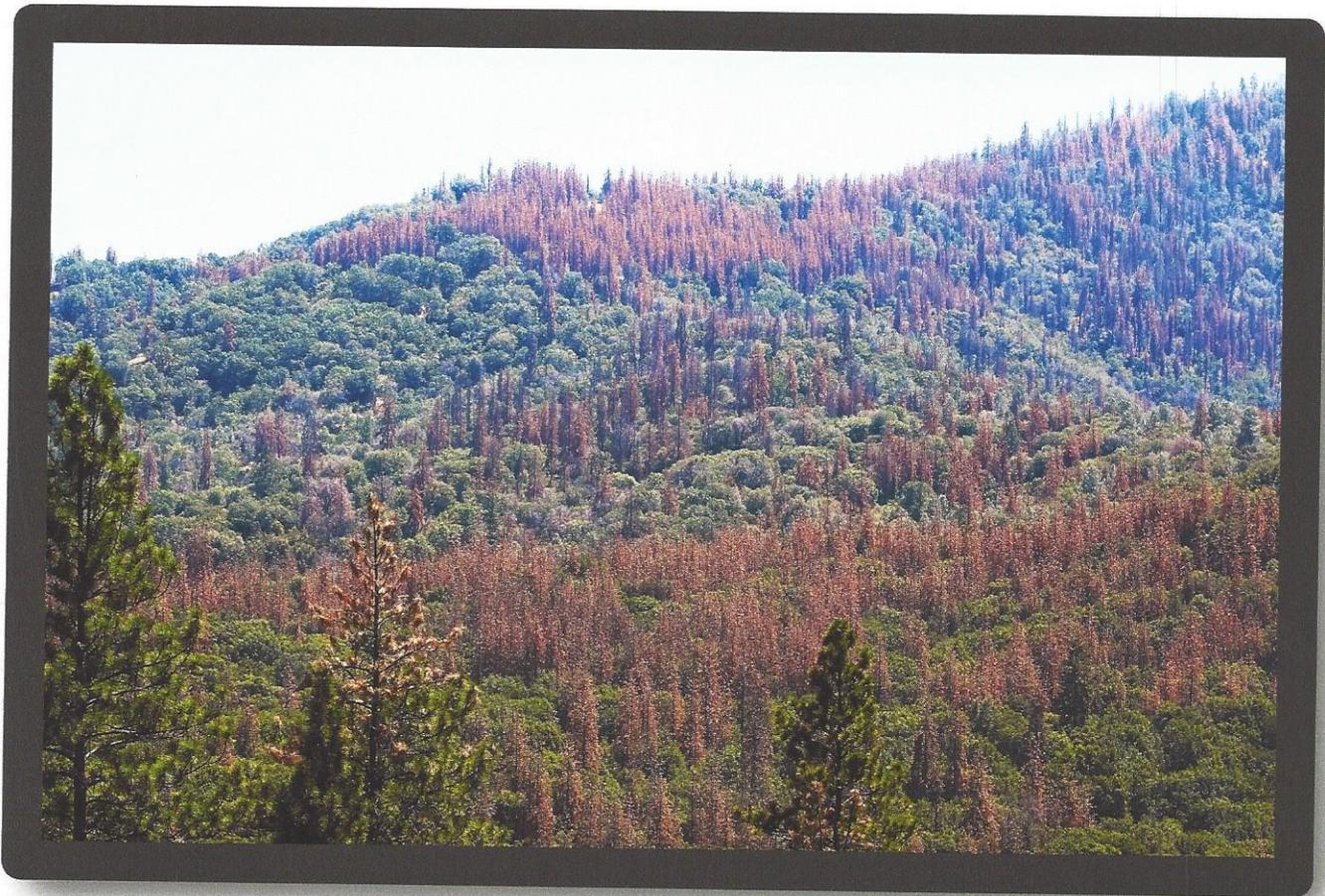


# California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Resource Protection Committee



**Mariposa County Fire Safe Council**  
**Overview of the Tree Mortality Disaster**  
**SRA Grant Projects and Funding**  
**August 23, 2016**

Honorable members of the Resource Protection Committee  
Ms. Susan Husari, Dr. J. Keith Gilless and Dr. Mark Los Huertos:

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation that focuses on assisting Mariposa County residents with clearing and maintaining their defensible space requirements as set forth by CA PRC 4291. The MCFSC also serves as a fiscal sponsor for other FSC's and agencies.

