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**COUNTY OF MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY**

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February 20, 2019

Mr. Mike Moran, President  
Kihei Community Association  
P.O. Box 662  
Kihei, HI 96753

**SUBJECT: BRUSH FIRES IN SOUTH MAUI**

Dear Mr. Moran,

Thank you for your letter dated February 12, 2019 to our Department concerning the recent brush fires and what more can be done to prevent and limit future fires in the area. It is difficult to predict if more fires can be expected in the future, but there are definitely things that can be done to assist in preventing more fires from occurring and lessening the impact that a fire has on an area. However, please know that the implementation of fire prevention measures within the wildland urban interface such as the Kihei, Wailea, and Makena areas is a shared responsibility by the fire department, landowners of undeveloped lands and developed lands, and MECO, in this case.

Moving forward, these will be our department's expectations:

- Our department will be identifying areas of undeveloped land within our county that are hazardous fire areas. These areas will require prevention measures, and our department will be working with these landowners to implement and maintain these prevention measures. Our department will also assist with providing information on prevention measures that lessen the impact that a fire within the wildland urban interface has on property owners of developed lands, and we'll be expecting that these measures will be implemented. Furthermore, our department will be working with MECO so that prevention measures are implemented that lessen the possibility that their equipment causes a fire. And of course, our department will do our best to extinguish any fire so that its impact is as minimal as possible to the community.

- Landowners of undeveloped lands within the wildland urban interface will be responsible for implementing and maintaining those prevention measures identified by our department. The prevention measures to be implemented will be specific to and dependent upon the conditions that are encountered and will most likely be firebreaks of varying widths.
  
- Landowners of developed lands within the wildland urban interface – adjacent to the hazardous fire areas - will be responsible to implement prevention measures that lessen the possibility of their properties being impacted by a fire that occurs within these hazardous fire areas. These prevention measures would include incorporating fire-resistive construction to their structure(s) and the creation of defensible space around the structures on their properties.
  
- MECO will be responsible for implementing prevention measures to lessen the likelihood that their equipment within these hazardous fire areas will cause a fire, and prevent a fire that is associated with their equipment from rapidly spreading.

Please know that these efforts will take time, money, and support. Our department hopes that you and the community you represent will support our efforts by doing your part and reaching out to your Councilmember to support our future efforts to address this matter.

Sincerely,



DAVID C. THYNE  
Fire Chief