

Coalition of Firewise Communities - NOTES

Tuesday Jan 7th, 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

Bob Long

- **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)
 - Real Estate Agents give signs as gift for buying home.

Monthly updates –.

Robin, NC Rotary: “A Climate of Change” Fri and Sat night during Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Jan 17th – 19th, film festival.

Cal Fire

Jim Mathias

- Fuels Crew, 9 forestry technicians with equipment, now based out of GV instead of Davis.
- WUI Drills coming up: possible dates: May 31st for Banner Mtn, Cascade Shores, and June 28th for Wolf Mtn, Sherwood Forest, McCourtney rd area. Part of drill will be how do residents evacuate.
- Australia – Forest Service sending help. When Australia asks for help, CAL FIRE will be dispatched.
- January: Fire Plan Renewal/updates. CAL FIRE Battalion Ignition plans and Unit Fire Plan will be updated in January. Matt Wallen local Battalion Chief for Nevada City/Grass Valley and South County area. Landon Haack is the new Battalion Chief for NSJ and Penn Valley/LWW area. Sean Griffiths retired as of January 1.
- Grant reviews coming up soon. Likely January/February.
- Audience (coalition member) IDEA: Have county wide evac drill, tie into possible local event

Nevada County OES

Lt. Bob Jakobs

- Gathering Stats from 2019. Report out soon.
- Def Space Program: Full time 1st DS inspector, Shane McLaughlin.
 - Updating DS Program plan: What resident's obligations and OES' obligations.
 - Oral Interviews for more DS Inspectors. Have 2 temp and budget for 2 more temps. Inspections begin Mid April.

- 2020 – want to start inspecting private roads. 1,000 miles of private roads (500 miles of county rds).
- OES is making a video showing what an inspection looks like. What it takes to bring property into compliance.

Prioritize County Objectives

Bob Long

The County CEO's office has asked Firewise Communities to brainstorm and create a prioritized list of wildfire preparedness projects. We are to consider that resources are not an issue. What if we had a blank check? What if we had enough contractors to complete all the projects at once? Tonight, we will list and rank these objectives.

- Caleb, 3 months working on NC Board Priorities. Hearing that we need more resources on private roads, public roads, facilities, homes and communication systems.
- BOD asked staff to work with stakeholders to come up with a list to solve the problem. Will take to BOD in January. Then come up w/ finite program to bring to voters in Fall (increase in tax).
- See results on Coalition website.
- WRITE DIST SUPERVISOR to help them prioritize where the evac routes should be done.
- Brush clearing = approx. \$2k-\$4k/mile depending on slope.
- What's maintenance plan/budget.
- Besides the top 3 priorities on the survey results, Green Waste Drops (year round?) should be included. If we ask for ppl to reduce fuels, they need a place to put it.
- Caleb: The increase in NC Inspectors is a priority too. Create sustainable long term programs for the \$.
- Cell towers should be fire hardened too.
- Coalition will leave survey open for a week for others to participate.

FireSafe council Update

Donn Thane & Jamie Jones

- DSA Training – 45 ppl went through
- WUI May/June: Other communities could shadow this upcoming drill, if interested in your area.
- Jan Recap: DSA Visits (prior 250) 2019 = 1350 visits. Prior year 250 visits.
- Northern Sierra Air Quality Grant – car for New Fire Wise Coordinator = full time liaison for all communities.
- New equipment, Track Chipper, very beneficial for on sight work. Will be offered to communities, so you don't have to haul off.
- Ponderosa West: Achieved goal of 398 acres in 3 months (goal 300 acres). Collaboration with Cal-Fire, NC, others.
- NFPA FireWise Community status – 41 certified, 6 pending, 31 In-Training and on list. Applying for grants to get more through the process

Personal Protective Clothing

Chris Reilly

Wildfire Evacuation Personal Protective Clothing: see presentation on Coalition website

- Car engine can stall if enough smoke – need O2 to run. Make sure you wear personal protective clothing when you evacuate.
- Ambient temp 90- 100 degrees +
- Make sure you're visible to oncoming traffic
- BASICS
 - Big Flashlight, use as signal
- Foam sealed Goggles, construction helmet w/ back curtain, or use a hat w/ strap.
- Face mask or dust mask: N95 w/ valve filter.
- Car – recirculate air
- Drink a lot of water in hot environment
- Nomex/Kevlar/PBI jacket
- 2 layers preferred (1 layer for protection, 1 layer for heat)
- Heavy boots – help walk over high heat.
- Water absorbs heat. Don't wet your cloths.

Future programs for Coalition

Bob Long

How are we doing? Are there subjects you would like us to address? Should we repeat some of the past topics for new members? Do you like the format of the meetings?

Other Items from the Floor

Next meeting: Feb 4th, 2020 -- 5:30 – 7:30 PM

336 Crown Point Circle