



# Logtown Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 1601  
El Dorado, CA 95623



## Notes of the May 9, 2015 Meeting Station 44, Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District

**Introduction and Sign-In:** Ken Hasse called the meeting to order at 9:05. Members present: John, Rod and Marilyn. Pat was absent due to illness.

**Alternative Meeting Schedule:** John brought up point that a neighbor suggested an alternative day for meetings may be helpful for those who cannot attend the second Saturday of each month. Ken noted the original day was decided at the first meeting of the Council with about 100 residents present and they selected that day. If we were going to bring it to a vote it may be best to bring it up at the well attended Hot Dog Social Event. There are several important things to consider such as consistency, availability on Sunday/Week nights for residents and guest speakers.

**Treasurer's Report:** The balance in the Bank Account is \$7,417.04. Ken advised that he will be asking the LT Council for reimbursement of a \$50.00 expense for environmental documentation for the LT-9a Project (Fuel Reduction Project between Highway 49 and Crystal Blvd). Rod made a motion to approve the reimbursement funds: motion passed.

**New Members:** Ken recognized and welcomed new attendees. Sherry Miller, a local Realtor and Debby and Kevin DeRyk who are 5 yr residents attending their first meeting. Welcome.

**Board Membership/Election:** Ken advised that we will be short one Board member as Marilyn will complete her 2 year term and not be running for re-election. June is our Election Month and in May we identify candidates and welcome their participation. Marc Regelbrugge volunteered to run. Ken thought there might be one other individual interested. After the Election "Officers" are elected.

**Future Events Reminder:** June 13 Master Gardener Guest Speaker and October 10<sup>th</sup> we have the Hot Dog Social.

**Outstanding Items:** John brought up several projects. The Flag Pole project is of special interest to him: purchase of a flag & pole/installation has not be resolved and he wanted to make sure we continue to look into that project. He offered a reminder that if you do clearance for defensible space that time and money spent by you can go toward giving us (LT FSC) credit for Grants and Firewise Community membership renewal. So please fill out the "Work Time Sheets" and submit them to the Board. John also brought up the Phone Text/Alert Systems encouraging all to submit their cell numbers/provider so we can add you to our Text Alert System and advise you when there is a fire in our area. Also Smokey the Bear Sign - the issue needs to be resolved as to where to best locate the "Sign" for neighborhood visibility. These are items for future resolution.

**Guest Speaker:** Brian Mackwood, CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado (AEU) Battalion Chief. Ken gave an overview showing a map of our area and noting where our fuel breaks are located. Brian advised that his area is pretty much the Highway 50 corridor from Meyers/Strawberry down to Cameron Park. He has 15+ years of familiarity with the area and is aware of the work that has

been done. He has attended the EDC Fire Safe Council Meetings and offered if you ever have any questions please do not hesitate to call. He and Chief Coombs work hand in hand and are always in contact.

Question: What caused the Gold Beach fire? Vehicle catalytic converter in the grass.

Question: What are some of the projects CAL FIRE is involved in? Out working PRC4291 Defensible Space Inspections. Working with the Feds along Highway 50 Corridor (Pollock Pines and Sly Park area) dealing with aftermath of the King Fire. With the drought conditions they are gearing up to their peak staff level earlier than normal - by the 15th of May. One third of the staff are new and they are getting them ready for the upcoming season. Predicting a significant fire season in the 1500 to 3,000 foot level.

Question: Does CAL FIRE have access to Knox locks boxes in adjacent counties? Each County has their own system. In El Dorado there are 2 levels of security: High and Low. "High" security is designated for commercial areas and access is specific to that county. "Low" Security locks are for "non-commercial" areas, residents etc and are accessible county wide administered by the Sheriffs Office to variety of agencies (sheriffs, ambulance Fire agency etc) Fire engines carry keys for "Low Security" locks. On concept "your home is your castle" you can put any type lock/gate to access your property - but be mindful that you have considered good access for fire engines etc. If putting up a gate for multiple properties you need to get a permit that has been developed by professional firemen to ensure ready access for fire/rescue equipment.

Question: How is Logtown doing on a scale of 1 - 10 on effectiveness in fire prevention? LT is doing a phenomenal job; way above some other areas of the county. Need to keep up the work as our location is vulnerable with its east/west configuration, vegetation and prevailing winds. Conditions are worse this year so we need to continue to be diligent. Defensible space is critical. So keep up the good work.

