

**Meeting Notes**  
**Logtown Fire Safe Council**  
**February 9, 2019**

1. Call to Order: Chairman Pat Dwyer called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Board members present were Pat Dwyer, Rod Repschlaeger, John Erickson, Chris Olson and Marc Regelbrugge. Dwyer introduced the meeting's new venue in the "quarters" area of Station 44 and began the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. He reminded the assembled public to sign-in, to avail themselves of coffee and treats, and to see John Erickson to purchase Logtown hats, T-shirts and coffee mugs.  
  
Dwyer also requested the public to highlight any incorrect e-mail addresses on the sign-in sheet so he can correct the Council's e-mail list. Should you not be receiving e-mails announcing our meetings and activities, please contact Pat to be sure he has your correct address. Dwyer also canvassed the public to determine how many attendees had noted the meeting announcement on Nextdoor Logtown ([logtown.nextdoor.com](http://logtown.nextdoor.com)). Approximately 50% of the attendees indicated they had referenced the meeting notice on Nextdoor Logtown.  
  
Dwyer noted that residents Trudy Theiss, Nancy Hasse and Joan Kilpatrick are spearheading a T-shirt committee to work with John Erickson to explore old and new designs for Logtown T-shirts, caps and coffee cups. The group is working with Dynamic Designs in Diamond Springs.
2. Public Comment: Members of the public brought up questions and pursued discussion regarding Logtown's potential evacuation routes and issues relating to cleanup of vacant and infrequently used properties. The Board suggested reviewing the Logtown Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP – available on the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council web site at [edcfiresafe.org](http://edcfiresafe.org)) for information regarding evacuation options, planning and processes of execution. More information on vacant land clearing developments appears under the Chairman's Report.
3. Guest Speaker: Dwyer introduced Ms. Kristine Oase of the Emergency Services Department under El Dorado County Health and Human Services (HHS). The County HHS Emergency Services group is responsible for County services in preparation for and in support of emergency evacuation responses. They work in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES), and address primarily disaster preparation, learning activities for both County personnel and the public, and develop, test and maintain concepts of operations for emergency response and public support. In this role, Kristine noted that "We are going to be our own first responders" in any significant emergency.

Ms. Oase described HHS/ES response to a fire evacuation event, beginning with notification from OES and continuing through identification and instantiation of Evacuation Centers, leading to designation of longer-term Emergency Shelters. Evacuation Centers are typically used for registration of evacuees and providing temporary shelter. They do not provide organized food or temporary beds. Emergency Shelters, on the other hand, do provide regular meals and sleeping facilities. These are typically opened once it becomes apparent that the emergency will persist over days, at minimum. For example, during the Bumper and Omega Fires last summer, HHS/ES identified and opened the Diamond Springs Firemen's Hall as an Evacuation Center, but the rapid and successful response to bring these fires under control precluded any need to identify or establish an Emergency Shelter.

Oase also stressed that HHS/ES actively seeks to learn from other organizations' emergency response experiences across the state and nationally to adapt to the evolving circumstances and needs of today's emergent threats. She urged the Community to participate actively in planning and preparing responses for potential emergencies such as wildfire, extreme weather events (heat, cold, wind and/or precipitation) and manmade emergencies such as PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff program. With respect to the power shutoff program, she mentioned it is conceivable that power could be out for an extended period – perhaps more than 2-5 days – necessitating a positive and concerted response from residents subjected to a preventative power cut. HHS/ES is folding that possibility into their planning and has developed contingencies to stand-up overnight warming and daytime cooling centers should an extended power shutoff of appreciable duration occur in extreme heat or cold conditions.

For us, adapting to such possibilities by advance preparation is the most effective means to shield ourselves, our families and our neighbors from adverse outcomes caused by an unexpected event. It is essential to be proactive in our preparations, so Oase recommended that we:

- 1) Have a Plan
- 2) Practice the Plan – make your planned response “Muscle Memory”
- 3) Refine and extend the Plan – incorporate contingencies
- 4) Update the Plan(s) and adapt as situations dictate
- 5) Execute the Plan without hesitation.

In keeping with the notion that “we are all our own first responders,” Ms. Oase also urged folks to connect with their neighbors and share their plans for responding to emergencies. These connections improve the whole Community's level of preparedness, and can highlight special needs existing in our neighborhoods so that those needs may be addressed as part of the neighborhood's emergency response. HHS urges residents to identify and work their social networks so that community members know of, and know

how to assist neighbors whose circumstances may potentially complicate their response to emergency situations.

In closing, Kristine recommended a recent book by Amanda Ripley: *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes*. The book examines how people react in emergency situations. You can get more information on the book at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fkVJk5MNzc>

<https://www.amazon.com/Unthinkable-Survives-When-Disaster-Strikes/dp/0307352900>

Kristine is happy to answer questions regarding HHS/ES and emergency preparedness. She can be reached at (530)621-7582 or [kristine.oase@edcgov.us](mailto:kristine.oase@edcgov.us).

