



**2014**

# Wildfire Evacuation Plan



The Currituck Club

Property Owners Association

619 Currituck Clubhouse Drive,

Corolla, NC 27927

(252) 453-4011



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# WILDFIRE EVACUATION PLAN

This Wildfire Evacuation Plan is designed to assist The Currituck Club in planning, preparing and executing an evacuation due to a wildfire within the community or the immediate area. It outlines the history and identifies procedures that are designed to reduce both loss of life and expenses from damage.

## **Background and Objectives**

The Currituck Club is a planned unit development (PUD) community consisting of single family lots and residences, multi-family parcels, recreational and supportive facilities, and includes commercial parcels as well as an eighteen-hole golf course. It is located on the Currituck County Outer Banks of North Carolina near the village of Corolla and is situated on a tract of land approximately 660 acres that was originally part of the Historic Currituck Shooting Club property.

All property owners / residents of The Currituck Club are members of The Currituck Club Property Owners Association. That Association is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for, among other things, promotion of the health, safety and welfare of the Association members and residents of the Properties. Those responsibilities include maintenance of streets, rights of way, access gates and enforcement of architectural guidelines. The community is located directly within what is defined as a Wildland / Urban Interface (WUI) environment, and bordered on the north by Currituck County property, on the south by an Audubon Refuge, on the east by State Highway 12, and on the west by the Currituck Sound.

The Currituck Club Architectural Control Committee (“ACC”) encourages community construction and landscaping guidelines, within Currituck County building ordinances, for fire resistant construction and landscaping.

The community has good water resources, regularly-spaced pressurized fire hydrants, lawn irrigation systems on residential lots, and a well-maintained golf course with ample water supply and retention ponds throughout the community.

The closest fire department is Corolla Fire and Rescue (Currituck County Station 6) which maintains two stations, each within five (5) miles of The Currituck Club, and was most recently given a rating of 6 by the State Insurance Commissioner’s office.

Trees are primarily live oak and loblolly pine. Sand dune grass and marsh grass are abundant resulting in a fuel load which is light, flashy and very flammable, yielding a fast spread rate and intense flame front potential.

### **Firewise Communities / USA**

While wildfires on or near the property have been minimal (e.g., on the sound side along the golf course in 2001 and a small number of mulch fires), the community recognizes the special considerations associated with its location in a defined Wildland / Urban Interface. Following a Firewise presentation to the Property Owners Association Board by North Carolina Division of Forest Services and local fire department officials, a Community Task Force was appointed in early 2007.

The Firewise Program was designed as a tool that forestry and fire service professionals use with residents to obtain voluntary compliance with existing wildfire safety rules, as well as to motivate community action toward wildfire safety in the absence of strict ordinances or laws. Firewise Communities / USA is recognized by fire prevention personnel from federal, state and local agencies. It provides communities with information tailored to their geographical areas on ways to decrease the risk of losing their homes and ways to protect themselves in case a wildfire does start.

The Currituck Club Firewise Task Force familiarized itself with the Firewise Communities / USA principles and conducted a community-wide Firewise Assessment in June 2007. It then established Firewise Assessment / Mitigation and Action plans, conducted a two-week Firewise Clean-up Campaign and made several presentations to the Property Owners Association and members. To demonstrate its commitment to safety, The Currituck Club became a certified Firewise Community in October 2007 and a supplemental Community Assessment Plan was conducted in November 2010.

### **Preventative Measures**

The Currituck Club voluntarily undertook this endeavor to address the highly flammable dune and marsh grasses and to clean up forest debris from oak and loblolly pine trees, and encourages and acknowledges citizen involvement in reducing community wildfire risk. The Firewise approach emphasizes community responsibility for planning in the design of a safe community as well as effective emergency response, and individual responsibility for safer home construction and design, landscaping and maintenance. Since its initial certification, the following risk mitigation measures have been instituted throughout The Currituck Club for Firewise safety:

- Community directional signs
- Reflective house address signs
- Screening behind lattice at bottom of home on new construction
- Controlled burns

- Mulch around electric boxes replaced with non-flammable river rock
- Firewise property evaluations upon individual property owner request
- Improving emergency vehicle egress on the North end of the property
- Ensuring that community ACC guidelines are in accordance with Firewise principles

Occasionally, as needed, the NC Division of Forest Resources, in coordination with Corolla Fire and Rescue, the Firewise Task Force, The Currituck Golf Club and Fidelity Management (which owns marshland adjacent to the Club), performs a controlled burn along the Currituck Sound side of the community, from the north end of The Currituck Club to the bridge on Hunt Club Drive. The burn is dependent upon required environmental criteria, i.e. temperature, humidity, wind speed / direction, etc. Such burns provide an ecological rejuvenation of the marshlands and reduction of ground cover which, left unchecked, increases the potential of spreading to structures in the event of wildfire. County public safety officials are notified and mutual assistance requested, as needed, from Carova Beach Fire Department and Duck Fire Department. NC Division of Forest Resources and the Task Force will ensure that both the local media and The Currituck Club General Manager are notified of the burn as far in advance as possible.

