



Pollock Pines - Camino Fire Safe Council

Contact the Board
ppcfiresafecouncil@gmail.com

www.edcfiresafe.org

“Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Educa

Minutes

Oct. 21th, 2015 @ 7:00 pm, CC

1. **Meeting Call to Order** 7:07 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance

2. **Roll Call & Sign In:**

Maureen - Canyon View (absent); *Jay* - Lakewood Sierra;

Heather - Forebay; *Martin* - Camino Community

Norma - Upper Ridgeway

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Oct 21th Board Action Item - Change consent agenda to consent minutes. Jay moved to approve the agenda with changes mentioned; Norma seconded. Approved.

4. **Consent Minutes:** Approve Sept 16th Minutes, Board Action Item - Martin moved; Jay seconded; approved.

5. **Public Comment:** Time limits are 3 minutes per person. New wildfire related topics can be introduced
There are currently 174 members of Next-door. - We haven't heard from the Diamond/Garnet/Kingswood Next-door area which consists of several small areas throughout Pollock Pines. We recently received 2" of rain! If a tree is within the fall line of a PGE distribution line, call them particularly if the tree is dead. 1-800-743-5000. Jay had 3 trees removed and highly recommends the alligator saw. It cuts through wood very quickly and the battery lasts 4 hours. There was discussion about the sign meeting. County is working on complaints.

6. **Guest Speaker:** Forest Service, Forest Fuels Officer – Teresa Riesenhuber

Topic: How fuel moisture data is collected and used by fire personal and

Fuels moisture trends during the last few decades vs this drought

Researchers report, it has not been this dry in the Sierras Snow pack in 500 years (NPR news).

Resulting in rapidly moving fires, as the fuel moisture content is gone. Fuel ignites much faster and easier (NBC)

Sign up thru www.edcfiresafe.org

Under the “Action” Tab

2014 Chipping Program, Funded

Green Waste Program, Funded

Nextdoor.com – web based resource to organize your neighborhood

PPCFSC Events: - Defensible Space Evaluation available, sign up thru Gmail

Fuel moisture content describes how wet or dry the fuels are. Moisture content is the single most important factor that determines how much of the total fuel is available for burning. Introduced website for Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center. - Predictive Services - weather outlooks. Podcasts for weather that are updated daily for fire weather. Info on prescribed burns and fuels advisories will be posted on this site. USFS Fuels staff measures live and dead fuel moisture. This info is fed into a database - which links in the fuels website. Anyone can access it. All agencies that sample fuels moisture include their data in the website. Handout - Types vegetation tested; grass, brush, timber. Fuel moisture content is the percent of the fuel weight represented by water, based on the dry weight of the fuel. 10 hour fuels on ground, white leaf manzanita, green leaf manzanita, chinquapins, huckleberry oak. A 1,000 hr. fuel takes much longer to recover moisture after precipitation. The data is used to: predict fire behavior and determine status during fire season; Prepare fire fighters for level of response required; Information is used to determine when to prescribed burn - within parameters to obtain the appropriate amount of fire activity; Determines trends of moisture and effects on fire; Meet goals and objectives of forest



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management activities. There are 7 fuel collection locations; ROS stations used to collect the vegetation, 2 Placerville, 2 Pacific House (?), 2 Georgetown. Samples are collected every 2 weeks and placed in airtight containers. Samples are collected from all sides of plants, then brought back to the District where the containers are cooked. They are weighed before and after cooking to determine the moisture content. Weather kit determines relative humidity and wind; all information is uploaded into the national database. Fuel is collected during the hottest, driest part of day. Dead fuels - time lag for fuels to absorb moisture. The fuel are determined by: time it takes 1 hour fuels to completely saturate and dry < 1/4” vegetation, fine flashy fuels that respond quickly to weather changes; 10 hr. fuels - 1/4”-1” diameter that are weighed as part of the fire weather; 100 hr. 1-3” diameter, 24-hour average condition; 1000 3-8” 41.5 days. Will begin measuring dead fuels next year. Information will be collected monthly and sent to fire fighters and cooperators.

ERC - Energy Release Component uses heavy fuels. ERC calculations require moisture inputs for the entire fuel complex, i.e., 1-hr., 10-hr., 100-hr., 1000-hr., and the live fuel moisture. Currently the chart is trending down, indicating lowering fire danger. The blue line shows we are below average because of the 2” rainfall. Heavy fuels, 1000 hour fuels, are only beginning to get wet and absorbing moisture. The ERC chart shows the energy that could be released - a predictor. Takes into account all weather stations in northern CA.

The King Fire was not predicted or expected to grow with the intensity that it did. It burned outside of the computer modeling capabilities. This took the Incident Management team by surprise, including seasoned firefighters. Pollock Pines and Camino are in a thermal zone. Valley heat gets pushed into the area reducing the evening and night RH, and dew point increase the rest of the mountain areas get. Thus, the 1-10 hr. fuels do not get nighttime recoveries. Temperatures at 90 during the day only go down to 80 at night. In the valley, it drops to 70. Vegetation in King fire was considered to be dead in fuel modeling terms as it was so dry. The 50,000 acre run in less than one day was never predicted with the fire modeling available. Caught off-guard. Pushed the fire activity probabilities to the 2% limit of accuracy.

2014 had two early a fall, “green up”. Then 2015 – had 4-6 week early green up. Trees dried up 4-6 week earlier than normal during this fall. Trees have been dropped their leaves early to preserve themselves since August. New technology X-ray forests to determine stress levels. 1. Because trees are dry, trees are falling or dropping limbs causing a danger to firefighters. 2. Beetle kill increasing because of tree dryness; no sap to combat beetles. 3. Serval thousands of acres of trees are already dead.