4. Chairman's Report: Pat Dwyer reported that the County Fire Safe Council and the Amador County Fire Safe Council were asked by Cal Fire Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU) to contribute their ideas and recommendations on ways to reduce wildfire risk in the immediate, short, medium and long terms. These inputs were culled to determine the near-term mitigation steps outlined in Gov. Newsome's Emergency Declaration of March 22. The Councils and AEU identified the following factors, among others:
  - Streamline Archaeological (ARCH) and Environmental (CEQA) reviews to lower cost of compliance and speed implementation of fuels reduction projects in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). [*Secretary's Note: These review requirements have been suspended for some 33 high-priority fuels reduction/fuel break projects identified by Cal Fire under Gov. Newsome's Emergency Declaration.*] The Councils also suggested development of an approved CEQA Template to help accelerate preparation and review of Environmental evaluations.
  - Authorize vegetation treatment using herbicides where appropriate.
  - Allow fuels treatment contractors to work within 100 feet of a habitable structure when necessary.
  - Ease rules for use of slash and cleared lumber.
  - Require Counties to develop vegetation management ordinances. Dwyer noted that El Dorado County Supervisors Veerkamp and Hydahl are working to define an approach for such an ordinance that will require defensible-space maintenance within some distance of habitable structures (notionally 100 feet, as per PRC §4291) irrespective of parcel or lot boundaries. Veerkamp's stated approach is to require all landowners to provide such maintenance on their owned property when such property is within the applicable distance from a habitable structure. Additional aspects and specifications may also be incorporated into a draft Ordinance for the County Supervisors' consideration.

- Greatly improve early warning facilities.
- Develop ways to assist community preparedness.
- Develop pre-attack plan maps for rapid response to an incident.
- Require Right-of-Way easements over private roads providing fire access.
- Allow public road maintenance on non-public roads.

Dwyer noted the above items were *inputs* to Cal Fire's planning process and, as such, are not necessarily implemented, or planned for implementation in policy or law at the State level.

5. Vice Chairman's Report: Vice-Chair Rod Repschlaeger described development of our monthly meeting Speaker's schedule. A representative of the American River Conservancy (ARC) will join us in March, and Marshall Cox of the El Dorado Hills Fire District will tentatively address our meeting in April.
6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer John Erickson reported outflows of \$82 for P.O. Box rental (annual) and \$325.85 to GIS Specialist Paul Watkins for his work to help us develop Logtown FSC project maps for display and Grant submittals. These transactions leave the Council with total assets of \$9,103.34.

Chairman Dwyer introduced a discussion on spending some assets to upgrade our presentation infrastructure. Specifically, Dwyer proposed that the Council purchase a large-format, high-definition television that could be wall-mounted in either the indoor all-purpose room or the engine bay of Station 44 to provide clear projection of visual and multimedia presentations for Council meetings. After some discussion, the Board and assembled Public approved the purchase of a large, flat-panel display and two wall-mounting brackets for use at Council meetings. John Erickson took the action to identify particular makes/models suitable for the Council's purpose and budget, and report back to the Board for approval of the expenditure.

7. Old Business: Dwyer reminded the meeting of our outstanding Cal Fire CCI Fire Protection Grant proposal for some \$420,000 to fund the LT-10 project on the east slope of Monitor Ridge from Monitor Ct. north to Sam Hill Mine Ct. Grant awards are scheduled to be announced in April.

The group entertained a discussion of defensible space clearance requirements and resources. Dwyer noted that the County Fire Safe Council ([edcfiresafe.org](http://edcfiresafe.org)) has a listing of vegetation management/clearing contractors that it maintains on a non-endorsement, non-recommendation basis (i.e. the Council does not specifically recommend any contractor on the list for any specific purpose or endorse any level of quality in their work product or business relationships). The list can be found at:

<http://www.edcfiresafe.org/programs-grants-2/fuel-reduction-contractors-list/>

On the subject of defensible space maintenance on vacant lands, Dwyer noted that County Supervisors Veerkamp and Hydahl have been tasked with coming up with recommendations for developing an Ordinance for Vegetation Management on Vacant Lands throughout the County. The baseline idea being floated in discussion is that any landowner is responsible for clearing her/his land within 100 feet of a habitable structure, regardless of who owns the structure or the land upon which the structure sits. There is also some consideration being given to requiring landowners to clear some distance from their fence lines. It is unclear as to whether that would be required if no structures exist within 100 feet of the fence line. *[Secretary's Note: Veerkamp held an informational community meeting at the Pleasant Valley Middle School on Feb. 19 at which many of the ideas and concepts feeding into the development of this Ordinance were discussed and commented upon by the public.]*

Dwyer also informed the public that Logtown was successful in renewing its Community Firewise Certification for 2019, which depends upon the Community's level of demonstrated support for fire wise planning and action.

Related to the Firewise Certification, and as a precursor to further development of Logtown's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Dwyer announced the commencement of a Firewise Self Assessment activity to identify high risk areas in the Community and recommend mitigations in the form of fuels reduction, enhancement of defensible spaces and hardening of structures against wildfire risks. The Council seeks your input on any/all of these aspects of fire safety within our Community.

