

ATTACHMENT 38

- Home
- Rio Verde Foothills
- Map
- Digest
- Neighborhood
- Help map **New**
- Businesses
- For Sale & Free
- Local Deals **New**
- Events
- Real Estate
- Safety
- Lost & Found
- Documents
- General
- Groups
- All groups
- Topics
- All Topics **New**
- Directories
- Neighbors
- Pets
- Public Agencies

Post a message, event, poll or alert to your neighborhood

18 new comments added by your neighbors

 **John Homewer**  
Rio Verde Foothills • 18 May

**Update to - Put The Fire Out! Hello Community - Update.**

I met with Captain George and the other FANTASTIC people at Rural Metro. I explained the protocol I want to see put into immediate action. They all agreed it makes perfect sense. I have requested a meeting with the Rural Metro Chief to put this plan into action.

There appears to be some confusion as to what this new protocol is and my motives. To clarify:


When a 911 "FIRE" (and only fire) gets called to Rural Metro, I want a group SMS text sent to ALL water hauling companies and ALL OF THEIR APPOINTEES (aka drivers and available personnel). This way, we will be able to communicate among ourselves to see who and what resources are closest to the scene and respond accordingly. This just makes sense to me as a minute saved in response time could be the difference between containment or not. Better to be sent away if not needed, is it not?

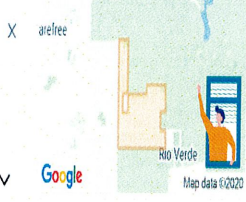
As far as my motives - please just get the fire out! When resources are dispatched to a fire, it costs money (driver's pay, equipment, water, etc.). I donate (as I believe others do) all resources to our community for any emergency response. I simply want the closest available resources to respond (no politics). I will even pay for a dedicated cell phone to sit at dispatch with a pre typed "SOS" text - just hit send (location and requested resource texts can come after the initial alert is sent as all available people will be looking for the next updates).

I hope this helps clear the air so to speak. I will keep updating.

Posted in **Safety** to 6 neighborhoods

 **Thank**  55

 **Heidi Siebring** • Rio Verde Foothills  
John, thank you so much for getting this plan in motion! Very appreciated!  
18 May **Thank**  2



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**View map**

Map

Digest

Neighborhood

Help map New

Businesses

For Sale & Free

Local Deals New

Events

Real Estate

Safety

Lost & Found

Documents

General

Groups

All groups

Topics

All Topics New

Directories

Neighbors

Pets

Public Agencies

Help - Guidelines - Privacy - About - Jobs - Press - Blog

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Heidi Siebring • Rio Verde Foothills  
John, thank you so much for getting this plan in motion! Very appreciated!  
18 May Thank 4 2

Christy Jackman • Rio Verde Foothills  
Water of a Ducks back. I'm on your side of the valley. That ten minutes could cost my home. It's a good plan.  
18 May Thank 1

Greg DePinto • Rio Verde Foothills  
I'm in John let me know how I can help.  
18 May Thank 1

Steve Nelson • Rio Verde Foothills  
Yep this plan sounds good to me also.  
18 May Thank 2

Ellie Mennucci • Rio Verde  
👍  
19 May Thank 1

Rick Witte • Rio Verde Foothills  
Thanks John, the community will definitely benefit from faster response times and resource availability.  
19 May Thank 1

bob Wlsher • Rio Verde Foothills  
Thanks John  
19 May Thank 1

Larry Walton • Rio Verde Foothills  
Thank you for being proactive John.....  
19 May Thank 3

Gretchen Seeck • Rio Verde Foothills  
I'm pretty new to the area and hear we need to pay/donate to the local fire department for their services ... who would that be? Scottsdale or Rural?  
19 May Thank

Connie Bray • Rio Verde Foothills  
Rural.  
19 May Thank 3

Larry Walton • Rio Verde Foothills  
Where is the cutoff on Rio Verde Road for the Scottsdale FD and the Rural Metro FD? I live off of 150th Street and must use Rural Metro



Help map  
Find neighbors who can help or offer to pitch in for those in need on the Help Map.  
View map

- Map
- Digest
- Neighborhood
- Help map **New**
- Businesses
- For Sale & Free
- Local Deals **New**
- Events
- Real Estate
- Safety
- Lost & Found
- Documents
- General
- Groups
- All groups
- Topics
- All Topics **New**
- Directories
- Neighbors
- Pets
- Public Agencies

19 May **Thank**

Larry Walton • Rio Verde Foothills

Where is the cutoff on Rio Verde Road for the Scottsdale FD and the Rural Metro FD? I live off of 150th Street and must use Rural Metro.

