

Meeting Notes
Logtown Fire Safe Council
July 11, 2015

1. Call to Order: Council Chairman Pat Dwyer called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Board members present were Pat Dwyer, Ken Hasse, John Lindberg and Marc Regelbrugge. Board member Rod Repschlaeger was absent. The meeting was well attended by the public, so Dwyer asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.
2. Upcoming Events: Dwyer noted that the Council's August meeting will have Tammy Martin of the Red Cross speak on evacuations, and reminded all of the Logtown Hot Dog Social and Firewise Day scheduled for October 10th, and the Labor Day Firefighter's Bazaar in Diamond Springs. Lindberg reminded attendees to sign up for the Fire Safe Council text alerts by forwarding to him one's mobile phone number and carrier.
3. Treasurer's Report: Hasse reported the Council had \$6,811 in the bank after donating \$100 to YubaNet last month. Hasse will also apply for reimbursement of \$50 for filing a Notice of Exception for the LT9A project to clear a fire break on the eastern slope of the ridge from Mica St. to Lauren Ct. Hasse indicated a good probability that LT9A will be funded.
4. County Fire Safe Council: Dwyer and Hasse described several projects being worked throughout the County, including: a) an \$80k PG&E sponsored project clearing along Wentworth Springs Road (expected to complete in September); b) GF-9 (complete) and -12 (starting) projects clearing approximately 50 acres in Grizzly Flat under a Forest Service grant; c) PP-1 in Pollock Pines clearing Weber Creek Ridge as part of a broader, coordinated effort to reduce fuels on successive ridge tops.

Dwyer discussed an \$80k effort to put together the County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which provides wildfire risk analysis and recommendations for actions to reduce wildfire risk in communities throughout the County. Satellite Councils will have individual sections in the County CWPP. Logtown's approach has been to encircle the community with reduced-fuels areas, which will be largely complete with the eventual completion of the LT-10 project east of Dolomite and Galena. The County's CWPP will cover communities on the Western Slope with recommendations for projects, and serves as a basis for proposing, monitoring and executing grants for fuels reduction and fire-break maintenance. Many communities in the County are awakening to the opportunities presented by Fire Safe Councils, and new Councils are developing in the Lotus/Coloma area, Pollock Pines and in the Cool/Pilot Hill area.

The California State Fire Safe Council has obtained \$150k funding for the chipper and green-waste dumpster programs through 2017. Hasse mentioned that current funding of these programs should carry Logtown's activities into the spring of 2017. The Council's chipper contractor has become quite busy of late, and it may take a few weeks for them to respond to chipping requests. Hasse mentioned that Council programs such as the chipper program are there to help the community maintain fire safety, but that they require active participation by residents as well to be effective. Examples include making regular use of residential green-waste bins and other programs provided by El Dorado Disposal for collection and removal of green waste.

The California Fire Safe Council is also promoting applications for State Responsibility Area (SRA) grants from the California Department of Forestry. These grants do not require the typical 50% match. The Department of Agriculture offers Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grants, but these typically require an equal match in funding and in-kind contributions.

5. Ranch Fire: The recent Ranch fire was caused by a lightning strike on the Neilsen Ranch just west of Logtown. The fire was successfully contained with no structures lost due to the rapid response of CAL FIRE's Amador El Dorado Unit (AEU) and local fire agencies, although reaching the fire was difficult. Logtown's text-message alerts were sent out effectively to community members on the alert list. Presently, initiation of text alerts depends on the action of either Dwyer or Hasse from an internet-connected computer. The Fire Safe Council is attempting to migrate this facility to an on-line platform, which would enable initiation of alerts remotely, e.g. from a smart phone.

Some discussion took place regarding efforts to reach residents that do not have text receiving capability. The Fire Safe Council would like to assist the community in arranging a system whereby neighbors having text capability could operate small phone trees to alert others lacking text service. Logtown residents who do not have text capability should contact Hasse or Lindberg so their name can be placed on a list, and a neighborhood notification plan can be developed.

Hasse noted that the text alerts are nothing more than a first "heads up!" to alert residents to potential danger from wildfire. They cannot be effective as the only source of information. Accordingly, when an alert is received, it's a signal to turn scanners on, check with YubaNet for fire news, listen for local sirens and prepare to respond to further instructions from local authorities. If one doesn't have a scanner, either get one or use one of the smartphone apps or broadcastify.net to make yourself aware of developments after the alert.

6. Feature Presentation: Dwyer noted CAL FIRE's "Ready, Set, Go" program brochures were available on the refreshments table for interested attendees,

then introduced a short video prepared by the University of Nevada on preventing home ignitions. The video made a strong case to view your home and landscaping as potential fuel for a fire, then work to reduce or harden fuels to prevent ignition. Special emphasis was placed on removing fuel sources from around structures to prevent their ignition by flying embers, and hardening structures against fire by using non-flammable building materials in areas susceptible to collecting flammable debris (e.g. eaves and roofs, siding near foundations, decks, etc.). The video also noted that reducing fire risk to structures is often a neighborhood task. By reducing a neighbor's risk, we also reduce our personal risk by preventing a large structure fire from occurring near our own structures.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m. The next meeting is August 8th at 0900.