

# Coalition of Firewise Communities

January 7, 2019 – 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

***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 & Announcements:

**PG&E mandate to create 12 foot break under power lines –** PGE has information about the 12 foot clearance under transmission lines. There is a link to the PGE requirements and options for dealing with PGE on the Coalition website. We have heard that there's been an update to the specifications since that article was written. Contacting PGE is recommended. The higher wires are the important power lines to protect (lower wires are phone and cable).

<https://sites.google.com/site/coalitionoffirewisecommunities/pge>

**Shovel-Ready Projects –** Complete requests for those shovel ready projects – Shovel-ready means you have permits signed by landowners, contracts signed etc. Jamie (FSC) is moving forward with the grants. Contact FSC.

**Yuba Net –** Fire Safety By the Week – Yuba Net has a series going that has new information each week in relation to Fire Safety. <https://yubanet.com/category/fireseasonprep/>

### Speaker

#### **Patrick Mason: Nevada County Consolidated Fire role in road and unimproved property and defensible space**

Nevada County Consolidated was established in 1991 with three districts, and is now up to 5 districts. Patrick originally work in suppression for 20 years, he is now involved with enforcement. He has authority over private roads and unimproved parcels. Process is complaint-driven – they do not have the staff to go out looking for violations. Complaint comes in, Patrick goes out to the property. In the County, road clearance requirements are: 10 feet outside the shoulder edge of the road, 15 feet high for rural roads (minimum). The focus is on the ladder fuels, not on the large trees. Look for small cedar, blackberry bushes, scotch broom etc. 10 ft is the minimum, pushing back further is recommended. Pushing hard now during the winter season, preparation for fire season The enforcement process: receive complaint, inspect, send letter, open up communication. After 30 days, second letter, another 30 days allowed for communication. After that the documents go to County Code enforcement, they handle the abatement. The way the code is written, if you complain and the owner of a property does not comply, you may be liable for 50% of the cost. ***Hopefully in March, the responsibility will shift directly to the property owner.*** Patrick is finding that most of the response is positive and people are taking care of the road clearance. On unimproved parcels we can request a 50 foot buffer from the property line. We may also request a fire break every 5 acres.

#### **Evacuation Planning - Kent Rees**

Cascade Shores sponsored an evacuation meeting. Cascade Shores is 6 miles east of town. There was an impressive turnout. We want to live with nature and big trees, and that bargain comes with the possibility of losing your home. We have asked NID to reconsider opening the gates that are now locked near Scotts Flat Lake. They also asked the county to remove the overhanging brush on Banner Lava Cap.. **Kent: The Coalition needs to make an appeal to the county that we need to be players in the operation. The Coalition represents the county. We should go on record with the roads department and that the Evacuation routes need to be the high priority. There is a genuine feeling of entrapment. The roads need to be opened up.** A question arose about sheltering in place and what we can do right now. Jim Mathias: **Areas of safe refuge is something we can do right now. A few houses that have defensible space that is well maintained makes for quick safe zones. Schools, airports, parking lots at shopping centers... The Coalition is one of the best avenues for making change in the county.**

The Coalition represents the county and is drafting a letter to the county offering our services. FSC has been working on road projects, they will share with the coalition.

**Address signs** – Remind your Firewise Community members to mount the green and white address signs. FSC has the signs for 40 dollars plus hardware. This may seem mundane but very important, also important for medical emergencies. Sign up for Code Red, it is important to be connected.

**Assistance to Communities in Training** – We are working with 18 communities that are trying to get their certification. The Coalition is looking for some volunteers to be a “mentor buddy” to these communities. Contact Bob Long if you can help.

### **Subcommittee Status Reports**

**Fire Safe council** – Jamie Jones, Executive Director of the FSC. They have applied for the following grants: Cal Fire Grant, SNAP funds, grants for new FWC, Chipping grant, Green waste drop sites. County has requested funds for 100 miles of roads, with the 10-10-15, FSC will assist in this. We need to educate people on personal responsibility.

