

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

**1 Call to Order**

Chairman Pat Dwyer call the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Board Members present were Pat Dwyer, Rod Repschlaeger, John Erickson, Chris Olsen and Lyman Dennis. Pat Dwyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3 Presentation by Deputy Chief Kenneth Earle, Diamond Springs, and Cal Fire Battalion Chief Jed Gaines, re. Neighborhood Fire**

On Nov 7, there was a fire at the South end of Crystal near Mica. There was a large response from responsible organizations, including but not limited to:

- Diamond Springs Fire Department
- Cal Fire
- Tribal Fire
- PG&E
- Sheriff's Office (2 monitors in case road closures or evacuation were needed)
- California Highway Patrol
- Other agencies

Chief Gaines was the first on the scene and became the incident commander. The 6.1 acre fire started in the canyon and is under investigation. Chief Gaines said there was no reason to expect foul play. All fires are investigated.

The respondents provided an aggressive initial attack on the fire. Aggressive perimeter control helped contain the fire. Equipment on scene included: 8 fire engines, 3 air tankers, fire bulldozers, and more. There was a fire-retardant drop form one air tanker, which was effective. The other two air tankers were not

needed. The area of the fire had had fuel reduction and was mostly grass. There were no issues getting to the top of the fire which was uphill from Hwy 49. This incident response was a striking success. The time from dispatch of fire crews to the order to remove equipment as the fire was extinguished was 1 hour and 5 minutes. Note that this includes the time for equipment to reach the fire.

#### 4 Discussion of Fire Risks

The Logtown FS Council members engaged in substantial discussion following the presentation with Chiefs Earle and Gaines participating in the discussion.

- The Office of Emergency Services under the Sheriff's Department is responsible for road closures and notices to evacuate. Several FSC members were concerned that notice of a fire be provided so that disabled residents and farm animals can be evacuated. There were no notices of the fire or of road closures or evacuations for this fire. Chief Gaines said that it is best to leave livestock as they generally find their way through fires. The Sheriff's Office provides information on roads closed due to fire and evacuation routes. These were not issues in this fire. Residents were encouraged by the two Chiefs and Chairman Dwyer that they need not await government orders to evacuate. If concerned, evacuate early. In some situations, residents may be advised to shelter in place, especially if there are large open bare areas or areas with short grass. Hardening of areas by FSC grants to mitigate fire danger has improved safety. If you have fire roads on your property, please keep these fire roads open.
- John Erickson is a member of the El Dorado Amateur Radio Club, a HAM radio operators organization, and will help put together a program on use of HAM radio if Internet and cell service is not available. While power is available, a scanner can provide good information. There are also scanner functions available on the Internet. This will be covered in the special communications meeting to be developed.
- FS Council members were warned that Next Door, Facebook, and other social media may give the illusion of current information but may supply some inaccurate "facts." Evacuating based on social media reports could

suggest the fire is in one place when it is not or is in other locations that could pose evacuation dangers. Trudy Theiss suggested that a great approach is to have the names, email and phone numbers of residents in the vicinity of your home so that you can touch base if there seems to be a neighborhood threat. The CHP scanner site is valuable for traffic instructions, though in an emergency, it may be confusing to hear a cacophony of communications.

- One of the Chiefs indicated the importance of prominent house numbers. Fire and ambulance crews are frequently moving fast to get to the resident who called and losing time because the destination is poorly identified helps no one. The California Building Code requires that approved numbers or addresses shall be placed on all new and existing buildings in such a position as to be plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property. Numbers shall contrast with their background and shall not be less than 4" in height. House numbers shall not be obstructed by vegetation. Any building located more than 50 feet from the street shall have its address posted at the driveway entrance and shall be visible from both directions of travel along the road. In new construction, the address shall be posted at the beginning of construction and shall be maintained thereafter, and the address shall be visible and legible from the road on which the address is located. Where multiple addresses are required at a single driveway, they shall be mounted on a single post, and additional signs shall be posted at locations where driveways divide. The Chiefs indicated that address numbers should be metal and be mounted on metal, so that fire will not quickly destroy them. The numbers should be reflective.
- Tree canopy breaks and fuel breaks are important.

## 5 Chair's Report

Pat Dwyer presented his report.

- **Hot Dog Social.** Pat Dwyer thanked all for participating in the hot dog social.
- **Logtown 10 Grant Work.** Pat indicated that Jim Davis will monitor the \$400k Cal Fire grant work. He is familiar with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). Red Mountain Enterprises may be the

organization to work the grant-funded area. There are steep slopes, many rocks. The contractor will need to use a combination of masticator, hand work and chipper.

## 6 Vice Chair's Report

Rod Repschlaeger reported significant sales of shirts, hats and mugs at the Hot Dog Social.

## 7 Treasurer's Report

John Erickson presented the treasurer's report.

- **Ending checking account balance** \$9,503 after the Hot Dog Social.
- **Hot Dog Social.** This typically nets between \$1k and \$2k. This year the net was \$2,180.

## 8 Chris Olsen Report

Chris Olsen met with two families moving to the neighborhood before the FS Council to brief them on Fire Safe needs and activities.

## 9 Secretary's Report

Mailchimp asks for city and zip code when a person is added to the Logtown FS Council member list. Please provide these if they are not El Dorado 95623.

Thanks to Trudy Theiss, Linda Dwyer, Linda Martentot and Joan Kilpatrick for work on sale items for the Hot Dog Social.

## 10 Home Insurance Committee Chair

Jim Pine identified James White of State Farm in Shingle Springs as willing to write some fire insurance (limited availability). Jim's new policy was a 40% increase but much better than previous quotes from other home insurance sources.

## 11 Program Part 2: Jesse Acosta: New Technology in Fire Prevention

Jesse Acosta attended Cal Poly and recently was the Fire Prevention Forrester to all of Hawaii. Jesse had noticed that fires happen in the same area repeatedly. 85% of fires start along roadsides. Many communities are like Paradise in that they are at high risk for a fire. He has been working with research scientists on an improved fire retardant. Phos-CHEK (sold at Home Depot) is the fire retardant

sprayed from air tankers. It is good for immediate deterrence to fire but washes away quickly. Jesse and his associates have developed a phosphate-based fire retardant that stays on the plant through a ½ inch driving rain, probably for about six months. The product is manufactured in Modesto and is only available now to government entities for treating roadsides and other large at-risk areas. The cost to treat both sides of 8 miles of roadside is about \$200k. Jesse indicated that Caltrans needs to be encouraged to spend about \$20 million for dangerous highway shoulders. Presently, Caltrans is not involved in fire prevention. The new treatment is applied to dead fuel using a spray technique like hydroseeding.

### **12 Pat Dwyer: Consider a Grant for Use of a Fire Retardant**

Pat Dwyer indicated that Logtown FS Council might consider applying for a grant for application of the new phosphate retardant in a grant application closing in December 2020. The current year is heavily committed.

### **13 Upcoming**

- **Saturday, December 14. No meeting in December.**
- **Saturday, January 11, 9 am, Logtown Fire Safe Meeting, Station 44.**  
Program TBD.

## Logtown Fire Safe Council Online 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>  
(FREE!)

Chipper Program

<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