Although we primarily clear and maintain defensible space for Mariposa County residents, we also install fuel breaks, provide brushing and chipping on non-county maintained roads, and supervise dead tree removal in order to help residents mitigate the recent spike in tree mortality. CAL FIRE and the USFS views Mariposa county as the epicenter of California's tree mortality and our programs provide some much-needed assistance to private homeowners.

The current funding arrangements for the SRA grants have created somewhat of a dilemma for projects requiring large equipment such as masticators and skid steers. The current rules allow us to request an advance of 25% of the total grant budget and those funds must be completely disbursed before we can request additional grant dollars. The MCFSC and other non-profits do not have the capital or reserves to fund projects up front or between receiving grant dollars.

These funding arrangements requires the MCFSC to write stop work-orders into all of our tree mortality projects. We issue these stop work-orders between draws on the grants and this break in funding creates a dilemma for contractors; many of whom use large equipment like masticators, log removal machinery, and trucks. These contractors must move on to another project while we wait for grant funds as they are unable to remain economically viable on our project site. These breaks in funding also requires the contractor to return to the project site when they finish their next project. Many contractors cannot guarantee a date or time of return to the job site. Contractors often request a restocking fee for the removal and transportation of the equipment. The SRA Grants are issued in a dollar amount that truly do not allow for an additional charge. Contractors have suggested, when this occurs they take out fewer trees or do less acreage if the grant cannot be amended. Contractors readily work with us and usually tell us the

number of days, within reason, the project will take. This allows us to gauge when we submit invoices for advances to CAL FIRE.

We are beseeching your assistance in finding a solution for this cash flow dilemma. We are concerned about the additional cost that this cash flow problem incurs against our wildland fire mitigation projects and the resulting effect on project/treatment acreage.

The following pages are images of Mariposa County from a fly over in February of 2016. Tree Mortality has increased remarkably throughout the county and neighboring counties since this fly over. Also included are photos of tree debris/slash that is currently on the ground and being removed, chipped and brushed. Likewise, we have included images of a project at Bass Lake requiring tree removal and various masticating and tree hauling equipment and the 2014 Courtney Fire at Bass Lake.

We hope the photos will provide the Resource Protection Committee an idea of the task local Fire Safe Councils are facing from the Tree Mortality Disaster, the assistance the SRA communities are receiving, and importance of the SRA grants.

