

Harrison Grade Neighborhood Meeting February 11, 2023

20 people in attendance

1. Welcome to new neighbors
 - Lucien Wulsin & Katie Braude Pod C
 - Julie Hebert Pod F
 - Ehab Bandar Pod B

2. What we have accomplished in 2022:
 - We received two grants from CALFIRE (chipping) and California Fire Association.
 - Several neighbors attended webinars on water conservation.
 - We hiked on the acreage east of Harrison Grade and were pleased to find roads that can serve as fire breaks.
 - We joined the state and national FIREWISE communities.
 - We cleared, removed and did biochar burns of plant debris on the Harrison Grade Ecological Reserve.
 - We joined the Adopt a Road program. Thank you Carolyn Sell, Mary Barsony and Michael Kozart.
 - We held three neighborhood meeting and sent out meeting notes and newsletters.

3. FIREWISE update:
 - We hope that this nationally recognized designation will provide some protection from being cancelled by homeowner's insurance companies and potentially improve our insurance rates. HGRN will send out a form so homeowners can update new fire hardening projects.
 - Discussion- We have 100 parcels in neighborhood #1. There is a new CALFIRE risk assessment. Some of us are 'high risk'. Some are 'moderate risk'. No one is 'very high' risk. <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/> It's a good idea to send updates to your homeowners insurance company of any fire mitigation efforts you have done each year.

4. New changes in our neighborhood
 - Consolidation of fire districts in west county- Freestone, Camp Meeker and Sebastopol are now a part of Goldridge fire district. Occidental will likely join. There are pros and cons. Lots of comments. We may lose knowledge from locals. Volunteers can still participate. Cost saving with administration. Some stations may be closed, OFD probably not. Allocation of funds from our parcel tax unknown.
 - Grant for chipper- Chipper will be maintained by OFD. It will be available similarly to the county program. Starting in April. More info. to come.

5. Earthquake preparedness
 - 9 steps- emergency stuff under bed, include shoes, hard hat, etc. Post signs to say 'evacuated'. Blue reflector on water source as per county regulation. Have a common location for your pod to meet. Check in with rest of your pod. GMRS radio good idea. Have a place to call far away and leave message that you're ok. Plan to be self-sufficient for three days. Make sure you have water, food, shelter, blankets stored and easy to access.
 - Ferndale, Turkey, Syria earthquake – general discussion

6. Future opportunities:
 - Carol volunteered to research having Red Cross come and teach a CPR class. More info. to come.

- Charlotte's Demo Day on March 18
Guest presenters on water catchment systems.

Next Meeting: June 11

Who wants to host?