

## Matt Hammerstein

---

**From:** Dave DeGrandpre <DeGrandpreD@ci.missoula.mt.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 2:19 PM  
**To:** Spencer Woith  
**Cc:** Kody Swartz; Matt Hammerstein; Mike Morgan; Alan F. McCormick  
**Subject:** FW: Grant Creek Ingress and Egress

Hi Spencer,

Below is a statement from Assistant Missoula Fire Chief Gordy Hughes regarding the Grant Creek Village project.

**Dave DeGrandpre, AICP** | Land Use Supervisor  
Community Planning, Development & Innovation  
435 Ryman Missoula, MT 59802  
406.559.0709 | [degrandpred@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:degrandpred@ci.missoula.mt.us)



*Promoting equitable growth and a resilient, sustainable community.*

---

**From:** Walter Banziger  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** Dave DeGrandpre <DeGrandpreD@ci.missoula.mt.us>  
**Cc:** Eran Pehan <PehanE@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Gordy Hughes <HughesG@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Mary McCrea <McCreaM@ci.missoula.mt.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Grant Creek Ingress and Egress

As a follow up to our DRT Meeting on Monday, I spoke with Gordy at another meeting yesterday where Grant Creek was briefly discussed. Gordy provided a few talking points below regarding the Ingress and Egress for the subdivision. If you need something more let me or Gordy know.

Thanks  
Walt

**Walter Banziger, AIA, LEED AP** | He/Him  
Deputy Director  
Community Planning, Development & Innovation  
[Development Services](#)  
406.552.6037 (Office) | 406.529.3079 (Cell)  
[banzigerw@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:banzigerw@ci.missoula.mt.us)



*Promoting equitable growth and a resilient, sustainable community.*

**From:** Gordy Hughes <[HughesG@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:HughesG@ci.missoula.mt.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 6:44 PM

**To:** Walter Banziger <[BanzigerW@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:BanzigerW@ci.missoula.mt.us)>

**Cc:** Eran Pehan <[PehanE@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:PehanE@ci.missoula.mt.us)>; Jeff Brandt <[BrandtJ@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:BrandtJ@ci.missoula.mt.us)>; Dax Fraser <[FraserD@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:FraserD@ci.missoula.mt.us)>; Adam Sebastian <[SebastianA@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:SebastianA@ci.missoula.mt.us)>; Jamie Porter <[PorterJ@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:PorterJ@ci.missoula.mt.us)>

**Subject:** Grant Creek Ingress and Egress

Walter,

Not sure what kind of format you were looking for with respect to the Grant Ck. Development and the ingress/egress debate. I will give you a small paragraph here and you can cut and paste, or if you want something different give me a shout:

“Wildfire is an inevitable occurrence, and virtually no area in and especially around the city of Missoula is immune to such. Our ability to live with wildfire is dependent upon many factors, with each factor impacting the outcome in the event of a wildfire. With the development of the drainages around the Missoula Valley, citizens are placed at risk of property damage and physical injury/death. The easiest solution to this dilemma would be to restrict development and overall access to these regions. However, this is not feasible. So we make adjustments, or perhaps turn a blind eye and do nothing at all and live with the opinion that ‘wildfire won’t impact me’. The next best option to limit the danger fire poses to an individual is to get people out of harms way. Timely and coordinated egress is the solution to avoiding the threat. Many variables must be considered when emergency responders initiate the evacuation order, i.e. location of the fire, weather (primarily wind), and topography, just to name a few. Typically evacuations occur by regions most at risk first followed by those least impacted. The Missoula County Sheriff’s Office is tasked with evacuation and employs many options and resources to facilitate this endeavor. With regards to the Grant Creek drainage, adequate (code compliant) roadways serve all inhabitants from Interstate 90 to the terminus of the black top in the upper reaches of the drainage (I can’t speak to residents living off dirt roads). The proposed Grant Creek Village development will not significantly impact the ability of inhabitants to egress to a safe location in the event of a wildfire. Nor will it impact the ability of emergency responders to ingress for emergency purposes. The real discussion that needs to take place, in virtually every Wildland Urban Interface region, is whether enough preparation is taking place at the property owner level, i.e. treating the ‘Home Ignition Zone’. The Missoula Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau would be happy to work with any of the homeowners to address this.”

Let me know if you need any clarification or more information on any of this.

*Gordy Hughes*

Assistant Fire Chief, Missoula Fire Dept.

625 E. Pine St., Missoula, MT 59802

Ph. 406-552-6210

[hughesg@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:hughesg@ci.missoula.mt.us)

