

Notes of July 12, 2014

Station 44 Diamond Springs El Dorado Fire Protection District

6109 Quartz Drive, El Dorado, CA

Introduction and Sign-In: Meeting was called to order at 9:00. Nancy Hasse passed around the Sign-In Sheet. Pat introduced our newly elected Board Member, John Lindberg. He resides on the east side of Hwy 49 and will be a valuable addition to the Board.

Chairman's Report: Text Trees/Logtown Communications. Logtown Fire Council is setting up a "Logtown **Text Tree**" Notification System – this is in addition to the "Phone Tree". At times Landline Calls cannot reach us where we are and cell phone texting can. Your text enabled cell phone number and name of provider is all that is needed. So please take time to send this information to Pat or Ken. Neighborhood Coordinators were asked to contact their "Zone" residents to see if they wanted to be part of the "Text Tree". If there is a "Fire Alert" you will receive a 140 character message; for more detail you can follow up and check your scanner. Quality cell coverage varies within our region and someone advised that you can get a "micro cell" from AT&T to help with reception. Just mention to the store attendant that your cell phone is now linked to the Fire Alert System and they most likely will assist you.

Pat encouraged/reminded everyone to also sign-up for the El Dorado Reverse 911 System wherein the County Sheriff sends out the Fire Alert to residents. The County now accepts "Cell Phones" (multiple ones if necessary) but you need to contact them to add your cell phone into the system. Their website is (www.ready.edso.org) ; follow the prompts or go through our web site (www.edcfiresafe.org) for a link to the County site.

There is a web site called "Nextdoor" – it is for "social" networking . You can register/become a member and use this site to report lost/found dogs, yard sales/security issues etc. Go to www.NextdoorLogtown: you can join others in our community who have already signed up. This is a much more appropriate site to address our social communications.

Treasurer's Report: Ken advised we recently wrote check for \$359.00 for dumpsters. Current balance is \$5457.12. We have no immediate plans for expenditure and solicit your ideas. We are moving our account from US Bank to Umpqua to stay within the County mandates as it relates to non -profit 501c3 requirements.

Hot Dog Social Planning: Just 3 months until the event. Time to think of auction/raffle items that would be fun. Theme baskets are always popular (man basket, wine basket, cook basket etc – let your imagination run – we welcome your ideas. Nancy advised that we have a draft "Tax Exempt Letter" available for those of you who secure donations from businesses.

County Fire Safe Council Update: BOS Disaster Planning Briefing June 17: El Dorado Board of Supervisors hosted a presentation by the El Dorado Sheriff's Office and regional Disaster Council to plan and coordinate more effectively for local as well as more distant disasters (such as a flood/earthquake in Sacramento Area and beyond) and be prepared to handle the influx of people trying to flee the Valley or Bay Area.

The State Fire Safe Council and CAL FIRE representatives met in Chico to discuss the "Fire Fee". Representatives from most of the Northern California Counties Fire Safe Councils attended. The discussion centered on the ten million dollars that is to be distributed back into the local communities. This is only a fraction of the money collected. There is no agreement on how to distribute the money or exactly what it can be used for. This amount of money is two and one half times the available grant money that was available last year when we received our \$300,000 in grants. Hopefully there will be a sizable amount for our County to use for fuel reduction, chipper programs, defensible space and administrative costs for the local Councils. Processing grants (research/submittal/monitor/ manage/ final report) is a time consuming job. Increasing environmental requirements will make it even more cumbersome. Many councils voiced the need to use these funds to pay for administrative costs. We will stay involved in the discussion and keep you informed.

Title III Funding: These funds are used for Search and Rescue on US Forest lands, Firewise Activities and Writing of CWPPs (Community Wildfire Protection Plans). Funding alternated between the Sherriff's Office one year and then the Fire Safe Councils the next. A recent proposal would split the funding annually; such action would make planning and administration of the funds easier for both parties. BOS is to consider the issue next week. If passed we could expect \$60,000 for next year's program.

Neighborhood Coordinator Reports: The Green and Red Zones reported they are working on updating their "Phone Tree" and getting information from those who want to utilize the "Texting" option. Pat wants to test the "Tree" before we get a "Red Flag Alert". One zone is sending out a flyer to the residents to encourage sign-up for the Phone/Text Alerts. Pat advised that the Council can offer to pay for the printing/postage of a flyer should the Coordinators determine that would be a good way to advise/educate residents about our Logtown Emergency Alert System and encourage them to sign up. Another suggestion was to put up a "Sign-Up" Sheet at the Hot Dog Social.

Special Guest: Scanner Clinic: Pat introduced Bob Hess, KOVR Director Engineering-Operations and advised the Chief Greg Schwab, from Georgetown Fire District, unfortunately was unable to attend. Bob gave an excellent presentation and invited several of his fellow radio (HAM) operators to assist in the presentation and answer questions at the end. Bob handed out a list of County Fire Channels and an Information Sheet on Scanners (attached). He shared a video of the historical value that radio operators contribute to local community activities and emergency/disaster situations. The FCC regulates the testing and issuance of licenses. The local El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club provides many services to our community: helping out at community events, races, parades etc. They are also used as" back up" to Emergency Services. The American Radio Emergency Services (ARES) offers more extensive training on auxiliary communications and coordination with Emergency Services/ FEMA structure and Incident Command System. Radio Reference.com is an excellent source of information.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:30 to August 9 Meeting

Signed: Marilyn Olson-Petersen

Logtown Fire Safe Council: Pat Dwyer, President (622-7121), Ken Hasse, Treasurer (620-7220), Marilyn Olson-Petersen, Vice Chair/Secretary (620-2461), Rod Repschlaeger (621-3219), John Lindberg (303-3672)