



Logtown Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 1601

El Dorado, CA 95623



Notes of the January 11, 2014 Meeting

Station 44

Diamond Springs – El Dorado Fire Protection District

6109 Quartz Drive, El Dorado, CA

Call to Order: Pat Dwyer called the meeting to order at 9:00. Board Members present: Pat Dwyer, Ken Hasse, Rod Repschlaeger, Marilyn Olson-Petersen. Kevin McAllister arrived later.

Sign-in: Pat encouraged all present to sign in and confirm we have correct contact information.

Chairman's Report:

2014 Events Schedule:

March 8th Meeting--Fire Incident & Evacuation Drill – A table top exercise. We are inviting Diamond Springs El Dorado Fire Protection District, County Office of Emergency Services (OES), Cal Fire, CHP, County Department of Transportation, Animal Control and Red Cross. We will simulate some likely scenarios, probably three ignition sites (Nielsen Ranch area, Union Mine and Highway 49). Each model due to its location will have its own response based on wind direction, terrain etc. We encourage you to attend as this will be a very informative meeting and an opportunity for you to ask questions. The more knowledgeable we are - the better we can respond to ensure the safety of our homes and the community. Lack of rain continues to make our properties vulnerable to fire so ...be safe.

April 12th, 2014 – Community Clean-up Day. This offers a wonderful jump start to Spring Cleaning - inside and outside the home. At Bobbie's Market we will have collecting bins for Snowline Donations and dumpsters for trash, green waste, recycling, and e-waste. A "flea market" option was suggested, however, we need to check into this further.

October 11th, 2014 –Hot Dog Social. It is a fun event and our annual Fund Raiser. Anyone can participate in creating "baskets" or "events" for auction/raffle. It is also an opportunity to meet more of the neighborhood. Last year we raised over \$3,000.00. Thank you for being involved and contributing to our fire safe community.

Regular Meetings – These are scheduled monthly on the second Saturday at 9:00 am. They are informative and we welcome and invite your attendance and participation.

Phone Tree: Our Phone Tree Alert system is under review. We are looking into expanding it to include “texting” capability and perhaps other options. We will be contacting you in the near future to see what contact mode works most effectively for you.

“READY, SET, GO!” Preparation Guides: These Cal- Fire Guides are an excellent resource to prepare for and survive a wildfire. We plan to schedule the “Three Steps” as discussion points at our next couple of meetings. Brochures are available. Pat circulated the “READY” Guide to those present.

1. READY - Creating defensible space and hardening your home against wildfire
2. SET – Developing a Wildfire Action Plan
3. Go ! – A quick reference Evacuation Guide

Treasurer’s Report: Ken Hasse reported a Bank balance of \$6,812.22

Fuels Reduction Update LT-10: Ken reported that in accordance with the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) we have been doing fuel reduction on the “West” side and along most of Hwy 49 and now we are focusing on the “East” side –the end of Monitor north to the end of Dolomite. We have been awarded a \$95,000 Community Assistant Grant to complete this section. A contract has been signed and we are waiting for a start date. It has been too dry to do it. Local residents will be contacted to allow for right of entry.

Address Signs: Emergency “first responders” and fire personnel advise that durable, metal, reflective signs that are clearly visible from both sides make their job of locating you much easier in case of an emergency. In our last meeting notes we had an incorrect reference for Foothill Sign and Graphic (FSG). They are no longer in Shingle Springs; they moved to Folsom: New location 813 Sutter Street, Folsom, CA 530-677-3230. They are one of several sources for your signs and charge about \$30 per sign.

Phone Book Delivery: We discussed the issue of companies distributing telephone books by throwing them on driveways or stacking them by common mail boxes. They create a nuisance and are a fire hazard. Not much we can do other than to have homeowners complain to the company. If enough of us call they may pay attention.

County Fire Safe Council Update: Chipper Program Restart: Good news to share. There was a break in the chipping program due to a variety of factors and we were out of business for 2-3 months. We now have the program up and running. Breaking news: The web site is back up and running and you can make a chipper request at www.edcfiresafe.org and submit it on line. FYI- you still need to align the sticks toward the street but it is not necessary to cut the sticks shorter.

El Dorado Disposal Carts: El Dorado Disposal has asked us to promote the “Green Waste” Carts to keep properties free of debris throughout the year. As residents we are allowed 4 carts: one Garbage, one Recycle and 2 Green Wastes. They donated 10 dumpsters to the County for Community Clean up and Log town will have 2 dumpsters at our March Spring Clean up Day.