Why won't El Nino be our savior? Drought has been going on over 4 years; recovery will take a while too. The water can just runs off because soil is so dry; therefore, high intensity rainstorms are not good. Light rains of 2” over a week's time is much better, so water can be absorbed into the soil. The 30 year trend - fires are getting bigger, faster, harder to put out. Years ago a 20,000 acres was big. Now that's the norm.

Is anyone doing anything to adjust modeling techniques to accurately reflect what the fire activity is now doing? USFS and CAL FIRE are working on new computer fire modeling. Olympic Natl Park had its first big fire in 300 years, this size fire was not predictable. Natural burn cycles happened every 6-15 years in lower elevations. Instead 2-5 burn cycles were missed because of past policy to put every fire out. More broadcast burning will introduce fire back into our forest ecosystem.



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10-Hr Fuel Sticks are another tool used to predict burning conditions. They weigh 100 grams bone dry. They're handled by using a hanger to not transfer hand oils/moisture, placed on a rack 1 foot off the ground with pine needles underneath. When the sticks are weighed, it measures how much air moisture is absorbed. The data they provide leads to fire behavior predictions going out to 3 months. Fuel moistures are checked the first of the month. ERC's of 74% or above will potentially have wildfires 100,000+ acres. ERC rating of in the King fire was in 97 percentile, which means any spark or fire brand has an 97% chance of igniting a fire.

7. Informational Items:

- i. Defensible Space Evaluators now available, can request through ppcfiresafecouncil@gmail.com
- ii. Chipping Program
 1. Having problems with the contractor so EDCFSC is seeking new bids. Some folks have had piles waiting for two months due to the Butte Fire. The contractor was not in County for some time. Heather will e-mail when there is a new contractor.
- iii. Events:
 1. Mosquito Community, Firefighter Appreciation Celebration invitation - Sept 19th. Jay participated. Approx. 50 people throughout the day 1-3:30 or so. Refreshments. Members of community spoke about homes that had been saved. Presented fire fighters with plaque. Chief spoke. Talked to people who wanted to start an FSC.
 2. Sons In Retirement - Heather
 - a. October 8th, was the guest speaker for a Son's In Retirement meeting, approx. 60 people. The topic was from the Ember and Built Environment educational programs. Got very favorable comments at this event.
 3. Supporting new start up FSC - Heather
 - a. Cool Pilot Hill; attended their meeting, they are now a new FSC
 - b. Coloma, met with Ron who is helping to form their FSC, provided him much of the informational materials we hand out and talked about the data needed for a CWPP. 4-5 new FSC's in this county.

8. Program Reports:

- i. 2016 WUI grant, a 12-page Fire Adapted Community brochure - Heather
 1. Advised EDCFSC at their last Board meeting, that PPCFSC needed \$6,000 for the brochure and would be requesting funds from our SMUD allotment for this project. Do not know how much money that will be yet. Will be brought up at a future board meeting. Expecting \$1500.
- ii. SRA Grant, Webber Creek Fuel Reduction PP-1 - Heather
 1. Right Of Entry form, Presented project to the school board and they voted to sign the ROE. This property is about 14 acres and represents most of Zone 2. Maps are available. Concern about people not signing forms and not having enough acreage for the amount allocated by the grant. Need to get contact information



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for the owners of 17 of the properties. Perhaps a private investigator who could donate services? DA may be able to provide a referral. Jay will try first then contact Martin.

2. Have enough ROE agreements to do Zone 3
3. Zone 1 is proving more challenging as property owners are from other counties, now looking to increase the coverage area to the south to see if we can get those owners to respond.

9. Treasure Report: Maureen

- i. Not available.

10. New Business: Group discussion,

- i. 2016 SRA grant for fuels reduction due Nov 15th – there were delays in getting final applications out to FSC organizations, late start. Heather will submit the grant, is planning to cut and paste much of this year’s application from last yrs grant. Same principles apply with same values at risk.
- ii. How do we want to go forward into next year; time, date, location, activities. The board ran out of time to tackle this topic, held over for next meeting in Jan.
 1. The Community Center will be charging for the room next year. Would like to consider move the meetings to the boardroom at the old school to save money. Jeanne will see if we can use the room.
 2. Schedule two Camino meetings next year. The board ran out of time ran to tackle this topic.

General discussion started as meeting was concluding with PPCFSC members

Work parties - group of people commit to coming to neighborhood to help clean up. Get out in the community so people can see what can be done. Go to people who need help. Use as promotional and help get the message out to people. Created an application form for applicants to provide information about area, vegetation, HO commitment. Property owners provide pics. PPCFSC provide lunch and drinks, bring tools or rent. Property owners will contribute labor and resources to be considered. Concept only at this point. Tools and labor needed - alligator, cut small trees, branches. Liability form will be needed - make it strong - they’re getting work for free. No workers comp protection. Home owner responsible for insurance. Need some level of safety training for the workers. Maybe meet in December or January to iron out details and a set of guidelines. Use church, scouts, schools. Remove duff, litter, and ladder fuels. 3 work days - April, May, June. Plan - 2-3 informational meetings in PP and Camino, work parties, informational outreach. 8:30 sign in and safety inspection.

11. **Good of the Order:** Day/Time undetermined. Board will meet again in January. PPCFSC meet in March

Adjourned: 9:15