**Evacuation** - Chris Reilly – Working on Alert system and signage. Made request to improve ingress and egress routes from Alta Sierra with the county. Evacuation can include options for shelter in place. County is in process of improving vegetation management, hoping to obtain funding. Chris is encouraging community members to get involved in the process. Any road that can be used to get to a safe place needs to be maintained. The County said to submit road areas of concern. Kent Rees: **it is important to contact public works and get your voice heard, put your area in their sites.** Mike showed some signage they are working on. Signage that tells you what you need to do, posted in your garage. ASPOA website (Alta Sierra Home Owners) has them available. He also shared the signage, one that says I am out ok, one that says I need help. Coalition will make the signs available after further work..

**Other:** Scott Allen shared some sign mock-ups that could be available from Zumar <https://www.zumar.com/>: Shelter in Place (Red) or Evacuated (Green). No recommendation was made.

Next meeting

Feb 5th, 2019 -- 5:30 – 7:00 PM Madelyn Helling Library

Attendance

	Attendance 1/7/19	
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>FWC</b>
	Archbald, Greg	Nevada City - In Town
	Auld, Pam	Sherwood Forest
	Babiarz, Charlie	Mt Lakes Estates HA
	Baldock, Ray	Forest Knolls III HOA (FBM)
	Becker, Bill	Darkhorse HOA Auburn
	Beesley, Peter	Alta Sierra POA
	Bell, Kevin	Bear River Ranch
x	Bleile, Nancy	Greater Champion
	Bottomfield, Marlene	Tumbling Creek (FBM)
x	Bowman, Sue	
x	Branstrom, Bob	Wolf Creek Lodge
x	Browning, Steve	Bitney Springs
	Bryant, Nathaniel	Foxwood Estated
x	Buschman, Gena	Greater Cement Hill
	Chandler, Steve	Lake of the Pines
x	Coe, Pat	The Cedars
x	Corless, Lana	6B's
x	Cuccia, Mike	Mt Lakes Estates HA
	Curtin, Ed	Darkhorse HOA Auburn
	Dary, Raymond	
x	Davidson, Dario	Lower Colfax
	Davis, Dennis	Toller Ridge Ct
	Davis, Jim	Fire Safe Council
	Diamond, Eve	Owl Creek/Jones Bar Neighborhood
	Dodge, Charolette	Wolf Mountain
x	Dover, Lynne	
x	Dow, Georgia	
	Drummond, Joanne	Alta Sierra POA
x	Drutz, Lauren	6B Ranch Estates
x	Ellisor, Jim	Rattlesnake Ridge Estates
	Emery, Jack	Echo Ridge Neighborhood
	Emlaw, Christy	
	Enoch, Beth	Greater Cement Hill
x	Ericson, Krista	Wolf Creek Lodge
x	Ericson, Laura	
	Evans, KJ	