Joyce Allemang • Rio Verde Foothills

Hi Gretchen—I have been a resident in the RVFoothills for over 17 years and subscribe to Rural Metro for fire protection as well as medical assistance. The amount you pay annually is based on the square footage of your residence. It is rather expensive but I have had to call for assistance 4 times in those 17 years. One was a matter of life and death. Another was for my Granddaughter who had to be air-lifted to the trauma center. It is just like insurance, you may not need it but certainly makes sense if you do. I feel a little more secure with the coverage.

I have found that the fire fighters at the station on Rio Verde and 164th are great guys and very helpful for non-emergency problems too Good luck with your decision.

19 May **Thank**

Sven Steindorff • Rio Verde

I do not understand what the current issue is? The fire department attends once you call, no matter what. I was a fire adjuster for over 25 years. Save lives first, then hose out what you can and save property. Put out the fire so no other lives are at risk or other property is damaged. Then call the insurance and they will settle the damages. I can tell you, water sometimes does more damage than fire! Get out, call 911 and let the trained Pros do the job. All we need is another finger in the pile. Also, do fire prevention all the time. I have properties in three countries, one has a thatched roof on it. I never had a fire in my life. And if, call 911 and insurance company, not a water truck or bomber!

19 May **Thank**

Casey Chevront • Rio Verde Foothills

Do you live in the Foothills? If not you may not realize that we don't have fire hydrants out here. We have to SEND water to the site and never know for certain how much will be needed. This is why some plan to inform the haulers would be a good idea. (Add in the enormous amount of flammables we have this year - I'm looking at YOU, globe chamomile - and all the hard-to-move livestock and you might understand why neighbors have a level of concern. Sometimes homeowners can - and do - get there first, sometimes they pitch in to move horses and animals... Today's fire was really close to RVD (you



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**View map**

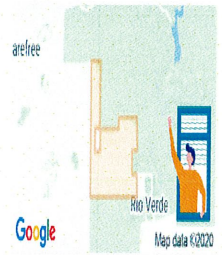
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10 5

- Map
- Digest
- Neighborhood
- Help map **New**
- Businesses
- For Sale & Free
- Local Deals **New**
- Events
- Real Estate
- Safety
- Lost & Found
- Documents
- General
- Groups
- All groups
- Topics
- All Topics **New**
- Directories
- Neighbors
- Pets
- Public Agencies

chamomile - and all the hard-to-move livestock and you might understand why neighbors have a level of concern. Sometimes homeowners can - and do - get there first, sometimes they pitch in to move horses and animals... Today's fire was really close to RVD (you could see flames from the road) but many times it's in somewhere difficult to access with big trucks. Every minute saves acreage.

19 May Thank 😊 5



**S** Shayne Anthony • Rio Verde Foothills  
Speaking of fire does anyone know where the one is that's going on right now????  
19 May Thank

**C** Cheryl Bons • Rio Verde Foothills  
Yes fire at 144th street  
19 May Thank

**C** Casey Chevront • Rio Verde Foothills  
That one is out now I believe. Last I saw about 10 acres but that was a while ago. We really need a better way to get the haulers to the scene...  
19 May Thank

**S** Susan James • Rio Verde  
Last I read up to 30 acres.  
19 May Thank 🙏 1

**D** Deborah Bennett • Rio Verde Foothills  
Sven Steindorff brush fires progress quickly and are a threat to everyone here if they are not contained quickly - really simple - I am super surprised to read this - since I am not a "fire expert" .....you do understand that brush fires burn thousands of acres in Arizona every year and threaten lives, homes and animals... water trucks needed period 😞😞😞  
19 May Thank 😊 4

**G** gordon almedi • Rio Verde Foothills  
totally agree, and am bothered that water haulers provide this simply as community pillars with no financial remuneration, and especially the significant rate our private FD charges, doesnt seem just, but grateful people like john and doreen from RV water are here and care  
19 May Thank 😊 3

**S** Susan Feder • Rio Verde Foothills  
Sounds like an awesome idea. Today was proof how fast a fire can be contained. Thank you to all!! Neighbors of 144th fire.

