

Coalition of Firewise Communities - MINUTES

Tuesday April 2, 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.

Vice chair Susan Rogers welcomed the attendees. About a dozen people were there for the first time. Miscellaneous announcements were made.

- Wildfire Preparedness Event -- May 4th – noon to 4PM at the Rood Center
- Congratulations three local FWCommunities for winning NFPA Wildfire Community Preparedness Day project awards of \$500 each.
- Poll: is it important that we include attendance with minutes? No, does not matter.
- Marty Main: Old newsstand boxes may be available from The Union. Set up as a community mailbox in prominent place next to main road in neighborhood. Place Fire Prep print materials such as Quarterly Newsletter, Fire Prep Guide, etc. Place sign on outside such as “Got Defensible Space? Learn How.” 8-10 ppl want the boxes.
- New enforcement for county (see Jeff Pettitt’s info at end of Minutes)
- 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 the FSCouncil to your residents: \$49 membership, reflective address signs

Firewise Certification Update

Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman

- 10 Communities in Training – priority for Assessments
 - Working on 1 Neighborhood at a time. More technical fire info.
 - Budget tight. Volunteering 1/3 of time.
 - Get Community updated for Certification
- Assessment Steps
 - Jo Ann described her method for doing the Hazard Assessment. She asked that the Communities she’s working with fill out the table grid information (which asks, for example, what percentage of your residents have defensible space?), and review it with their respective fire agency official.
 - She suggested that all other FWCs also use the grid to do their own assessment, since it will be a good way to get a handle on the current state of your community AND it will help you be ready when it comes time to have your FWC re-certified.
 - The updated form to use is on the Coalition website. Click Firewise Communities on the left sidebar – it’s the second section **“Hazard Assessment Template from April 2, 2019 Meeting”**

Calif Fair Plan and Firewise Communities

Wanda Mertens

- Farmers Insurance agent and new Fire Safe Council board member Wanda Mertens discussed changes to the California Fair Plan, which is an association of insurance companies that do business in California (not a company itself). It is a homeowner's last resort, and you must still buy a companion policy a la carte to cover possessions.
- A 10% Fair Plan Discount of 10% for Firewise community residents began April 1 on new policies only. A 20% increase for new policies also went into effect on April 1.
- Everyone should review insurance policy w/ your broker.

Report on Fire Safe Council Board meeting

Susan Rogers

- May = "Ready NC" month.
 - May 4th Rood Center – Children's Fair
 - The county is sending a mailer to all NC, first week of May: 12 pg Fire Prep Workbook
 - Program to match neighbors up and do 1 thing to prepare (go bag, etc)

Website changes

Susan Rogers demonstrated some changes and updates to both the Coalition website and the Fire Safe Council website. If homeowners say they could not find what they were looking for on the Council website and it was more than a month ago, tell them to go back again, it's now much easier to find things from the home page links.

From County to Community – Virginia Gompertz

- Take info given to you from NC and adapt it to your community. Ideas for April/May: "Clean it In April. Drop It In May."
- Add other coalition articles to your newsletter (instead of having to re-write them) and give credit to the author.
- Hold your community meetings w/ the Theme for "Ready Nevada County."
- Take w/ your local garden center and hardware store about Defensible Space, what that means, and discounts for firewise plants and home hardening techniques.

Cal Fire – Jim Mathias

- WUI Drill: lake of the Pines this weekend, then Cement Hill area
- Staffing: 5 more May 15th, 1 engine each station
- June 17: Peak staffing, 21-24 engines added
- Priority Projects: 45 Day Governor's Report.
 - N Fork American River Fuel Break. Colfax to Auburn
 - Ponderosa Project. Grass Valley Defense Zone. Funding NOT FINAL but looking good.

Fire Safe Council - - Donn Thane

- Add up to 3-4 handcrews, national Guard, 20 person crew starts tomorrow
- 1-3 fuel crews (20 person). Forestry, techs. A lot of extra equipment
- State Parks = Newsom budget. Tahoe National Forest = Trump budget.
- May 4th: Wildfire Safety Day. Kids Safety Carnival. Noon – 4pm
- Prescribed Burning: Forestry Service. Now at Empire Mine perimeter, Trail System,
- Annual Fire Season Guide: In The Union in May
- Defensible Space Advisory: 70 ppl signed up. Largest class for county.
 - Advisors: Advance Group Training – June or July
- Green Waste Sites: 4 weekends in May. Sites chosen by mid April.
- Grants starting – 10 Communities in Training

OES: Jeff Pettitt:

- Wildfire Speaker Series:
 - April 15: Situational Awareness.
 - April 14: Truckee Town Hall – East NC
 - June 10: “Ready Set Go”. Plan for your family, Defensible Space, Evacuation.
- Funding: Ponderosa Way, Grass Valley Defense Zone Project
- Def. Space Inspector – will come out if you have a complaint
- Nevada County Hazardous Fuels Abatement Ordinance Approved by City Council. Takes the fine from a criminal offense to a civil offense (\$ fine). Must be Code Compliant
- May 4th: Rood Center. Kiwanis & FSC: Kids’ Safety Carnival and Wildfire Safety Day.
- CodeRED: Think of Red Flag Warning days like you would Winter Storm Warning. You prepare for both. Prepare during Red Flag Warning Days or PGE Public Safety Power shut Off:
 - If you don’t feel safe, get out. Don’t wait for someone to tell you to leave, just go.
 - Car ready w/ “go bag, car facing out of driveway
 - Phone – get old princess plug in phone so that you could get a CodeRED alert if power goes out.
 - Cell Phone:
 - Register a family member out of area on CodeRED so they know what’s going on.
 - Make CodeRED numbers a “favorite” contact in your phone., so that you’ll get the call even if on “do not disturb”
 - System Test this Summer
 - Test Message when you sign up
 - Sign up for Voice message, **Text** and email. Cell phone towers get overloaded. Text messages typically will go thru even if calls do not.
 - Technology will fail, Deputy may not get to your house
 - Nevada City is looking at reinstating its former siren system.
- NCTV.org – Susan showed how to view the County Speaker Series when they are live streamed. To see these programs after-the-face (on demand, anytime), go to YouTube.com. In the YouTube search bar, search for “Government Channel – Nevada County Media>’ There is a “Fire Preparedness” playlist where you will find all the videos.

**Next meeting: May 7th, 2019 -- 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Circle.**

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