x	Fautz, John	
	Feiler, Larkyn	Wolf Mountain, Orbit Road
	Fish, Cathe	Squirrel Creek HOA
	Fites, Jo Ann	East Sages - Salmon Mine
	Freeman, Chrissy	Lower Colfax
x	Frizzell, Randall	
	Fusshoeller, Pascal	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
x	Gardner, Scott	Sierra Knolls HOA
x	Gardner, Suzanne	Sierra Knolls HOA
	Gilbert, Ames & Nancy	Lower Colfax
x	Gitchel, Sam	Greater Champion
x	Gompertz, Virginia	Lake Wildwood HA
	Guerwitz, Phyllis	Lake Wildwood HA
	Gulserian, John	OES
	Guthrie, Lynda	
	Hall, Helene	Banner Mountain Neighbors
x	Hanna, Bob	Forest Knols III HOA (FBM)
x	Hardy, Joan	Cascade Shores HA
x	Hawkins, Vicki	Darkhorse HOA Auburn
x	Hedman, Jan	Dalmation Drive
	Herron, Rebecca	Greenhorn Rd.
	Hertzler, Pam	NRCS
	Hofeling, Russ	Forest Knolls Estates (FBM)
	Hoff, Barbara	Tumbling Creek (FBM)
	Hood, Dave	Stonebridge HA
	Houdyschell, Bill	Tahoe-Donner Assoc
	Israelian, Thomas	Dalmation Drive
	Jansen, Sandy	You Bet Community
	Jeffrey, Nancy	The Gazebos
	Johnson, Ryck	Buck Mountain Rd Assoc
	Jones, Jamie	Fire Safe Council COO
x	Jorgensen, Frances	Greater Champion
x	Keyes, Joan	Alpine Lane GV
	Knox, Christine	Red Dog-You Bet Community
x	Kosinski, Grego	
x	Kruger, Barbara	
x	Leach, Pat	Salmon Mine East Sages
	Lee, Bob	Lodestar HOA & FWC
	Lee, Rick	
x	Litton, Alice	Otting/Myrna
	Long, Bob	Chair – Sherwood Forest
x	Main, Martin	Bear River Ranch

	Mann, Gordon	Lake of the Pines
	Mason, Jackie	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Masters, RuthAnn	Cole Country Estates
	Mathias, Jim	CalFire
	Mazorra, Debbie	Lake Wildwood HA
	McGillicuddy, Paul	Lightening Tree Rd Assoc
x	McLean, Mike	Ridgeview Woodlands HOA
x	McMahan, Terry	Nevada County Consolidated Fire
	Merritt, Scott	
	Mezzetta, Jim	Rough & Ready Estates
	Mills, Martha	Gazebos
x	Minett, Peter	Nevada City
	Muldord, Steven	Friends of Banner Mountain
x	Novak, Gloria	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
x	Peach, Gale	Friends of Banner Mountain
x	Peach, Jeff	Friends of Banner Mountain
x	Peach, Justin	Friends of Banner Mountain
	Peck, Tom	No Affiliation
x	Perreaux, Adrienne	
	Pettis, David	Wolf Mountain
	Porter, Debbie	Golden Oaks HA
x	Porter, Laurie (Greg Zaller)	
	Pridemore, Karen	6B Ranch Estates
x	Proano, Robert	6B Ranch Estates
x	Reeder, Vicki	Greater Champion
x	Rees, Kent	Cascade Shores HA
x	Reilly, Christopher	Alta Sierra POA
	Rekers, Bonnie	
	Resk, Christina	
	Rigdon, Dusty	The Cedars
	Roberts, Moana	Jumper Hills FWC
	Rogers, Susan	Glenwood-Maidu-Charlene
	Russell, John	Rattlesnake Ridge Estates
	Scarmon, George	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Scarmon, Jeanne	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Sims, Gopal	Ananda
	Small, F.Mac	Alta Sierra POA
	Smith, Evan	NRCS
	Smith, Mike & Dana	
	Smith, Vern	Ranch Rd HOA
	Staetz, Chuck	Friends of Banner Mountain
	Tamo, Jenn	County Administrative Analyst I

	Taylor, Marilyn	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
x	Taylor, Wendy	Darkhorse HOA Auburn
x	Thane, Donn	Fire Safe Council
	Thrush, Greg	Sierra Fund
x	Timmer, John	Peardale
	Van Arsdale, Rhonda	Lake Wildwood HA
x	Warner, Michael	Alta Sierra POA
x	Wetzel, John	Upper Rough & Ready
x	Williams, Curt	Foxwood Estates
	Williams, Mike	The Cedars
x	Williams, Pete	Greater Champion
	Wilson, Bill	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Wolfe, Taylor	County Communications Specialist
x	Woods, Kenneth	Altair Property Owners Association
	Young, Pam	Wolf Creek Lodge
x	Zaller, Greg	
	Ziebron, Michael	Alta Sierra POA