**Help map**  
Find neighbors who can help or offer to pitch in for those in need on the Help Map.

**View map**

Digest

Neighborhood

Help map New

Businesses

For Sale & Free

Local Deals New

Events

Real Estate

Safety

Lost & Found

Documents

General

Groups

All groups

Topics

All Topics New

Directories

Neighbors

Pets

Public Agencies

Help Guidelines Privacy  
About Jobs Press Blog

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Susan Feder • Rio Verde Foothills  
Sounds like an awesome idea. Today was proof how fast a fire can be contained. Thank you to all!! Neighbors of 144th fire.  
19 May Thank 2

Casey Chewront • Rio Verde Foothills  
Sooooo... tt someone whos said the fire was 99% out, then just saw apost on FB saying they had spoken with rural metro who was saying 75% contained. Now I am confused and concerned. Anyone know for sure?  
19 May Thank 1

Dan Appleton • Rio Verde Foothills  
I'm a retired 30 year career firefighter with a ton of wildland firefighting experience in Northern California. I live a block from today's fire. When I saw the smoke I jumped on my quad and went directly to the fire scene to see what the fire was doing so I could take action at my home, if needed. Luckily for me, the wind was pushing the fire east of my property. I stayed and watched as fire agencies began to arrive and take action. When I first got there there were several water haulers already on scene already putting water on the fire and pre-treating with water the vegetation in front of the fire. What I saw was amazing. Their actions were very effective in slowing the fire as it tried to cross Rio Verde. Because of the high winds the fire did eventually cross Rio Verde but it was knocked down very quickly with the help of the haulers. The fire agencies were also doing an amazing job. My point is the water haulers and their tankers were vital to the quick knockdown of this fire. We don't have fire hydrants out here. Without the haulers on scene the fire engines will burn through their water supply in minutes and then leave the scene to find the nearest hydrant which is several miles west. This is our biggest problem. WE NEED THE WATER HAULERS ON EVERY FIRE. They can literally bring tens of thousands of gallons of water to the scene and supply the fire engines with their water. It's a hell of a lot better to release them if not needed than it is to order them after the fact. Lives and property can be lost in those few minutes. They can easily be sent home if they're not needed. I agree with you, John. On a fire you all should be on the initial dispatch and directed to a staging area near the fire scene where you can be sent to the scene as needed. We, as a community, should all feel better about our fire department's ability to have the water they need at the scene to knock these fires down quickly and we need to support the water haulers in every way we can to make this happen. We are incredibly lucky to have this resource available to us and our fire department! Thank you, guys! Just my 2 cents...  
19 May Thank 17



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View map

- Map
- Digest
- Neighborhood
- Help map **New**
- Businesses
- For Sale & Free
- Local Deals **New**
- Events
- Real Estate
- Safety
- Lost & Found
- Documents
- General

- Groups
- All groups

- Topics
- All Topics **New**

- Directories
- Neighbors
- Pets
- Public Agencies

We are incredibly lucky to have this resource available to us and our fire department! Thank you, guys! Just my 2 cents...

19 May **Thank** 😊 17

**M** Melissa Day-Johnson • Rio Verde Foothills  
We want to thank you for your service Dan over those 30 years...(and counting!)...for your invaluable input! We also want to thank John for taking the initiative with Rural Metro and the chain of command it will take to take such a big positive step forward!

19 May **Thank** 😊 5

**C** Casey Chewront • Rio Verde Foothills  
Absolutely, Mr. Appleton; especially this year, with SO much brush, and the strange high winds we are now (apparently regularly) having. I am so grateful our haulers are willing to be there for us! The haulers spend a "lot" of time out here so I am not surprised they were early on scene. The surprising thing is that fire trucks had been dispatched and the haulers (well, one of them at least) had not been called. And they BEAT the FD there? Wow. Really highlights their importance to the cause.

Edited 20 May **Thank** 😊 1

**L** Larry Walton • Rio Verde Foothills  
Thank you Water Haulers!!!

19 May **Thank** 😊 3

**M** Mary Harris • Rio Verde Foothills  
Thanks John for everything. You have been here in the past during fire season and is much appreciated. Thanks to all the fireman and neighbors and water haulers who are working so hard to put out the fires.