### **Major Wildfire Evacuation Procedure**

This Wildfire Evacuation Plan for The Currituck Club Property Owners Association will utilize their in-house staff under the direction of the General Manager to work with the Corolla Fire & Rescue team led by the Corolla Fire Chief, and supported by a team of volunteer emergency personnel.

This Wildfire Evacuation Plan has been approved by the TCCPOA Board of Directors on April 18, 2014 and has been drafted with the assistance and contributions by the following organizations:

- Corolla Fire and Rescue
- Currituck County Emergency Management Department
- Club Corp., Inc.
- TCCPOA Firewise Task Force

This plan will be evaluated annually with the Corolla Fire Chief and reviewed with the Firewise Task Force. This review will be done in conjunction with annual comprehensive preventative measures done as standard safety practices including, but not limited to, inspection of 911 emergency telephones at the pool facilities and installing replacement batteries and testing smoke detectors throughout the community's common areas.

The General Manager will disseminate the Wildfire Evacuation Plan to the community by email to the members, in newsletters and posting to the website.

### ***Evacuation for Property Owners:***

At the time an evacuation is ordered by a public safety official in The Currituck Club due to a major wild/brush fire, the following procedure will be followed:

- All security gates at the main and south entrances will be opened inbound and outbound for emergency vehicle use and to expedite the evacuation.
- If possible, a security guard call-in will take place, with two (2) additional security guards in vehicles to monitor the gates and control traffic. One will be stationed at the south gate while one remains at the main entrance, and another will be posted at the fire scene to help with traffic control.
- If no Security guards are able to make it in or until they do report, the Staff will fill those positions as mentioned above.
- The TCCPOA General Manager will report to the Incident Commander as a liaison for the Club. All communication will go through the General Manager and the General Manager will report to the Incident Commander at the scene.
- The General Manager will be notified so she could advise by phone, email or other means all owners and guests in the affected area.
- All trolleys will stop running due to excess emergency traffic and evacuation traffic.
- All construction and service traffic will be stopped from entering the Club due to emergency and evacuation traffic.
- No one will take it upon him/herself to start the evacuation without prior approval from the Fire Department.
- The Fire Department will make the determining decision on all evacuations.
- The Fitness Center will be used as a Command and Communication Center if the Fire Department deems it necessary.

### ***Evacuation for the Golf Course:***

- All Golf Course traffic to the Clubhouse will be stopped.
- All playing of the course will be stopped and anyone on the course will be evacuated.
- All golf course irrigation will be turned on as needed. This will be coordinated with the Golf Club General Manager.
- Any other irrigation system that needs to be turned on will be coordinated with the landscapers in The Currituck Club.

**Evacuation Breakdowns will be as follows: (See attached map)**

- ZONE 1 ~ Magnolia Bay – All homes along the sound / water or marshlands
- ZONE 2 ~ Hunt Club Drive – From Magnolia Bay to the wooden bridge / all homes along the sound / water or marshlands
- ZONE 3 ~ Hunt Club Drive – From the wooden bridge to the main entrance / all homes along the sound / water or marshlands
- ZONE 4 ~ Hunt Club Drive – From the main entrance to Windswept Ridge / all homes along the sound / water or marshlands
- ZONE 5 ~ Hunt Club Drive from Windswept Ridge, Loblolly Court, Shovler Court and Wild Cherry Court to Hammock Lane – all homes along the sound / water or marshlands
- ZONE 6 ~ Hunt Club Drive from Hammock Lane, Dotties Walk, Hunt Club and the sound side of Hunt Club (west side of the loop) up to the water treatment plant / all homes along the sound / water or marshlands

**Any other evacuations that may be needed will be up to the Incident Commander on scene.**

**Remember: Safety for our owners, guests and properties is our main concern.**

**Contact Information**

Corolla Fire Department	(252) 453-3919
Currituck County Emergency Management	(252) 232-2115
TCCPOA / GM Office	(252) 453-4011

**Hospitals and Locations**

Albemarle Regional Med. Ctr. MP 2 5200 North Croatan Highway Kitty Hawk, NC 27949 (252) 255-6000	Outer Banks Urgent Care MP 14.5 4923 S Croatan Highway Nags Head, NC 27959 (252) 261-8040
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## **Communications**

The Currituck Club Fitness Center will serve as the Command and Communication Center. Copies of this Wildfire Evacuation Plan have been made available to the members; copies will be available at the Guard Shack for as long as the Guard is advised to stay on the premises, and the website will maintain resident disaster information. Email blasts will be used to distribute information, updates and notices to property owners.

## **Post Evacuation**

Following the evacuation and when given the clearance for residents to return, the General Manager will be notified and will communicate that clearance to the members by email blast, posting the same to the website, and by telephone when possible.

***Drafted: 6-21-2008***

***Last reviewed: 3-27-14***

***Rick Galganski, Chief of Corolla Fire Dept.***

***Heidi Corsello, TCCPOA General Manager***

***Randy Joyner, TCCPOA Maintenance Supervisor***

***TCCPOA Firewise Task Force***