Question: There are some homes that are abandoned and/or not kept up - are you going to follow up with a 4291 Inspection if a complaint is filed. Yes we will. Will do inspection on properties with a structure - but not on vacant lands. Education and outreach are first order with the property owner and if no success then filing a complaint is appropriate. Multiple inspections can occur and then it is sent to the legal section. Copies of the report are sent to the complainant and the affected property owner - once identified which may take a little research in some cases. The SRA Fee funded 12 inspectors in January.

Ken thanked Brian for his presentation and time.

#### **County Fire Safe Council Update: Grant Status**

USFS Chipping/Dumpsters: The Program continues to be delayed. It has been a 2 1/2 months delay already. Funding is expected to be available within 2 weeks but if you need to get the work done quickly it is suggest that you hire someone to do the work, or if you plan to burn you need to do it quickly as there is not much time before the "no burn" season starts.

PG&E Funding Opportunity: We do have an opportunity to get some PGE funds for chipping or other projects. \$74,000 or \$80,000 may be available soon.

SRA Grant (State Responsibility Area - Fire Fee) CAL FIRE awarded a \$200,000 grant for a badly needed Fuel Reduction Project in Pollock Pines. There is also a \$77,000 grant for development of a Countywide CWPP.

**Neighborhood Coordinators Report**: Rod commented that Karen Rogers is doing a great job getting their neighborhood section organized.

**Text Phone Alert System**: Ken shared that the the Phone Tree was not the best method to contact residents in a fire emergency and why with technology today, text message has immediate delivery and is not dependent on numerous people being present to contact others.

We have the whole community (approx 600) on the Phone Tree and about 280 on our Text List. i.e. less than one third. So please encourage your neighbors and sign up yourself if you have not done so already. Just give your cell number and provider to either Ken or John. Ken reaffirmed that ours is only an "alert" and that official information on evacuation must come from the Sheriffs and CAL FIRE Agencies. The Alert will tell you "where" the fire is but not how fast it is moving - you will need other sources for that information. It is your responsibility to follow up on the alert and make appropriate decisions. Some residents are looking at evacuating early before an official announcement from the Sheriff. Our main routes out are the ridge roads (Crystal Blvd, Quartz, Monitor and Dolomite. If you wait for the official Evacuation Notice you will be told which route to take and it may or may not be the ridge route. YubaNet.com was considered an excellent source on the Sand and King Fires- it had more timely information on the fire than the CAL FIRE web site. Ken encouraged attendees to have a scanner to get detailed information on a fire. You can get a scanner application for your smart phone. This is where we come together as a community helping ourselves and neighbors.

Question: What is the status of getting out on Mica? If the Agency designates Mica as an evacuation route it will be available. There is also a route across the ranch land that could be available if needed. There is Sodalite if needed. If you decide to leave early - before an evacuation notice - then you use the main ridge routes for exit.

Question: What about "metal bar gates" for access and use of chains as a locking mechanism? Width is important factor for entry and chains are fine as most fire engines have bolt cutters

Question: What was the communication between Cal Trans and CAL FIRE when Cal Trans was doing the Highway 49 road work last week? If it is a road closure there is communication but if dealing with temporary lane closure "no".

Question: John asked if there was anyone with computer knowledge who could assist him in setting up the email list on an Ipad for the Text Alert System. Anybody with knowledge please contact John.

**Rob Combs, Diamond Springs/El Dorado Chief** shared that El Dorado County has a somewhat unique dispatch system i.e. Closest Dispatch System wherein the nearest fire engine will respond to the fire (regardless of jurisdiction) and all others participate. This allows them to get there fast and mitigate early - a huge benefit to the community - keeping fires small. Every year they do an evaluation of the prior year and the top 2 causes of fires are always the same - escaped controlled burns and inappropriate use of vegetation clearance. So be careful as you prepare your defensible space. He handed out an info sheet on "Residential Burn Permits - 4x4 Burn Pile". Burn Permits will probably be curtailed on June 1 if not earlier depending on weather and conditions. His department is also transitioning with new staff - 50% have 5 years or less - and they are gearing them up for the upcoming season. They recently purchased a ladder truck at a great bargain.

**Adjournment:** Ken adjourned the meeting at 10:00. Next meeting June 13, 2015

Respectfully,

Marilyn C. Olson-Petersen