8. New Business: Dwyer reported that Logtown must renew its application for designation as a Firewise Community. Firewise status is designated for communities that demonstrate investment to increase their resilience to wild fire by identifying and mitigating fire risks. In Logtown's case, the primary risks are (a) fuel loading on steep hillsides and (b) highway and residential ignition sources. Secondary risks include evacuation planning, structural resilience and maintenance of defensible space. The required community self-assessment evaluates these risks against the means the Community is deploying to address them, specifically: mitigation plans and actions.

Chairman Dwyer also mentioned that now is the time to update our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This plan is updated every five years, and addresses community fire risks and mitigation plans. Perhaps most importantly, the CWPP establishes fire-risk mitigation projects, plans and priorities. The Fire Safe Council is soliciting inputs from you, our Community, to reflect your areas of concern and your ideas and priorities for needed fire-risk mitigation projects.

Dwyer also thanked Sarah Todoroff, who has volunteered to help steer the Fire Safe Council through the labyrinth of social media.

9. County Fire Safe Council Update: Dwyer mentioned the County Fire Safe Council's work with the US Forest Service (USFS) on their Cohesive Strategy, a layered approach to link many diverse aspects of vegetation management and wildfire preparedness into a unified framework for building fire-adapted communities. The County FSC is concentrating on bringing communities within the County together to address longstanding issues along with issues of immediate concern.

Dwyer also reported that progress is being made on the SoFAR (South Fork of the American River) project – a two-year initiative to provide selective vegetation management along the American River. The present target area is along the Hwy 193 corridor from Chili Bar to Georgetown.

Following up on some of our Guest Speaker's points, Chairman Dwyer mused openly whether to undertake an attempt to reconstitute the Fire Safe Council's Neighborhood Coordinator program. The Coordinators' principal role in the past had been to manage their local branch(es) of the phone tree community alert system. This function has been largely supplanted by centralized, publicly managed warning systems such as Code RED. Nonetheless, the needs to alert and remind all local residents about the dangers and requirements of life in the WUI, and to bring our entire Community valuable knowledge of the resources available to assist in their preparedness for and reaction to a wildfire event remain as important as ever, and an effective way to imbue such information into the Community is through personal contacts with our neighbors. Watch for further developments on this topic.

10. Closing Public Comment: Local resident and Chair of the Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District (DSEDFPD) Board Mr. Pat Williams apprised the public of several new developments affecting the Fire District. These include: (i) near-term availability of a new Type 3 (backcountry) fire engine and a 2000 gal. all-wheel drive water tender, to aid in response to rural and wild land incidents; and (ii) efforts being made at the County level to consolidate Fire Districts within the County in order to provide services on a more sustainable and efficient basis. Many of the County's smaller Districts are finding themselves short of funds to provide effective services to their communities, and the smart consolidation of some of these Districts into larger organizations can reduce overhead costs and allow more funding to be spent directly on community services. As an example, DSEDFPD has been in exploratory discussions with the Rescue FPD on ways to collaborate at operational and administrative levels – an exploration that may result in a beneficial consolidation of the two Districts. While actual consolidation may be years away, these discussions nonetheless focus each District's efforts on

identifying and codifying best practices among neighboring Districts, which will provide near-term benefits of faster, more coordinated incident response to citizens in both Districts.

Mr. Williams is also the newly elected Chairman of the Golden West Community Services District (GWCSO), which provides road-maintenance services for Crystal Blvd. and Dolomite, Manganite and Galena areas. Williams noted that the GWCSO has a new General Manager (local resident Shane Gilbert) and meets quarterly on the second Tuesday evenings of March, June, September and December at Station 44. Further information is available on the District's web site at <http://www.gwcsd.org>.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

**Logtown Fire Safe Council  
On-Line Resources**

<http://www.edcfiresafe.org>

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

<http://www.edcfiresafe.org/about-the-council/satellite-councils/logtown-fire-safe-council>

Logtown Fire Safe Council

<http://www.edcfiresafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/LOGTOWN-FIRE-SAFE-COUNCIL-ACTIVITIES.pdf>

Logtown Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

<http://www.edcfiresafe.org/programs-grants-2/chipper-program>

Chipper Program (FREE!)

<http://ready.edso.org>

Sheriff's Office Emergency Notification System  
Sign-up for "Code RED" (replaced reverse-911)

<http://www.friendsofedcseniors.org/>

Friends of Seniors, a private, non-profit advocacy organization supporting wellness, life enrichment, dignity and independence of El Dorado County Seniors and their caregivers through advocacy and financial assistance.

**Useful Telephone Numbers**

Southwest County Resident Sheriff's Deputy Steve Wunschel

(530)957-3581

EDSO Dispatch (No emergencies. FOR EMERGENCIES, DIAL 911)

(530)621-6600

Logtown Fire Safe Council LT-10 Project Coordinator Marc Regelbrugge

(415)640-3068