19 May **Thank** 😊 3

**K** Karen Nability • Rio Verde Foothills  
Thankful that both Rio Verde Water and Dynamite Water were at the fire today! No doubt a lot of water was needed. John Hornever - Thank you for your generous contributions with water, time and money. With all the water trucks - was there enough water at all times or could they have used more to keep the hoses going? Were other water haulers there today as well? And do you know who was driving the tractor?? He was quite the talk of the town.:-)

19 May **Thank** 😊 4

**b** bob Wilsher • Rio Verde Foothills  
Amen. The person on the backhoe is a hero!

19 May **Thank** 😊 1

**C** Casey Chewront • Rio Verde Foothills



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Find neighbors who can help or offer to pitch in for those in need on the Help Map.

**View map**

Search Nextdoor [10] [5] [Person icon] [Mobile icon]

Map

Digest

Neighborhood

Help map New

Businesses

For Sale & Free

Local Deals New

Events

Real Estate

Safety

Lost & Found

Documents

General

Groups

All groups

Topics

All Topics New

Directories

Neighbors

Pets

Public Agencies

Help · Guidelines · Privacy · About · Jobs · Press · Blog

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Bob Wisner • Rio Verde Foothills  
Amen. The person on the backhoe is a hero!

19 May Thank

Casey Chevront • Rio Verde Foothills  
Yes he was, fast and expert!

20 May Thank

Kathleen Shiloh • Rio Verde Foothills  
Yesterday's fire started at the north west corner of our property at the end of 143rd st. A careless error on the part of our neighbor welding caused a spark which started flames to spread... from what I was told.

I was talking with a new friend when I noticed the flames. My husband called 911... in the mean time, my new friend, Kim, from Chicago, immediately called her husband, Adam, a former fire fighter. He was over our house in, what seemed like seconds... he took charge. We hooked up hoses with extended hoses. Adam went to the neighbors to hop on their earth mover, without permission... what balls (in a good way) He drove that big earth mover down the wash and moved everything out of the way making a fire line to prevent the fire from moving south.

I was fearful for our horses and goat. Our dogs were safe in the house. Kim and Ali took our three horses down the street to Convin's Ranch. Tim and Nan and their horse trainer, Chris, were most gracious taking our horses in until I felt comfortable in bringing them home several hours later.

Next thing I knew neighbors from everywhere came to help with shovels, water buckets, extra hoses... I was in awe of their courage and just wanting to help. A young woman, Ali, from Washington St. who rides one of our horses, just had surgery on the bottom of her feet the day before and was walking in the smothering ashes in thin tennis shoes trying to hose down hot spots. At the time she never said a word about her surgery and the pain she was enduring trying to help. A former horse trainer of ours, now training at Silver Spur, Melanie, was there carrying heavy water buckets back and forth putting out flames and looking for hot spots. Another neighbor from 137th or 139th street, Rhonda, drove up after seeing the smoke... she came with hoses, water buckets in her car. Another neighbor brought a cooler full of cold water bottles for everyone. There were about 8 of us working on getting this fire out until the firemen were able to take over as this fire jumped Rio Verde Road to the north side.

So... I really just want to thank everyone who helped with this fire that spread on our hill. People are amazing out here. We are all blessed to have strong



Help map

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View map



Search Nextdoor [Search Icon] [Notification: 10] [Notification: 5] [Profile Icon]

- Map
- Digest
- Neighborhood
- Help map **New**
- Businesses
- For Sale & Free
- Local Deals **New**
- Events
- Real Estate
- Safety
- Lost & Found
- Documents
- General
- Groups
- All groups
- Topics
- All Topics **New**
- Directories
- Neighbors
- Pets
- Public Agencies

the firemen were able to take over as this fire jumped Rio Verde Road to the north side.

So... I really just want to thank everyone who helped with this fire that spread so quickly. People are amazing out here ... We are all blessed to have strong, caring neighbors like them... Adam, Kim, Ali, Melanie, Rhonda, Nan, Tim... Thank you, thank you, thank you.

20 May Thank 🙏 13

**Casey Chevront** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Neighbors out here may argue at times but in a pinch they sure do pull together. Bravo, all of you.

