vegetation in and around Swede's Lagoon and the Trailer Park on Swede's Hill at Fisher's Landing this past Friday night, August 14th. The cause of this horrible fire was the illegal use of fireworks.

We are happy to report NO LOSS of trailers or homes and the loss of only two boats and some docks in Swede's Lagoon. Though we are sad about these losses, we are delighted to report no reported injuries to any of our residents or guests other than some minor bruises or scrapes caused by a quick exit from their trailers and the area. While there were a couple of incidents (like folks desiring to stay and fight the fire while protecting their properties)...we are grateful to the great majority who exited the area when requested and who offered thanks to the many fire fighters and authorities there to help protect everyone and the properties.

As we hurried to make sure all residents were out of harms' way, we were able to notice the many acts of kindness and consideration throughout the Parks. Two men were using their jet skis to put out the Palm tree fire in the Lagoon; some were uncovering boats, while others with buckets were at another tree – dowsing the flames. Please be advised that while we do not want anyone to take on the fire (in fact – in a moment I'm going to address this more), but to allow the fire fighters to do this – we are touched by the concern and efforts of those who safely helped and then left when asked to. We have an incredible neighborhood of friends. Many of you checked on your neighbors – being certain they were awake and cognoscente of the fire (those air conditioners can really drown out noise!), while others helped folks maneuver the traffic in the streets.

Our thanks to all of you for your efforts, your patience and your appreciation for all those who have helped us remain in full running order.

While this near-disaster occurred at Fisher's Landing Resort we want to be sure that all residents and guests of the entire Martinez Lake Region are aware of the tremendous responsibility we all share in keeping our community safe and fire-free. Therefore, I am briefly outlining the Fire Restrictions Notice sent out May 14, 2009 by the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River District regarding Fire Restrictions Due to Extreme Fire Danger. These notices are posted.

First, please note that we all have the opportunity to protect our own personal property **until we are asked to exit by the authorities or the property owner/managers** – due to personal safety, or access for Fire Department vehicles or their staff and their safety as well. **All residents, guests and visitors MUST exit when requested by those entities.**

Now, according to the Arizona/California Colorado River Area Authority, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River District and the Fire Prevention Order Number AZ-320-09-01: "The following acts are prohibited:

- a. Open campfires, charcoal grills and stove fires – *other than* those in developed recreation sites or improved sited with agency-built fire rings, or where grills are provided.
- b. Smoking, other than in vehicles, or on paved surfaces, or in areas cleared of all flammable material.
- c. Use of ANY FIREWORKS, flares or other incendiary devices.
- d. Welding or the use of any torch or metal cutting implement.

The following persons are exempt from this order:

Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission. Any Federal, State or Local Officer or member of an organized firefighting force in the performance of an official duty. Resident owners and lessees of land, and holders of recreational special use authorizations, within the restricted area are exempt from Restriction No. 1, provided such fires are within a permanent structure.

Violations of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both."

For more information on fire restrictions in Arizona call Toll Free: 1-877-864-6985 or visit the website: www.publiclands.org/firenews

Finally, we would like to thank every fire fighter from every entity that served us – YPG, Rural Metro, Sun City Fire, State Land Fire (Yuma and Lewis), Fish and Wildlife Fire and Bureau of Land Management Fire and the Yuma Sheriff Department officers and volunteer officers who helped as well.

Again, thanks to each of you for YOUR help, you patience and your continued support of the rules and regulations of Fisher's Landing Resort and our Fire Department and local, state and federal administrators.