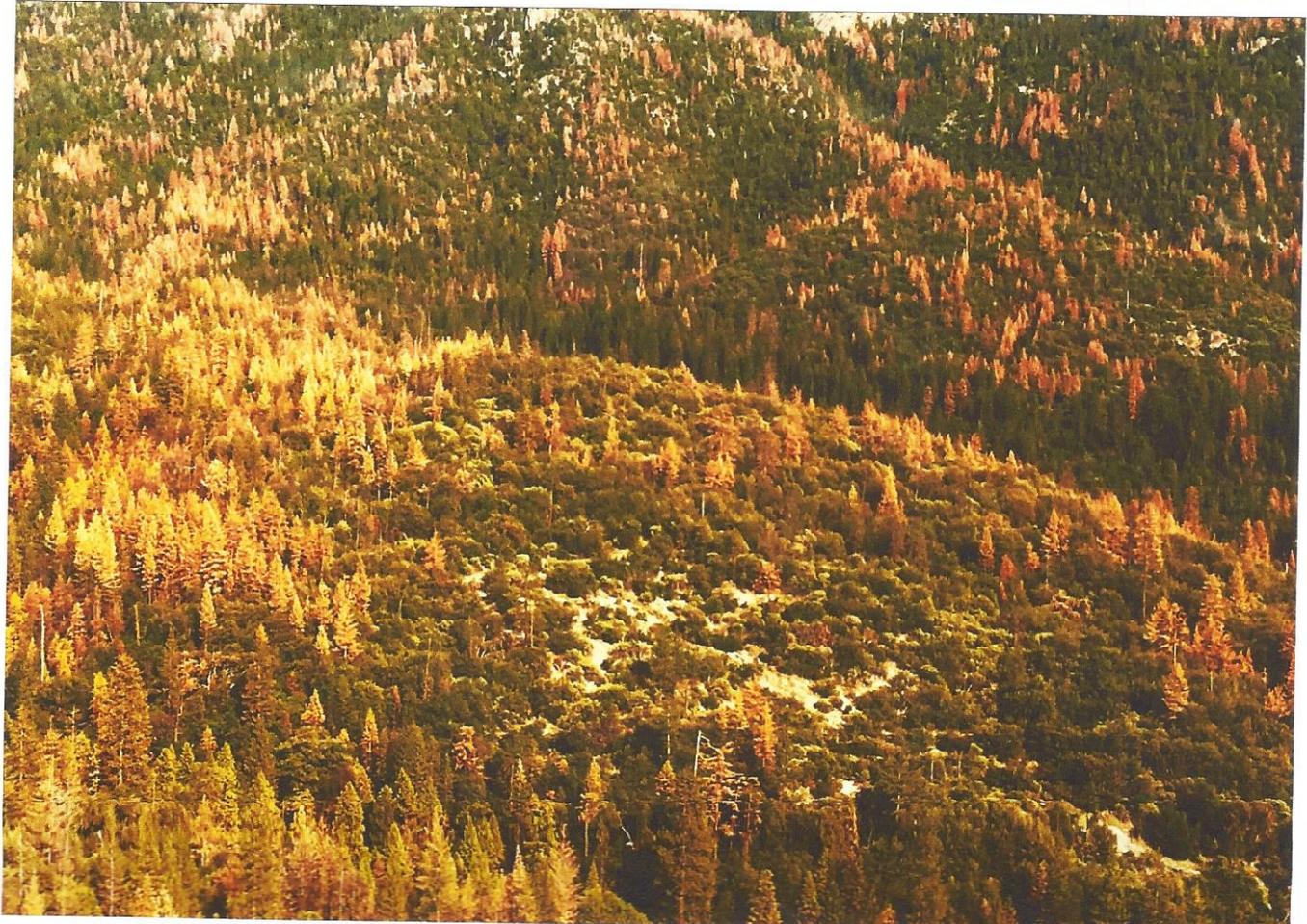
Respectfully,



Bob Bartholomew. Chairman  
Mariposa County Fire Safe Council



Michael Beaudoin, Director/Coordinator  
Mariposa County Fire Safe Council

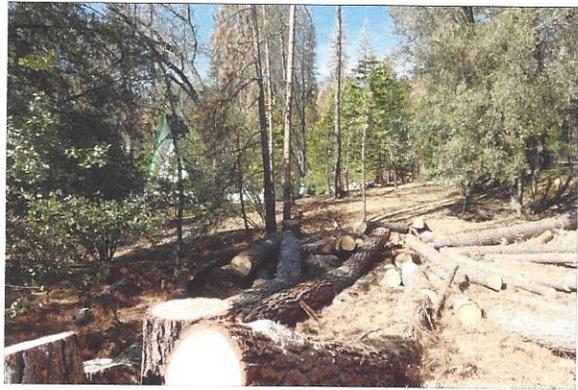




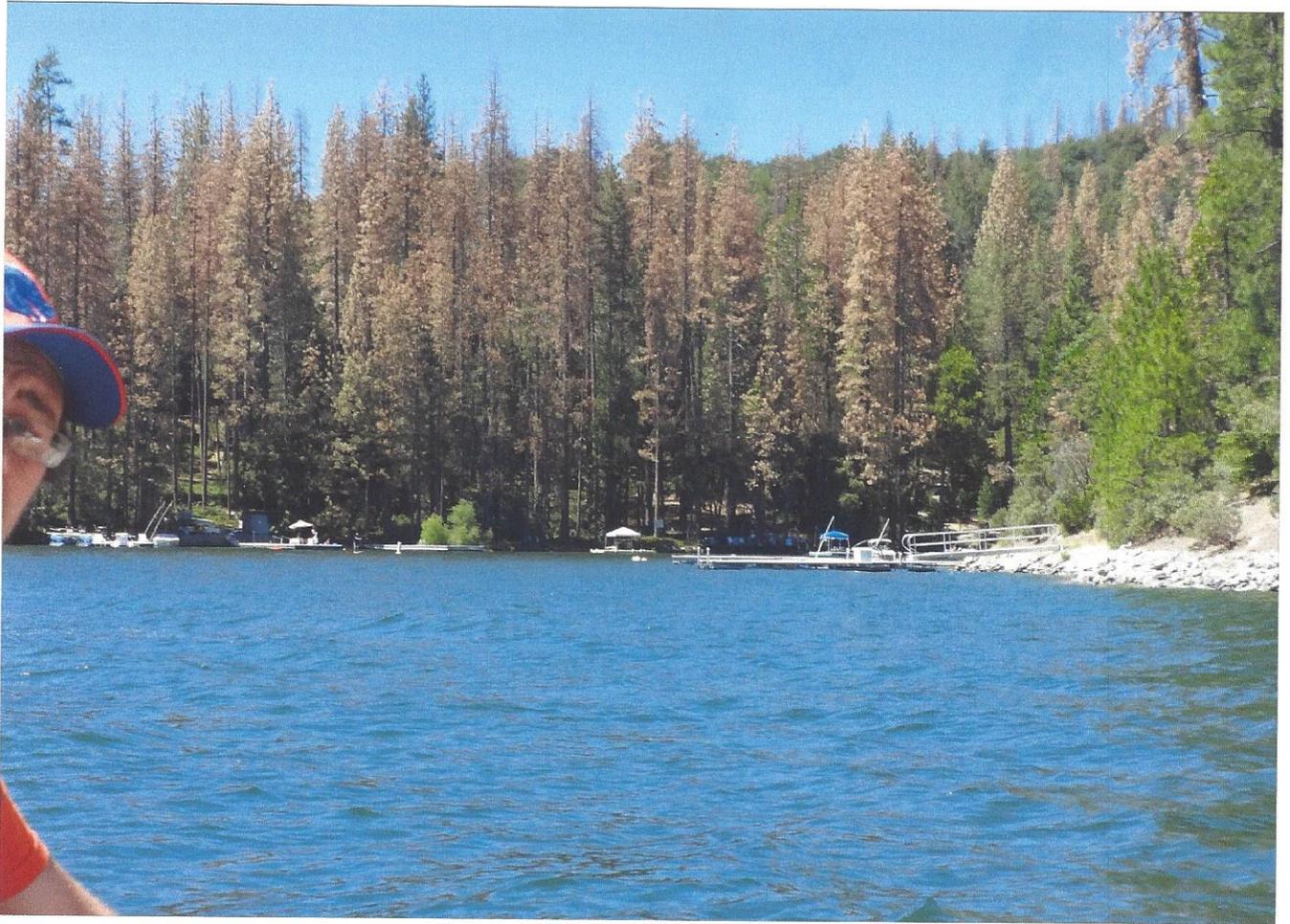