Edited 20 May Thank 😊 3

**B Barbara Rago** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Awesome story! Thanks for telling the community.

20 May Thank 😊 4

**Maggie Alderson** • Rio Verde Foothills  
I very nearly lost everything on 144th St about 15 years ago. A similar situation with a spark from a welding tool. There weren't any people with water trucks then but the response from the community was something I will never forget. Within minutes, I had people circling my house with hoses, I had perhaps Dan, above? In any case, a volunteer firefighter making a fire break. Oh and I had 20 horses to evacuate, including a foal! I had so many wonderful people tell me how many horses they could accommodate and address. The FD closed the road at my driveway and the helpless feeling left when I saw 3 trailers coming from the north of 144th. I am still without the proper words to say as Thank you isn't sufficient for the number of people who came to help. Everything was saved, lives and structure and the FD stayed turnout the night or I would never have been able to relax.

Edited 20 May Thank 😊 4

**Maggie Alderson** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Story told as a preface to say I would do anything to be a part of coordinating resources in the plan being discussed. I think the phone, which I would happily man, especially at night - I'm a complete insomniac, I would like to see if we could meet and know what our resources are and have a plan for our community. Who has trailers, who had a place for livestock and an outside contingency plan. Back when every mountain surrounding us was burning, West World offered to place horses. I don't know if that was a one-time option, but worth investigating. I am not going to be caught without plan A and Plan B ever again. Solo, but preferably with the community! Thanks! M

20 May Thank 🙏 3



**Help map**  
Find neighbors who can help or offer to pitch in for those in need on the Help Map.  
**View map**

Map

Digest

Neighborhood

Help map **New**

Businesses

For Sale & Free

Local Deals **New**

Events

Real Estate

Safety

Lost & Found

Documents

General

Groups

All groups

Topics

All Topics **New**

Directories

Neighbors

Pets

Public Agencies

Help · Guidelines · Privacy  
About · Jobs · Press · Blog

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20 May **Thank**



Holly Wagner · Rio Verde Foothills

Good morning all,

As President of the Rio Verde Foothills Volunteer Fire Support and Emergency Services Non-Profit Organization, I am pleased to inform you The "new protocol" for fire safety has already been established and in effect since 2018 by Dynamite Water LLC.

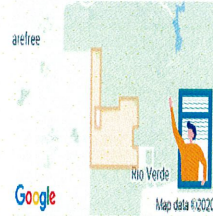
- Dynamite Water LLC obtained a Statement of Recognition by Rural Metro signed off by Fire Chief John Kraetz on 10/3/18
- On 10/3/18 Dynamite Water Hauling fleet obtained Emergency Service Vehicle Status through ADOT
- On 2/20/19 Dynamite Water LLC Amended their contract with Global Water Resources at their well site located at 150th/Divileta for Emergency Water Resources Access during a fire
- On 5/13/19 Dynamite Water LLC and Morgan Taylor Homes partnered for additional Emergency Water Resources in the event of a fire
- On 6/12/19 A Certificate of Recognition was singed into effect by Fire Chief Jay Ducote of Rio Verde Fire District and Secretary of State Office of Katie Hobbs
- On 7/25/19 Dynamite Water LLC was publicly endorsed by the Office of Senator Martha McSally for all their hard work and dedication to the Rio Verde Foothills Community
- On 8/7/19 The Rio Verde Foothills Volunteer Fire Support and Emergency Services Non-Profit Organization came into effect with the Arizona Corporation Commission

Currently Rural Metro Fire Station #826 and Rio Verde Fire District train & work directly with Dynamite Water LLC in the event of an emergency or fire. Dynamite Water LLC employees are also certified Wildland Firefighters.

Dynamite Water LLC has donated all equipment and adaptors in order for the fire trucks to receive water from water hauling vehicles.

I would also like members of our community to know Dynamite Water LLC has been generous in giving back to our local Rio Verde Foothills Organizations:

- Two 2,500 gallon tanks & pumps to Southwest Wildlife
- Two 2,500 gallon tanks to Reigning Grace Ranch



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[View map](#)



Neighborhood



Groups



Topics



Directories



Help - Guidelines - Privacy  
About - Jobs - Press - Blog

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A 2,500 gallon water tank to miniangeleyes Non Profit organization for children & veterans

- 2,500 gallon water tank to Justin Cavalliere to return water back to the Reata Pass Water Tower & Greesewood Forge Blacksmith Shop

All water used in fighting our Community fires is also donated. If you would like to aide in our efforts, please donate to the Community Non-Profit located at Wells Fargo at Dynamite and Alma School Rd! :)

We would like to give special thanks to all the Dynamite Water LLC employees, Rural Metro firefighters #826, John Corvin of Global Water Resources, Morgan Taylor Homes, Rio Verde Fire District, Senator McSally, Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Churci, Scottsdale National Response Team, Tracy Wager of Bridle & Bit Newspaper (for your continued support and publication of our hard work) and thanks to Tom, owner of Rosati's Pizzeria located at Dynamite and Alma School RD for feeding our crew after the fire!

