

Coalition of Firewise Communities - NOTES

Tuesday June 4th, 2019 – 5:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Our Mission: The coalition promotes fire safety through advocacy, education, and community involvement with other stakeholders interested in working toward stronger fire safety practices.

Welcome, introduce officers, announcements

Bob Long

- Reminders –
 - June is “*Evacuation Ready*” month: Pack GO BAGs/MED LIST, etc. Remind Neighbors NO RVs/5th Wheel Towing. See Cal-Fire’s READY-SET-GO info, NC mailer or the Union’s insert “Ready for Wildfire” for more information.
 - Update on 10 in-training community’s progress toward certification: 5 new communities approved. 5 to go (another grant needed to fund their certification). Currently, 30 FireWise Communities in NC.
 - Update on “away” and “help” signs: Michael Walker & Chris Reilly of Alta Sierra FireWise Community. Full Details on coalition website.
 - Note: County Atty said law enforcement cannot recommend any system. Send enough letters “We’re using it,” then they may adopt it.
 - “Checked Out” = Green sign. “Help” = Red sign.
 - 20 hour battery light at Target. Flashing white to help signal you are there.
 - Evac. “To Do” sign on garage door.
 - Siren Systems/Lighted Signs for Evac. Researching “Mesh” Network. Like a call box on Hwy. Works when power out. Under \$1000 each. Siren in Neighborhood.
 - LOP = Private Road, Evac Signs w/ arrow.
 - Sign up for Code Red (see mynevadacounty.com – button on home page)
 - Complete requests for those shovel-ready projects, send to Fire Safe Council.
 - NC Board of Supervisors passed the lien for fire abatement. Thank you to those who contacted their Supervisors.
 - Promote the FSCouncil to your residents: \$49 membership, reflective address signs
 - Sept 28th Fundraiser Allison Kirk, KNCO Radio
 - “ZONE RED AFFAIR” featuring 49Rs Quarter Back John Pay.
 - For FSC and Fire Prep Awareness
 - VIP Sponsorship, Tiered Level Sponsorships, PreParty Event, Silent Auction
 - \$75 per person

Report on Fire Safe Council Board meeting

Susan Rogers

- Defensible Space Advisors: the FSC program is advisory only. If your community is in a Homeowner’s Association, you can enforce your DS Advisory rules, but do not use the FSC logo. Establish your own homeowner’s association DSA paperwork.
- SF Chronicle Reporter writing story about Fire Prep in WUI
- Donn Thane: Prescribed Burn Association – for ppl who want to have this.

Neighborhood Private Road Improvement Road Project Craig Rohrsen

- Fire started on Lone Lobo Road. Tree came down on power line on Kentucky Ridge 11:45pm.
- Know where fire hydrants are for your TRA, neighborhood. Out of town firefighters will want this info.
- 2 homes lost b/c of brush around them.
- Help everyone create defensible space
- Have backup generator w/ transfer switch. Must be installed by licensed contractor to avoid killing yourself or starting a fire due to improper installation.
- Suggestion: cell towers fire hardened and back up battery. Mini cell towers could serve area.
- Have 5k-10k water tanks. Must have defensible space around them so they won't burn in Wildfire.

Landscaping – definition of 5' hardscape zone

Susan Rogers

- Cal Fire, Jim Mathias, said 4291 legislature hasn't been updated yet to the 5 foot zone described by the NFPA (hardscaping mainly. Landscaping = little, if any). Follow NFPA guideline for 5 foot zone.

Video re ltr from Board of Supervisors to State Ins Comm

Susan Rogers

- Susan Rogers played a 7-minute video recording of a staff analyst's report to the County Board of Supervisors, as part of their sending a letter to the state Insurance Commission regarding Fire Insurance availability and affordability of homeowners fire insurance in NC.
- Up until now, California insurance premiums have been about 35% LOWER than the national average, because California doesn't get hurricanes or tornadoes. Now, we are catching up.
- 21, 000 homes at Elevated risk of Wildfire. 15,000 at Extreme Wildfire Threat
- Fires during 2017 wiped out the pool of funds aggregated for such events that had been accumulated from 2001-2016. This shows the amount of loss occurring compared to insurance companies fund for paying for catastrophic event losses.
- Issues: there is no transparency in how any company sets rates. No risk modeling. Need more standardization and transparency in how companies set their rates.

Role of Fire Safe Council, Firewise Communities, Coalition

Bob Long

- FSC's role: Advisors, not enforcers. County Resource to educate fire safety and help ppl who can't afford Defensible space. Other programs such as chipping, scotch broom challenge. Apply for grants for community's Defensible Space.
- Coalition's role: Advisors, not enforcers. Reference resource. Conduit to pass information back and forth.
- FireWise Community's role: Homeowners who support one another and create defensible space.

Discussion and vote to support public alert system

Kent Rees

Form a committee (4 Coalition officers, Kent Reese, Chris Reilly and Michael Walker)

Objective is to have all interested parties (OES, Coalition, Fire Depts) determine if there is a path for a region-wide (County wide?) alert system. Concept: Siren would NOT mean "evacuate," it would mean "Something is happening that could be a concern. Check reliable info sources to see how it affects you." Main concern is to give ppl more time to evacuate.

Jeff Pettitt said that CA Emergency Services Association is looking into this too. Nevada City is spending \$30K on 1 Siren. Laguna Beach is spending \$1M for 18 sirens in a 9 mile area (need back up power & maintenance budget).

Jeff also just attended the "Emergency Preparedness Summit." A lot of other counties (Marin, Sonoma, etc) are talking about evacuation, sirens, etc. too. Looking for countywide solutions.

Subcommittee and Partner Status Reports

- **Cal Fire – Jim Mathias**
 - June 9th NC WUI Drill for Cement Hill, Champion Mine – at Rood Center.
 - Peak Staffing: July 1.
 - Governor's budget – 2nd Engine in Colfax. 22 engines total.
 - SR staff – likely June 1 or sooner cut off date for burn permits.
 - Morning mowing only. Don't mow on windy day.
 - Help with legislation: Emergency Exits for Ponderosa Way and Rex Reservoir .
Emergency gated access

- **County of Nevada – Jeff Pettitt**
 - Public Safety Power Shut off can last up to 5 days. Tell your communities so that they're prepared. Medical devices that work on power.
 - Satellite phone installed at Purdon
 - 1st Friday Art Walk in NC. Code Red, posters, Defensible Space Inspector.
 - Last of Speaker Series
 - FEMA Grants: Veg Roadside clearance – closer, but not yet. 300 miles of roadway would be a total of 600+ miles.
 - Post on EOS website: Evac Workshop. Traffic Control points, loud speaker notifications, door-to-door notifications
 - OES 8ft tall Red Flags on Fire Stations and main area locations.

- **Fire Safe Council – Donn Thane**
 - Jamie Jones writing new grant for next year's county wide Green Waste Drop. This year was an overwhelming success.

- **Enforcement –Matt Furtado**
 - June 14, Friday, Construction Contractors Home Show 9am – 1pm. Rood Center

Next meeting: July 2nd, 2019 -- 5:30 – 7:30 PM 336 Crown Point Circle