

Coalition of Firewise Communities - NOTES

Tuesday Sept 3rd, 2019 – 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

Bob Long

- Reminders –
 - Sign up for Code Red (see mynevadacounty.com – button on home page)
 - Complete requests for those shovel-ready projects, send to Fire Safe Council.
 - Promote Fire Safe Council to residents: \$49 membership, reflective address signs
- September Fire Safe Council Fundraiser -- “Red Zone Affair” Sept 28th. Tix available, Sponsorships avail. More info: www.areyoufiresafe.com
- Code Red vs. Red Flag Warnings:
 - Code Red = sign up for emergency alerts such as evacuation notices.
 - Red Flag Warning: OES office issues National Weather Service/NOA Red Flag Warnings. Go the mynevadacounty.com to sign up. “Alert Center.”
 - Power outages. Most, if not all, gas stations don’t have a back up generator for pumping gas. Keep tank FULL during Red Flag Warning.
- Many environmental non-profits are performing fuels reduction projects. The County wants to create a master list of all projects, so please send Bob Long an email with whatever your FWC is working on.
- FWCs: Communications Reach/Effectiveness. Fill out form and send to Susan.

Healthy forests and Shaded Fuel Breaks “I loved my forest to death” by Jeff Peach

- If you don’t clear trees, mother nature will do this for you via fire, bark beetles, other infestations when trees are weakened (choke each other out) to the point they can’t survive. This leads to a build up of combustible fuel.
- Community Shaded Fuel Break: Trees are still there (shaded), but not so many of them. It’s still a forest, but thinned. Trees are healthier because they’re not competing for light/air/water. Creates a safer forest. Ladder fuels removed.

Discussion of Insurance Commissioner’s Visit

Susan Rogers

- Video of Ricardo Lara’s visit is linked from Coalition’s website under “Insurance Issues.”

Report on Fire Safe Council Board meeting

Bob Long

- Accounting reports look good.
- FireWise Communities: 37 certified, 6 in Assessment Phase (paying for their own), 42 in Training on waiting list, 5 expansions to existing FWCs in progress.
- PGE gave \$100,000 for another chipper.
- Looking at the ability to clear private roads. (560 miles county roads (39% unpaved), 1500+ private roads).

Update on Code Red TEST

Jeff Pettitt

- 25,000 residents signed up to date.
- Aug 15 countywide test was first time ever. Tested notification rate (how much could the system be loaded before it crashed). Verify that ppl who signed up received msgs.
- Test will be annual, to keep up to date w/ cell towers so we don't overwhelm them.

Alert Sirens, Alert Tones: Jeff Pettitt

- High/low sirens for all patrol cars: Pilot program with other county Sheriff's office. Grass Valley & Nevada City Police Dept.
 - Only used for an evacuation order.
 - Car sirens easier to control specific area/sound in area.
 - PSAs, Videos launched as soon as systems in place and ready to use.

Update on Coalition website changes – Susan showed some changes to the website

Clarify defensible space on roads

Bob Long

- 15ft (or more) overhead clearance, min of 10 feet clearance (shoulder of road). This rule is a MINIMUM. Go to 30 feet and limb up MORE if you can. Fires can jump a road easily. Rural areas do more if you can. Get it so that Cal-Fire can see 300 feet down the road, and around/through corners.
- County ordinance 2463 enforces it.

Officers – Length of Terms

Bob Long

- Sept 2020 – will be looking for replacements for Chair and Co-Chair. Anyone interested, please see Bob or Susan.

Subcommittee and Partner Status Reports

- **Cal Fire – Jim Mathias**
 - Acres burned 2019 (Nevada Yuba Placer cty): 1000+ acres, down 352 from 2018
 - CA: 13,401 acres burned. Last year 1,070,768 acres. Down over 1m acres.
 - NC Fair booth: will be renovated.
 - Gold Country Fair, Auburn: good example of Def Space/Hardened Home.
 - Veg Management Program: CalFire may burn early if it makes sense in a few months. Otherwise wait until rains come.
 - Ponderosa Way Project Community meeting tomorrow night, Fair Grounds.
- **Fire Safe Council -- Donn Thane**
 - Def Spc Advisory Training: in November . Date TBD. Reps from In-training communities need to attend.
 - WUI training in April/Spring. Cascade Shores/Banner Mountain area plus one other. Matt Wallen will coordinate.
- **Evacuation – Chris Reilly**

- Met with OES/Sheriff Dept to review evac routes and Sheriff control points. Work w/ public works with directional signs. Private roads – get with road association and work on evac routes (open gates, etc.).
- We are telling residents to evacuate perpendicular to the wind.

**Next meeting: Oct 1st, 2019 -- 5:30 – 7:30 PM 336 Crown Point
Circle**