If you have any questions regarding fire safety protocol in the Rio Verde Foothills Community, feel free to contact us, check out our Facebook Page and take a look at all our wonderful partners! Have a Blessed day! :)

<https://www.dynamitewater.com/>

[https://www.facebook.com/Dynamite-Water-LLC-Potable-Water-Hauling-138796590093691/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Dynamite-Water-LLC-Potable-Water-Hauling-138796590093691/photos/?ref=page_internal)

[https://www.gowildlife.org/?gclid=EAlaQobChMI7d12v9vP6QjVv3jBx3ktgxAEAAVASAAEgJAQvD\\_BwE](https://www.gowildlife.org/?gclid=EAlaQobChMI7d12v9vP6QjVv3jBx3ktgxAEAAVASAAEgJAQvD_BwE)

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<https://www.facebook.com/greesewoodforge>

<https://miniangeleyes.org/>



3 days ago Thank



Help map

Find neighbors who can help or offer to pitch in for those in need on the Help Map.



3

- Map
- Digest
- Neighborhood
- Help map **New**
- Businesses
- For Sale & Free
- Local Deals **New**
- Events
- Real Estate
- Safety
- Lost & Found
- Documents
- General
- Groups
- All groups
- Topics
- All Topics **New**
- Directories
- Neighbors
- Pets
- Public Agencies

Help · Guidelines · Privacy  
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3 days ago **Thank**

Jayne Marsh • Rio Verde Foothills

Hi Holly, I'm Jayne Marsh

What about Rio Verde water haulers ??? They also seem to be helping in fire emergencies ???

1 day ago **Thank**



John Hornewer • Rio Verde Foothills

Let us review the last three fires, shall we?

1) December 20th/21st, 2019 – House Fire on 166th. Battalion Chief Dennis Rohrman stated, "I called his (Damon's) number and Nothing... Nothing For Hours". Damon's response "Man, my phone was on the charger". Holly, my driver lives less than three minutes away from where that fire was and neither him nor I were notified.

2) May 15th, 2020 – Aloe Vera Brush Fire. My drivers arrived on scene to assist Rural Metro very quickly as the smoke signal was received early enough, this time. We discharged 6,000 gallons on that fire and extinguished it successfully – limiting the destruction to a few acres. Dynamite Water arrived nearly one hour later, long after the fire had been put out. How many more acres would have been destroyed or, worse yet, how many homes, had there been a one-hour delay in response relying on your protocol? That area has many more surrounding homes as opposed to the 144th Street Fire.

3) May 19th, 2020 – 144th Street Brush Fire – The Bigger One! Holly, per your own admission, Dynamite Water arrived on scene first. This tells me that many people knew about this fire and did NOT notify me. Once again, we were notified via smoke signal but this time, the notification was less than efficient. That 20-minute delay in response proved devastating to our desert. We had to discharge 26,000 gallons this time. Can you see the correlation, Holly?

Holly, I am trying to work with Dynamite Water and our community. Not against them. In good faith, I forwarded my contact list to Damon and he refuses to give me his so we can cooperate and compile a master list of drivers and personnel. Damon needs to "go through the chain of command", whatever that means, before he furnishes his list to ...



### Help map

Find neighbors who can help or offer to pitch in for those in need on the Help Map.

**View map**

- Map
- Digest
- Neighborhood
- Help map New
- Businesses
- For Sale & Free
- Local Deals New
- Events
- Real Estate
- Safety
- Lost & Found
- Documents
- General
- Groups
- All groups
- Topics
- All Topics New
- Directories
- Neighbors
- Pets
- Public Agencies

I now have an agreement with Rural Metro Chief John Kraetz and Battalion Chief Dennis Rohman to be notified when a fire breaks out. All I need now is the contact list from Damon and a new, much improved, protocol will be initiated. Your protocol is fine and all, but it lacks two crucial elements - Redundancy Protection and a Master Contact List. I want to expand and improve your protocol, not destroy it.

