

Harrison Grade Disaster Preparedness Plan Meeting Notes 9.30.2018

❖ Discussion about concerns from the last meeting

- Discussion about Chipper grant program. Application is on line. Link to website for application will be posted on HG website and links at end of notes.
- Discussion about posting handicapped signs by front of property or gate and also add to pod maps. Maybe use a reflector. Each pod group will discuss further.

❖ Cal Fire presenter, Kirk Van Wormer

- He is partner with another battalion chief. "Fire repeats itself". People have built homes and dwellings in fire prone areas. The fire areas (ie. TUBBS) regrow and then are prone to fire again. Tubbs fire moved 300' per minute. When it moves that fast, it is hard to disseminate information to the public quick enough. We need to use NIXLE, etc.
- **'Defensible space'** is key for fire safety. There is a link with information about this on the website. "Harden your house".
 - Leave space between plantings
 - 100' - 30' - 5' discussed on website in detail. No plantings 5' around house perimeter; "sterile". First 30' spaced plantings. No branches touching structure.
 - Last perimeter up to 100', trim trees to create clearance with no branches below 6' - 8'. Space plants 10' apart. Ground cover cut low.
 - Keep roof clear of branches and debris.
 - Clean out gutters.
 - Ember production that can fly into gutters, on roof debris and under decks to create fire; "fire brands".
 - Decks can be a fire hazard with items stored underneath that can catch fire. Keep empty underneath.
 - Keep fire wood piles away from house.
 - Homes with no visible effort by owner on defensible space are lower priority to save by fire dept.
 - Certain plants are very flammable and it is recommended to remove them; Juniper, Cyprus, Manzanita.
 - Defensible space takes time and money to create. Using a long term plan to accomplish it is ok. Review your property and make a plan with a time line.
- Be aware of Northeast wind days with low humidity and high temperatures. Red Flag days.
- The numbers of rings that our local sirens have, have no specific meaning at this time. Local fire stations are discussing a plan for that.
- 72 sirens may be purchased for Santa Rosa (Press Democrat).
- Cal Fire has programs and grants to pay for and implement creating firebreaks.
- **"Commit and Leave."** Prepare your home to be 'defensible space'. Prepare belongings to be ready to leave. When it is time to evacuate, LEAVE. Staying to defend your home

against fire means fire responders must stop putting out the fire and switch to rescue protocol.

- Scanners are a good idea to help be informed of movement of fires. (*Uniden* is one brand name.) You will need to program channels. There are also police radio apps. similar to a scanner.
 - If you hear sirens or receive notice on SoCo Alert or NIXLE look at sky for planes. There is also, WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert – federal system - www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/wireless-emergency-alerts-wea)
 - Govt. agencies and nonprofits are hard to deal with regarding preserved areas that are full of ‘fuel’ (dead trees and undergrowth). Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wild Life, Sonoma Land Trust. Each agency has a different mission.
 - Area near Stoetz and HG is a preserved area. How do we protect homes near it? Fish & Wildlife have been contacted-not much help. Keep trying.
 - Re. other heavily forested areas of private property that put our homes at risk: a govt. agency cannot force anyone to cut trees unless a stand of trees does not follow the policy of ‘defensible space’ (see explanation above). Defensible space parameters stop at a property line. How do we have success in getting firebreaks or other alternatives such as a prescribed/controlled burn to happen? Try to work with Cal Fire and property owners.
 - A battery operated radio is a good idea. PG&E will shut down power in fire area. There are specific zones that they have designated to be high risk areas. Look on their website. Contact the Public Utilities Commission (www.cpuc.ca.gov) with concerns about the designated areas. Fire severity maps are made by Cal fire. “Be aware of them”.
 - Discussion about Walkie-Talkies. Good idea. Lots of steps to setting a system up amongst a group of home owners. *Garmin* is a good brand name.
 - Kirk, Cal fire Chief, recommended we form a ‘Fire Safe Council’ (www.cafiresafecouncil.org) and join up with home owners on Joy Road and Deer Meadow Lane.
 - We could use it to get a grant for chipping. Also state funds for cutting fire breaks and prescribed burns.
 - We would need to create a board, managed by us.
 - We could bring a registered *forester* to look at our areas and give us suggestions and how to facilitate implementation of a plan.
 - We could also receive help re. how to file grants.
 - ‘Fire Safe Sonoma’ website is a good contact. www.firesafesonoma.org
 - When you call 911 it goes to county sheriff’s dept. “Red Com” It is dispatched from there.
 - Many thanks to Chief Van Wormer!
- ❖ HG website update from Evan and Chip. The website has been further developed. We looked at a mock-up with features for passwords, individual profiles of each home, our contact list, maps of area, photos of homes, links for information, and more. Security will be set up before it is made public.

- Additional contact information will be added by each of us, individually, as soon as it is up and running.
- Evan: We will be able to have a link that will download our website as a PDF on to our phones so info. will easily be available during a disaster.

❖ **Next steps:**

- How big do we want our group?
- Group pods should meet to discuss needs and map out homes.
- Designate a captain of each pod/group.
- Discuss creating a fire council with other neighborhood groups.

Important Links:

Our neighborhood website www.harrisongrade.org

Sonoma Land Trust www.sonomalandtrust.org

Public Utilities Commission www.cpuc.ca.gov

WEA www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/wireless-emergency-alerts-wea

Cal Fire www.fire.ca.gov

Cal Fire grants <http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants>

Fire council www.cafiresafecouncil.org

Creating wildfire adapted homes and landscapes link to PDF:

<http://www.firesafesonoma.org/main/sites/default/files/A.%20Creating%20Wildfire%20Adapted%20Homes%20and%20Landscapes.pdf>

fireprevention@sonoma-county.org

Contact person at Sonoma County Fire & Emergency Services: Caerleon Safford;

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