

A Message from the President

Welcome to the Gold Mountain CSD Newsletter! As we reflect on this past summer, I want to extend heartfelt gratitude to our community for coming together in the face of a significant challenge—the Complex Fire that impacted Gold Mountain.

During the first 24 critical hours, our QAV team’s dedication and expertise played an invaluable role. Their on-site presence and deep local knowledge were instrumental to first responders, enabling a coordinated and effective response that undoubtedly helped limit the fire’s impact. I am profoundly grateful for their commitment and quick action.

In addition, a special thanks to Nakoma Resort, particularly Richard and his exceptional staff. They opened their doors, providing food and shelter for residents and responders exemplifying the true spirit

of community support and generosity when it was needed most. The resort’s willingness to serve as a sanctuary during this challenging time was deeply appreciated.

Our full and part-time staff and general manager also worked tirelessly throughout the event, proving water support and continued well production to the fire crews who were protecting our homes.

Thank you, everyone, for your resilience and community spirit. It’s this unity that makes Gold Mountain such a remarkable place to live. Please read on for updates, events, and information on how you can stay involved with GMCSO.

Warm regards,
Gordon Bennie
Gold Mountain Community Services District

GMCSO Evaluates Its Water System After Gold Complex Fire

The Gold Complex Fire disrupted life and caused evacuations in our community. The fire, started by dry lightning strikes on July 22, 2024, burned 3,007 acres before reaching full containment in early August. Thankfully, the District did not lose any infrastructure due to the fire. However, some in the community were without water for a period of time due to fire response units pulling water from one hydrant that ultimately impacted the water storage in that area.

Lessons learned include the need to review fire hydrant protocols in order to supply water for fire-fighting efforts while maintaining adequate water supply for the community and promote the message to suspend nonessential water use during a fire to ensure first responder needs are met. Further, the Hazardous Fuel Treatment program, developed as part of the National Firewise Program, proved instrumental in that it cleared overly dense forest areas which in turn reduced the fuel load, resulting in a positive impact on fire containment in the Gold Mountain area.



Gold Complex Fire Burns Beyond the Trees



GMCSO’s Fire Truck in Position to Defend Homes

District Projects At-a-Glance

Fire-Related Projects

The District recently cleared 3.2 acres of brush and plant debris as part of the Forest Management Project, a project aimed to reduce excess foliage that provide fuel for fires.

Phase 4, referred to as the Red Sky and Dream Maker Project, will clear over 12 acres of debris.

Additionally, there are plans for more fire hydrants to be installed within the community.



Clearing Excess Debris at Lots I & J
Before and After



New Hydrant Recently
Installed at Emerald Point

Water System Projects and Updates

Two water sample sites will be installed in pressure Zone 1. The sites will allow the District to monitor water quality and pressure quantity in the zone.

The Well 29 grant-funded rehabilitation project was inspected in September 2024. The new well will:

- Extend the life of existing wells.
- Ensure drinking water quality.
- Provide additional water storage capabilities.



Sewer Project and Septic Tanks

A curtain drain will be installed above the Falling Water Leach Field. The drain will help prevent excess groundwater entering the leach field by intercepting the excess water and having it drain elsewhere.

Did You Know?

Septic tanks are required to be inspected on an annual basis to ensure the proper working of the system and identify potential issues that could lead to public health issues. The District is working with homeowners to schedule inspections in advance of winter weather.

Nakoma Community Firewise Update



Firewise resources are listed at www.gmcscd.org/informative-resources.

The Annual Nakoma Community Firewise meeting was held on August 25, 2024. Given the recent mandatory evacuations during the Gold Complex fire the focus was on what worked and what can be improved during a future evacuation.

Previously held evacuation drills proved useful and helped many evacuate in a more efficient manner. Evacuation drills will be held again in spring 2025. The data for the District's 2024 Firewise Community recertification is currently being compiled and should be finalized by mid-November. GMCSD is confident that it will be recertified given the time, money and efforts made by the community to remove green waste and other fire fuels.

GMCSD will continue to educate and inform residents about California's Defensible Space standards on their properties. Homeowners may obtain a free inspection by contacting Liam Galleher, County Coordinator for Plumas County Fire Safe Council at (530) 927-5339.

Be Winter-Prepared



Fall and winter weather can change at any moment in our area and it's important to be prepared.

Winter Tips for Full-time Residents

- Drain and disconnect outdoor hoses.
- Turn off irrigation systems.
- Protect outdoor pipes and pipes located in areas exposed to your home's exterior, such as in crawl spaces and attics. Insulating products, found in most hardware stores, include pipe wrap, foam jackets and heat tape.
- Know where your main water valve is located in case you need to shut off your water. Call the District at (530) 832-5945 if you need help finding your water main.
- Check and repair any small leaks in faucets, toilets, sinks and showers.

Tips for Leaving Your Home Vacant

- Turn off the main water valve located on the outside of your property.
- Open all indoor and outdoor faucets and shower heads and let the water drain from pipes.
- Drain toilets.
- Pour biodegradable antifreeze* into toilets and indoor sink/shower drains.
- Turn off the water heater (gas and electric).

*Biodegradable antifreeze is commonly used in RVs and travel homes.

Reminders

Close all faucets and shower heads before turning the main water system back on when you return! If you turn on the faucet and no water flows, it likely means your pipes have frozen. Turn off the main water valve and leave the faucets open. Hair dryers may help heat the water, however, it might be best to call a plumber.

While it seems logical to turn off central heating systems, it is recommended to keep thermostats set between 45-50 degrees to prevent pipes from freezing inside interior walls. Another recommendation is to leave under-the-sink cabinets located on an exterior wall (such as below a window) open to allow the air inside the house keep the pipes warmer.

Attention Gold Mountain CSD Customers!

Read our Fall 2024 newsletter to learn about important updates in the community!

Safety Device Checklist

- Test smoke and carbon dioxide alarms to ensure both are properly working.
- Change the batteries in the alarms. If your system has a long-life battery, check the age.
- Replace any smoke or carbon monoxide alarms that are more than 10 years old.
- Dust the device to reduce the risk of false alarms.

Reminders!

Sign-up to receive important alerts during storms, fires and other critical situations from GEM, Plumas County's rapid emergency notification system. Register at www.bit.ly/plumasGEM or scan with your phone.



Pack a Kit



About the GMCS D

The Gold Mountain Community Services District (GMCS D/District), a local government agency provides domestic water delivery and wastewater collection and disposal in and around the Nakoma Community, and manages fire suppression, and fire prevention.

Board of Directors: Gordon Bennie, President; Kim Seney, Vice President; Rene St. Pierre, Director; Kathy Kogge, Director; Jon Gresley, Director.