Holly, please stop trying to monopolize fire support and assistance for our community - you are damaging it and I do not understand why you cannot see that. I have been accused of wanting to limit resources in our community, a blatant lie, while you actually are. Allowing this new protocol to be put into effect, along with your current protocol, will only improve effectiveness in fire suppression, not detract from it.

Your bullet points are essentially hyperbole and not worth a response except for bullet point two, Emergency Service Vehicle Status through ADOT. That one is very serious and will be addressed later.

Also, I do not want or need any form of reimbursement for helping our community. I will ALWAYS help our community to the best of my ability, no strings attached.

1 day ago Thank 5

John Hornewer • Rio Verde Foothills Holly Wagner,

The TRUTH will come out soon. For those who have distorted the truth, let the evidence and facts pave the way to reality.

1) Do you question the statement of Rural Metro Battalion Chief Dennis Rohman?

2) Why does Damon and Dynamite Water refuse to cooperate with me for the benefit of our community and provide a Master Contact List? I have provided mine, to him, in good faith.

This is not the time for a discussion on the zoning violations faced by ALL haulers. That is a VERY important issue and will be open for discussion soon.

1 day ago Thank 2



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- Real Estate
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- Documents
- General

- Groups
- All groups

- Topics
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- Directories
- Neighbors
- Pets
- Public Agencies

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1 day ago **Thank** 😊 2

**Lisa Burnett** • Rio Verde Foothills  
**Holly Wagner**, this is not the place to air disputes.  
1 day ago **Thank** 😊 3

**Jayne Marsh** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Thank you !!! I pay Dynamite & Rio Verde water \$50.00 each time they work on fires out here. We've lived here since 2001 and they've always helped out !!  
**Jayne Marsh**  
1 day ago **Thank** 😊 3

**Jayne Marsh** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Just a community thought..... Perhaps all of us in Rio Verde foothills Could each pay for a load of water when our local water haulers are there for us to extinguish fires rapidly !!!  
1 day ago **Thank** 😊 1

**Holly Wagner** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Hi Jayne! We have a Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization located at the Wells Fargo at Dynamite & Alma School if anyone would like to donate! Its under the Rio Verde Foothills Volunteer Fire Support and Emergency Services. Thank you for thinking of others! :) <3  
Edited 1 day ago **Thank**

**Kathleen Shloh** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Wow you guys... the fire started at the corner of my property at 143rd. St. We called 911 twice... lady on phone said yes, we know about the fire they are on their way. Well... it was at least 30 plus minutes before any fire fighter was there to relieve the 8 of us hosing it down. I'm sorry, I love the fire fighters, BUT, they were no ware in sight. I was told they were across the street north of Rio Verde road putting the fire out on that side and directing traffic. All good, yes, but there were 8 of us neighbors hosing it down on the south side. I think my 6 neighbors from all over the south side...need a big Thank You too.  
1 day ago **Thank** 😊 3

**John Hornewer** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Hi Kathleen that is EXACTLY the point of this new network



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- Events
- Real Estate
- Safety
- Lost & Found
- Documents
- General
- Groups
- All groups
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1 day ago **Thank** 3

**John Homewer** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Hi Kathleen, that is EXACTLY the point of this new protocol.

One of my drivers was on 141st and Cave Dale when he saw the smoke and immediately went to the scene, but by then, significant damage had been done. And, my driver had to stop off-loading water, disconnect, and then respond - further delaying our arrival.

We, as a community, need communication. My drivers and I could have been there much, MUCH sooner with communication. This is a community effort and must happen.

I am very sorry it took so long to get someone on-scene. Our community needs a better protocol and we will have one.

I NEED the Master Contact List and this new protocol will immediately be in effect.

1 day ago **Thank** 5

**Kathleen Shiloh** • Rio Verde Foothills  
Plus, if the wind had changed directions, the south side would of burned a whole lot more acres...  
1 day ago **Thank**

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These days we're all looking for new ways to celebrate, so when Jessiyn of Providence, Utah saw her mother show up with a birthday surprise, it was all smiles. "This visit was a surprise for..." [See More](#)



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