

Coalition of Firewise Communities Meeting Notes

Tuesday March 3, 2020 – 5:30 to 7:30 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

Susan Rogers

- **Who's here for the first time? Sign in to get on mailing list.**
- Reminders –
 - Sign up for Code Red (see mynevadacounty.com – Wildfire Prep button, then bottom of that page under Helpful Links))
 - Promote the Fire Safe Council to your residents: \$49 membership, reflective address signs (\$35 single side, \$40, double, \$5 for stake)
 - Yuba Net <https://yubanet.com/regional/bob-roper-the-fires-of-california-past-the-tipping-point/> another way of looking at current situation. It's a long awaited wakeup call.

Monthly updates :

Nevada County OES

Paul Cummings/Lt. Bob

Jakobs

- Reduce Hazardous Veg in county with Nevada County Consolidated Fire Dept.
- Defensible Space Program/Inspectors: Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance 2463. Have been rewriting plan this past Winter. Goes before NCounty board in March. More proactive program. Proactively look for higher risk areas and help with fuels reduction. Strictly unincorporated areas (not NCity or GV or Truckee).
- County to send letter (1-2 months) to unincorporated areas remind about ordinance and Def Spc code, and 10/10/15 Fire Wise Roadsides. If not in compliance, fines.
- Private roads are responsible for their own roads too.
- After 2010, if a road is designated Egress Road, one can have a gate, but it has to be unlocked.

Corona Virus Concerns:

- Working w/ Public Health, supporting them. CDC has good website on updates. Calif Dept of Public Health website. MyNevadaCounty/Public Health website.

OES Emergency Plans shared w/ County/public

- Post on OES website, print copies for fire districts

CERT: Community Emergency Response Team. CERT members are trained volunteers to provide help during PSPS and other emergencies. This will be a County program under the Department of Public Health. The launch has been delayed by the pandemic. Stay tuned.

OES speakers can come to your FWCommunity Meeting. Call to schedule them: 530- 265-7015.

FireSafe council Update

Donn Thane

- Green Waste Drop will be a 3-day event, (Sat – Mon) over 6 weekends May – June. Need volunteers to help out at sights. [Note: as of March 29, this apparently has been shortened to four weekends].
- Annual Fire Season Guide insert in *The Union*. Volunteers are helping out. Out in May.
- Wildfire Preparedness Day – May 2nd.
- Wildland Urban Interface Drill (4th year) – coming up May 31st Cascade Shores/Banner Mtn area. June 28 McCorutney Road Area. More Community involvement, the better. Practice evacuation, CodeRed, etc.:
- DSA visits – group visits for Fire Wise Communities. Use Contact Form on FireSafe Council Website. In msg box, tell them you want a DSA visit.

Smart planting – landscape architect

Sheri Brown Dion

- Her background: 10 years in area and Tahoe. Was in Tahoe when Angora Fire happened.
- See PPT presentation on website. The key is Maintenance.
- Sierra Nevada Alliance – download as a pdf (15 yrs old). Based in Tahoe, landscape design around homes. Hardening homes.
- Marin Fire Safe Council has good plant list, good place to start (BUT different zone from NC)

Cal trans – hazardous tree removal - update

Susan Rogers

- Responsible for veg mgt on Hwy 20 and 49. They see their job as maintenance. Keep trees from falling down and obstructing traffic. Starting to look at these trees as a fire hazard.
- Goal to get Cal-Trans to view trees in a new way and reduce fuel load.
- **Vote to approve Coalition letters to Gov. Newsom, Cal Trans and Board of Supervisors**

- Look at trees in a new way to remove hazardous fuel loads on sides of Hwy 20 and 49 and 174. Yes, overwhelming Yes.

Next meeting: April 5th, 2020 -- 5:30 – 7:30 PM , 336 Crown Point Circle

[Note: this meeting has been cancelled due to the pandemic.]