

MEETING MINUTES

COALITION OF FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018 5:30-7:30 PM

Location: Madelyn Helling Library

Welcome and announcements: attendees gave their name and (where applicable) the name of the Firewise Community they represent.

County Tax Bill Insert Status – A two-sided insert will go in all county property tax bills in October. Susan Rogers reported that the Coalition side of insert is complete, and passed around a printout. The county is working on the Code Red Side. Make sure Code Red number is in your favorites in your phone. **866-419-5000 and 855-969-4636**

Survey of “in training” FW Communities – Work in progress

Continuing Survey of “How Do You Communicate with your Residents?” Objective is to see how we communicate with all the residents in the county. Please get yours in. Those not at tonight’s meeting should respond to the email sent to everyone on the list.

Report on Fire Safe council Board meeting

300 miles are county roads, 900 miles are rural roads – There will be some private grants through FSC for private property road clearance – must be shovel-ready, permissions, waivers etc. Don Thane encourages all FWC to put in some kind of project. There is potentially a large amount of money. Funding comes from OES grants and will be allocated to the Fire Safe Council for disbursement. Applications from Fire Safe Council will be forthcoming.

Need communities to volunteer for Fire Drill in Spring – Send an email to Bob Long (Chairman) about your interest - Boblong162@gmail.com. You can also send an email to Chris Reilly from Alta Sierra, he has helped organize this and can give some guidance. Chris: castle55@yahoo.com This is an opportunity for the land owners to communicate with the fire responders.

211 works – Call 211 rather than 911 for fire information and updates, this keeps the 991 line open for actual emergencies – 211 system is staffed with people who are updated by OES during significant events

OES and neighbors' lot: People have been calling OES and FSC about rural lots that are more than 100 feet from a structure. Unfortunately the enforcement of clearing vacant lots is more difficult because of the distance from structures. Best option is to attempt to get folks to work together.

Cal Fire – Cal Fire is considering remodeling kiosk at Gate Five in the Fairgrounds. They want to make it a demonstration building. This will be funded with grant money.

Marty Main commented that there may be some state money coming down the pipeline from the state for more fire safe clearing. Keep an eye on YubaNet for more information.

Address signs – Bob Long - of the 60 homes in Bob’s neighborhood only 6 had the signs. The signs cost 35 dollars, they can be two sided. You need a metal stake (from any hardware store) and some bolts to put the sign up. Signs are available on the Fire Safe Council website. Use a two sided so it’s visible from two directions.

The system is working – Jeff Peach shared a letter from Nevada County Consolidated that went to a neighborhood about hazardous vegetation. The system is working.

Fire Safe Council committees – Fire Safe Council has committees that are looking for volunteers to help. You can contact Anna - anna@areyoufiresafe.com at the Fire Safe Council. Here are the various committees.

Partnership Education
Fire Prevention Education
Volunteer Development
Board and Staff Development

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Hazardous Fuel Reductions
Fundraising
Grant Writing
Personnel Committee
Cohesive Strategy Metrics

Fire Insurance – There was an article in the Bee (and other newspapers) about insurance. Some of the larger insurance companies are dropping Nevada County. There is a PDF of the article on the webpage.

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

Tier 3 Fire Map ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/safety/fire-threat_map/2018/PrintablePDFs/8.5X11inch_PDF/CPUC_Fire-Threat_Map_final.pdf

Why can't there be some sort of Fire Insurance similar to earthquake insurance? The California Fair Plan is a state program that is potentially very expensive.

<https://www.uphelp.org/> If you are having difficulty getting insurance this site has some great resources.

Help with annual Firewise Report required by NFPA for re-certification of your Firewise Community– Let Bob know if you need help. The portal for reporting is <https://portal.firewise.org/> There should be at least one person on your committee that has access.

Subcommittee Status Reports

Evacuation – Chris O'Reilly - Chris shared a fire report from Alta Sierra. The fire was not catastrophic due to good defensible space work by homeowners. Chris shared some signs that have been developed by the committee. The signs are the **Out OK** or **Help Needed**. These will be made available to all communities when completed. He also showed some flexible poles that connect to fire hydrants making them easy to locate. You can go to Nevada County on line and request new road signs.

Enforcement - Dario Davidson - Nothing to report.

Real Estate – Susan Rogers - This is the effort to get the local realtor committee to do a better job educating buyers, sellers and agents about defensible space. Susan has communicated with Rick Nolle who is an agent, lives in a FWC and has offered to help move things along.

Fire Adapted Communities - Jackie Mason – <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/> Members are mostly Fire Safe Councils. Should the Coalition become a member? **Homework**, go to the website and do some research. Sort of an extension to what we are doing here with the Coalition.

Other Items from the Floor – Greg Thrush (Sierra Fund) The Sierra Fund will be having a community assessment meeting. Much of their work is related to water, but a big part of water is fire suppression. There is money coming down the pike for DACs (DisAdvantaged Communities) We would love to have involvement from active community members like the Coalition. Contact Greg Thrush greg.thrush@sierrafund.org 530-265-8454 ex212, he would like to come to FireWise Committee meetings to spread the word.

Tractor Supply will be having a Farmer's Market on September 22. Fire Safe Council and the Coalition will have a booth, let Susan know if you are interested in helping.

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Jim Davis, from Fire Safe: Chipping program is caught up. Let the FSC know if you want chipping. Jim needs a list of Defensible Space advisors that are still active. There will be a training in November. Need individuals to speak at the training session. (Master gardeners, Firemen etc) CFIP was 3 acres or more, it is actually 20 acres to 5,000 acres.

Jeff Peach 12/5/2019 8:23 AM

Deleted: Attendance
Auld, Pam

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