Grant Awards: We submitted 3 grant applications totaling nearly \$400,000. We were awarded \$300,000 from the Grants Clearing House, The highest amount received by any county in the State this year. This will allow us to extend our Chipper/Dumpster Program for another two years and complete the Grizzly Flat fuel reduction project. Now our challenge is to use these funds judiciously to best accomplish our mission. Unfortunately our Logtown fuel reduction project was not funded, but we will keep trying.

Friends of Senior's: We submitted a grant to the non-profit organization but it was not approved. They did, however, contact us later and asked if we would like to help with their March 16th All You Can Eat Spaghetti Fund Raiser Dinner; they would grant us the proceeds. They need help on serving (1:00 to 5:00 on Sunday March 16th). The County Fire Safe Council Board voted to match the amount up to \$2,000.00. Friends of Senior's assists seniors in our community with financial and physical limitations and they team up with the Fire Safe Council and Mother Lode Rehabilitation Enterprises (M.O.R.E.) to accomplish the work. Pat suggested we may want to put together a basket for a raffle. Anyone interested please contact Pat.

Neighborhood Coordinator Updates: Each zone continues to work on updating their contact list for fire alerts. It was reported that Nielsen Pond is down from 5 acres to 1 acre. Nielsen Pond acts as a water source for the Fire Department.

Public Comment: Fire Chief Rob Coombs of Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire District gave a general overview of their activities of late. The economy has affected their operation; they lost \$1 million in revenue since 2008. This has compromised their service ability. With reduced resources they had to restructure the program on several fronts to ensure delivery of quality service. Staff at the El Dorado Station has been down sized. They are working with the Board of Supervisors and the Union to modify retirement contracts. They are trying to bring in new employees to rebuild staff levels and part of that includes restructuring the volunteer program wherein volunteers can take on more varied tasks. He complimented our Station 44 Resident, Shawn Yuill, stating his presence here significantly contributes to keeping our community safe. They are looking at recruiting "interns" out of the Academy as another option to expand personnel resources. They recently purchased a 'surplused' - 10 year old 105 foot ladder/ pump in great condition with 25 year life expectancy. Originally purchased at \$700,000; the district bought it for \$90,000 – a bargain for the community. They also ordered a new engine – first in 10 years. Pat acknowledged there are 10 fire districts in our area and only 2 are solvent: El Dorado Hills and Diamond Springs. We are very fortunate to have Rob's leadership.

Trudy Theis asked if the Council could assist them in getting a California Conservation Corps, (CCC) "Fuel Reduction" project approved. The application requires a certain amount of acreage and if adjacent neighbors would be interested they could then secure the work. All would benefit from the fuel reduction. There is an April submittal deadline.

Ray Nutting, El Dorado County Board of Supervisor, addressed the group. He introduced fellow Board member, Brian Veerkamp, former Fire Chief of El Dorado Hills District, and acknowledged the 92 Birthday of Walt, a long time resident of the area. Ray complimented Log Town Fire Safe Council for its continued effort to get the fuel load down. He commented that the Rim Fire consisted of 265,000 acres

(one quarter the size of El Dorado County) and that suppression cost \$3 to \$5 million. He pondered the impact of an investment of \$3-5 million in fuel reduction in the area and how it would have reduced the fire danger and environmental damage.

Weed Abatement – someone asked what can be done about absentee owner properties to keep the fuel load down. Ray responded that in '93 they attempted to get an ordinance that would apply to those lots but were unsuccessful. It is a difficult issue as it weighs on individual property rights and individual responsibility. The current Ordinance (PRC-2491) requires a clear zone (30 to 100 feet of defensible space) around structures; it does not apply to “undeveloped” vacant property and hence, unfortunately, does not apply to the isolated vacant lots scattered along our rural roads. Absent an enforcement tool, our best bet is to continue to work with adjacent neighbors to educate them of the danger to them and others of excessive fuel loads and encourage fuel reduction for everyone’s safety. Cal Fire does administer an Inspection Program and offers training and certification to individuals to assess fire safe conditions. Trainees fill out a Form and the property owner can use it as a guide to make their property fire safe. The Fire Station has limited personnel to do these inspections and welcomes/appreciates any interested volunteer trainees. Pat and Ken have been trained.

Adjourn to February 8th 2014 Meeting: Jeff Mussell, the Vegetation Management Specialist from PG&E will provide an overview of PG&E vegetation management programs. Their safety clearance around electrical lines has significantly improved the fire safety of the adjacent area.

Signed:

Marilyn Olson-Petersen

Logtown Fire Safe Council: Pat Dwyer, President (622-7121), Ken Hasse, Treasurer (620-7220), Marilyn Olson-Petersen (620-2461), Kevin McAllister (295-9123), Rod Repschlaeger (621-3219)