

## Community Focus Statement G: Improve public safety within the Lake Arrowhead communities

### G6

**Action Statement G.6: Advocate and coordinate with the County and emergency service providers to create better maps and directional street signs/markings to assist emergency drivers in navigating the communities.**

**Benchmarks:** Direction street signs/markings are installed throughout the communities and all emergency service providers are provided with an emergency access map.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$2,000–\$9,000

Narrow winding roads and low roadway connectivity can make driving in the Lake Arrowhead communities a challenge even in favorable conditions. Drivers who are not intimately familiar with the communities may struggle to find a way back to the main roads or to other key locations, and the lack of clear roadway signs in many areas may compound the problem. GPS navigation systems are not always effective, and in some instances may make the situation worse by leading drivers on overly long and circuitous routes. In addition to being an inconvenience and leading to traffic jams, potentially serious problems may arise. Emergency responders having difficulty reaching a location or leaving the neighborhood can cause life-threatening delays. Additionally, lack of directional street signs and markings can cause delays if an evacuation is necessary, which may also put people at risk. Improved signs and maps for emergency responders can help reduce these concerns.

One-way roads and roads with no outlet in the Lake Arrowhead communities must be clearly marked, and all signs placed in locations that are easily visible, including at night. There should be frequent signs that point drivers back to main roads, which will assist with emergency response and evacuations. Street names themselves, particularly on main roads, should also be easily visible and legible. For additional assistance, notices about one-way roads, roads with no outlet, directions back to main roads, and other navigational aids can be painted onto the road surface in addition to being indicated on a sign. To improve emergency response times, the Lake Arrowhead communities should also develop maps showing the quickest routes in and out of the area. These maps should be distributed to all emergency responders operating in the Lake Arrowhead communities and should also be made available to residents and visitors.

To the extent feasible, signs and markings should minimize traffic on quiet residential streets while still allowing for the quickest travel time. All street signs and markings must be consistent with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which contains specifications for these labels. Signs should be placed in highly visible locations where they are unlikely to be obscured by vegetation, and any surrounding vegetation should be trimmed promptly if it starts to become an obstruction. All maps should be well designed and easily understood. It is also important that the Lake Arrowhead communities update the maps and signs as needed as a result of roadway closures, new developments, or other changes that may affect travel time.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Public Safety Task Force	Champion	Month 1	California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/camutcd/">http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/camutcd/</a>  Toley Lake Regional Park: Emergency Access Plan <a href="http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/Parks/About_Us/Project_Details/Toley-Emergency-Access-Plan-Map.pdf">http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/Parks/About_Us/Project_Details/Toley-Emergency-Access-Plan-Map.pdf</a>  Bear Valley Springs Emergency Access Routes <a href="http://www.bvsa.org/files/mnu_page_261.pdf">http://www.bvsa.org/files/mnu_page_261.pdf</a>
2. Decide on the best routes to maximize travel in and out of the community.	Public Safety Task Force	Month 1	
3. Identify where one-way and no outlet signs are needed.	Public Safety Task Force	Month 2 – 4	
4. Meet with SB County Public Works to discuss identified needs	Public Safety Task Force	Month 4	
5. Research and receive funding and grants for signs and mapping as well as maintenance.	Public Safety Task Force	Months 4 - 8	
6. Erect one-way and no outlet signs where needed, and paint comparable markings on road surfaces.	San Bernardino County Public Works	Months 8 – 10	
7. Develop maps showing the best routes for emergency access and evacuation.	Public Safety Task Force	Months 8 - 10	
8. Distribute maps to emergency service providers, and make the maps available to community members in print and online.	Public Safety Task Force	Month 10	
9. Maintain signs and street markings, including trimming vegetation as needed.	San Bernardino County Public Works	Month 10, On-going	
10. Monitor the effectiveness of maps, and revise as needed.	Public Safety Task Force	On-going	