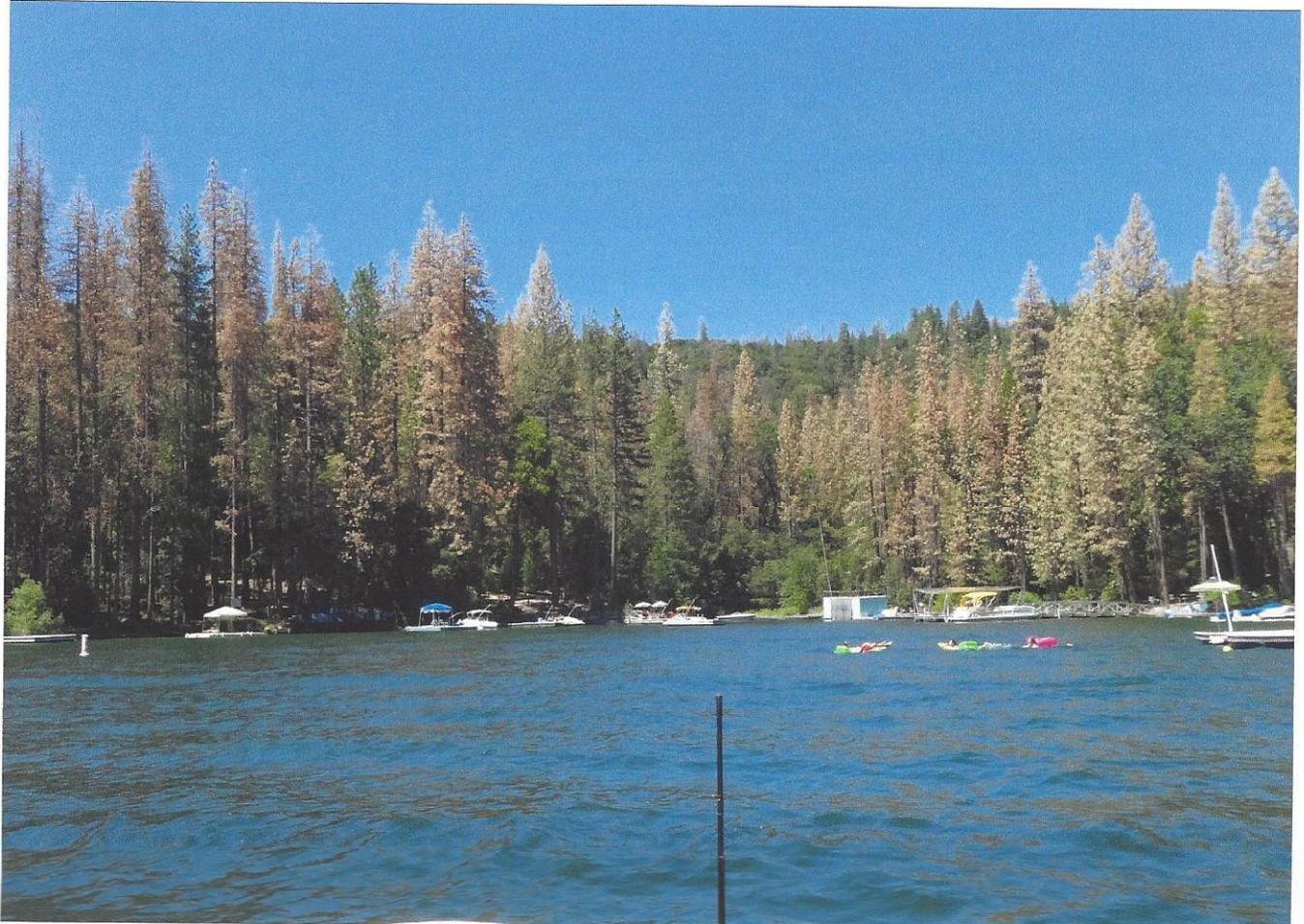
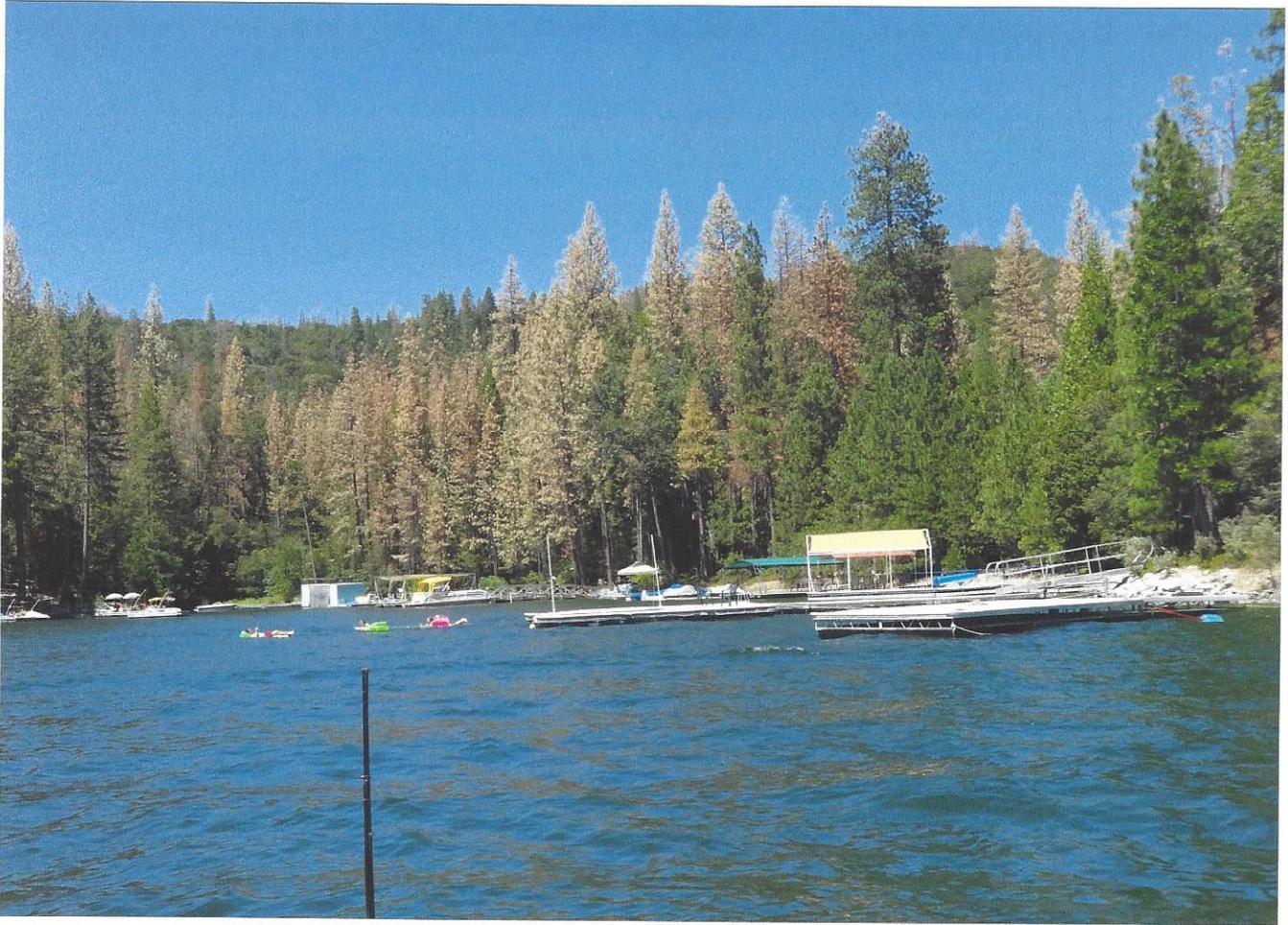
















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## Incident Information

### COURTNEY FIRE

#### Courtney Fire Incident Information:

**Last Updated:** September 22, 2014 7:15 am **FINAL**

**Date/Time Started:** September 14, 2014 1:36 pm

**Administrative Unit:** CAL FIRE Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit

**County:** Madera County

**Location:** Courtney Lane and 7 Hills Rd, Oakhurst

**Acres Burned:** 320 acres - 100% contained

**Containment:**

**Structures Destroyed:** 30 residences, 19 outbuildings, 13 vehicles and 4 recreational vehicles destroyed and 4 residences, 3 outbuildings and 2 vehicles damaged

**Evacuations:** There are no evacuations or evacuation centers.

**Additional Information:**  
Residents who need more information can go to

