

Mountain Charlie Road Fire-Related FAQs

What happens if there is a fire?

If there is a fire response to the area, a response will be sent from above and below the impacted area. The Battalion Chief from either Santa Cruz County Fire or Scotts Valley FPD has the ability based on provided information to augment the response. For wildland fires, CALFIRE has aircraft available year around, in addition to the ground resource response based on fuels and weather conditions.

How will residents on south side safely get out and emergency people get in?

This will be a collaborated approach with law enforcement and FIRE on the activation of evacuations. Zones identified within Zonehaven will be placed in warning and/or order in manner to reduce the risk and impact to residence and responding fire/LE resources.

Mountain Charlie is very narrow and during a fire evacuation there is no way you could have emergency vehicle moving up while residents are coming down the hill.

Mountain Charlie is not unique to the narrow single roads that we encounter daily within Santa Cruz County. We will work in close collaboration with the Sheriff's Office and OR3 to issue CRUZAware alerts and utilize Zonehaven, to implement evacuation warnings and/or orders.

Fire response: If an individual home close to the slide caught fire, what was the response time before and what is it now?

The arrival time for first arriving equipment above the slide does not change, the arrival time for first arriving equipment to below the slide would have about a 2–3-minute response delay, then if the road was open. These times are based on equipment being in quarters, posted roads speeds and any known conditions.

Fire response: If a wildfire occurs and we need to evacuate, what was the plan and estimated evacuation time before and what is it now?

Answered above.

Fire response: If fire occurs such that the south side is inaccessible to us, how will we evacuate? How long will it take to evacuate?

In the event that one side of an area is inaccessible during an evacuation, Sheriff's Office personnel will prioritize the evacuation of individuals based on the level of urgency and vulnerability. Coordination between emergency services and relevant stakeholders will work to ensure a synchronized and organized evacuation process.

Attempts will be made to make early notifications to the affected individuals. This can be done through various means, including public address systems, emergency alerts, and mobile notifications. It is important to note that specific strategies and actions taken during evacuation when one side is inaccessible may vary depending on the nature of the situation, time of day, and resources available.

Fire response: According to a fireman from Scotts Valley who was inspecting the slide area today, Mountain Charlie is their alternate path if highway 17 is blocked. Now they have to use Felton through Zayante. How feasible is that plan if highway 17 is blocked and how long does response take?

This is not the "primary" alternate route to Fire resource when HWY17 is closed, this was unfortunately misinformation.