



## So, what are the dangers of life on the mountain, and what is done about it?

Pine Mountain Club is a beautiful, remote community that is home to full-time residents, “weekenders” and vacationers. Long dubbed “The nearby faraway place,” life in PMC poses potential threats and dangers that simply aren’t found in the cities. With elevations ranging from roughly 5,000 to 7,000 feet, weather can be extreme and sudden. Located within the Los Padres National Forest, the abundant trees and vegetation make wild fire a very real threat, and since the San Andreas Fault runs right through the middle of town, an earthquake can happen at any time. Then there are the bears....

These potential dangers are not meant to scare, but rather to encourage those living in or visiting PMC to be prepared. Besides the local first responders such as the Kern County Fire Department and the Kern County Sheriff’s Office, there are two agencies in Pine Mountain Club that assist with safety and emergency preparedness. Those groups are the Emergency Preparedness Committee, which maintains a series of strategically located emergency survival supply depots for use in the event of a disaster, and the Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.).

The PMC C.E.R.T. team is comprised of community members, organized under the umbrella of the Kern County Fire Department and Federal Department of Homeland Security. CERT members are trained for community disaster response, with training in First Aid, Urban Search, Fire Suppression and other basic emergency skills. Though not a committee per se, C.E.R.T. works closely with PMCPOA’s Emergency Preparedness Committee, so is recognized by the association as an important part of the community safety plan.



## Basic Emergency Preparedness Tips

While each potential type of emergency in PMC has it’s own protocol, there are some basics that you should adhere to.

- \* In any emergency, listen to Pine Mountain Club’s radio station 1610 AM for updates, follow emergency personnel’s directions and watch television news releases when possible.

- \* Be sure to sign up for the Emergency Mass Notification System thru [www.readykern.gov](http://www.readykern.gov).

- \* For further information on preparedness before, during and after emergencies, go to [www.kerncountyfire.org](http://www.kerncountyfire.org), [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.pinemountainclub.net](http://www.pinemountainclub.net).

- \* Emergency responders will determine evacuation or shelter in place procedures at the time of the emergency. Law enforcement or fire personnel are typically the first responders that will initiate any evacuation’s procedures and locations. If they say to leave, go! There are just two ways in and out of PMC, so time is of the essence.

- \* Read the “Living in PMC” section of the PMCPOA website. It goes into detail about how to prepare for each of the potential emergencies on the mountain. It can be found on the public side of the site in the “About Us” tab.

[www.pinemountainclub.net](http://www.pinemountainclub.net)



# Emergency Preparedness and Safety in PMC

## Pine Mountain Club Property Owners Association

2524 Beechwood Way  
Pine Mountain Club, CA

93222

661-242-3788

[www.pinemountainclub.net](http://www.pinemountainclub.net)



## Emergency Preparedness/Safety

### Fire

The forest immediately surrounding Pine Mountain Club has not had a wild fire in decades. Thus, the drought conditions of recent years have made fire safety absolutely critical in this area. Basic fire precautions include:

- \* Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home and other structures on your property. There are rules surrounding this requirement, and fines are imposed on those who fail to follow this protocol.
- \* Installing fire screens on attic vents.
- \* NEVER using fireworks here, and remembering that no open fires (campfires, fire pits) of any kind are allowed in PMC.
- \* Prepare an evacuation checklist and plan, and be ready to use it when fire erupts.

### Evacuations

There are varying levels of evacuation orders depending upon the degree of danger. Some evacuation orders are voluntary, while others are mandatory. Evacuation instructions will be determined at the time of the emergency. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave: In an intense wildland fire, they may not have time to knock on every door. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate. For detailed information about how to plan ahead for evacuations, please refer to the Emergency Preparedness handbook available in the clubhouse office.

### Earthquakes

One of the scariest things about an earthquake is its suddenness. There is no advance warning before the shaking begins, which is why it is so important to be prepared ahead of time. Pine Mountain Club sits on the San Andreas Faultline, so earthquake preparedness cannot be overstressed. This said, ideally, every household should plan to be self-sufficient for a minimum of TWO WEEKS.

For an extensive listing of what to include in a two-week emergency supply as well as a grab-and-go kit, please refer to the Emergency Preparedness handbook available in the clubhouse office. Other basic tips include:

#### Preparing your home and your family

- Bolt bookcases, china cabinets and other tall furniture to wall studs.
- Choose an out-of-town emergency contact.
- Install strong latches on cupboards.
- Keep a "HELP/OK" sign next to a window facing the street for easy displaying.
- Keep a flashlight, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a pair of sturdy shoes by your bedside.
- Secure your propane tank to the ground.
- Strap the water heater to wall studs.

#### Know what to do when the shaking begins: DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON!

- Move only a few steps to a nearby safe place.
- Stay indoors until the shaking stops and you're sure it's safe to exit.
- Stay away from windows.
- If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow.
- If you are outdoors, find a clear spot away from buildings, trees and power lines.
- If you are in a car, slow down and drive to a clear place (as described above). Stay in the car until the shaking stops.



## Emergency Preparedness/Safety

### Bears and other wildlife

One of the most appealing aspects of life in PMC is sharing your neighborhood with wildlife. Looking out the window at a deer grazing on a nearby bush can make one's day. However, bears have become a problem on the mountain in recent years, and it's highly important to follow certain precautions in dealing with them.

#### Here are basic bear safety tips:

- Keep any doors and windows below 7' high closed and locked unless you are in the room. A window or door screen will not deter a hungry bear from entering your house.
  - Never leave your garage door open while the garage is unattended. Bears have learned that many garages have freezers full of food and garbage cans full of household trash.
  - Never leave any food, dog food, cat food, candy, soda, etc. in your vehicle. Bears can rip the door off a car easily.
  - Take your trash to the PMC Transfer Site as often as possible. During bear season, the site is open until 7 p.m. on Thursdays.
  - Reminder: A fed bear is a dead bear!
- Complacency regarding PMCPOA wildlife rules have caused bears to lose their lives. PMCPOA has a zero-tolerance policy for feeding wildlife -- whether intentional or unintentional -- and citations will be issued with the possibility of a fine of up to \$1,000 for a first offense.

*For more information about living with bears, please pick up a pamphlet in the lobby.*