

# Coalition of Firewise Communities

October 2nd, 2018 -- 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

## Minutes

**Welcome and Introductions:** Meeting attendees included Donn Thane and Jamie Jones from the Fire Safe Council as well as two Cal Fire officials.

Jeff Peach shared some of Bob Hanna's work at Forest Knolls energizing the neighborhood to engage in defensible space work. The Forest Knolls community is looking good.

### **Guest speaker: John Gulserian, Office of Emergency Services (OES), Nevada County**

John reported that OES uses emergency management systems to respond to an emergency. Fast-moving events take a lot of coordination, so all agencies are on the same systems and speak the same language.

The OES has developed a vegetation mitigation plan and filed for FEMA grants. They should hear about the first grant of \$4.7 million in December. It will help with 300 miles of roadside vegetation management, some help for low-income residents, and green waste sites. OES received \$80,000 to pay four short-term Defensible Space Inspectors who work only during the fire season, ending October. You can call the office or can also make request online.

The federal government allocates funding based on disasters. Applying for FEMA grants is lengthy and time consuming -- OES's last grant application was 600 pages long. It's how most of John's time is spent. Cleared locations must be photographed before, during and after the funded work.

Some grants ask for a match from the community, which can come from the Fire Safe Council.

OES also helps respond to regional emergencies. Nevada County had 870 people from the Oroville Dam spill. OES spent a lot of time responding to their needs, including medical.

County staff is proposing changes to the vegetation abatement ordinance: this is likely to go to the Board of Supervisors in January.

Code Red: about 80,000 contacts have signed up for Code Red. You must sign up even if you have the app. **Just downloading the App doesn't mean you are signed up.**

**Information from the Fire Safe Council (FSC), Donn Thane:**

The FSC has about 30 Defensible Space Advisors. A training will be held November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. First day is in class; the second day is on-site training with site visits for a defensible space inspection. Jamie Jones is now the Chief Operations Officer for FSC.

Kent Rees feels that during defensible space inspections, it should be stressed that Public Resource Code 4291 is ***the law***. People are not aware that it is a state law.

There was discussion about how fires are reported and what is the best way for people to find information on fires. Cal Fire does not call for evacuation until necessary – they do not want to “cry wolf” and risk have residents stop paying attention to their warnings. Just because there is intense smoke in the air, it doesn’t mean an imminent evacuation. Yubanet and KVMR (staffed 24 hours) are great resources. KVMR is contracted with the county for emergencies.

### **Continuing Survey of “How Do You Communicate with your Residents?”**

Susan Rogers reported on the results to date of a survey on how FWCs communicate with their respective residents. You may find it helpful to compare what you do with other FWCs that cover a similar number of households. The survey is now on the website. <https://sites.google.com/site/coalitionoffirewisecommunities/firewise>

### **Continuing Survey re: Homeowners Insurance**

Attendees were reminded about the NFPA’s insurance presentation on October 10. Sign up and you can download after the presentation if you cannot attend the webinar in person.

**Survey of “in training” FW Communities** – on hold with Bob on vacation

**Report from Fire Safe Council Board meeting (Susan Rogers)** – Full notes on website <https://sites.google.com/site/coalitionoffirewisecommunities/minutes>

- Forest Service will be doing prescribed burns.
- OES did over 600 inspections – taking more time, educating folks
- FEMA grant discussion
- Privacy screening is an issue – owner education
- FSC is all caught up on chipping, funding will run out end of October
- There are openings on the board of directors; interested persons are invited to apply.
- Office Hours are now 9-4 Mon-Thurs (Lunch is 12:30-2:00) – Friday hours 9-12pm, afternoon by appointment.
- Street signs are required by the county - you must have a green reflective address sign.

Donn Thane from the Fire Safe Council reported that they need a couple of houses to inspect as part of the Defensible Space Advisory training. Contact John or Jamie at FSC (Fire Safe Council). It was suggested that there should be more publicity on the Public Resource Code 4291.

Cal Fire is looking to do more training drills next year in April or May.

**REFLECTIVE SIGNS** - Reflective address signs are an important part of the emergency response for fire and medical. It is part of the PRC 4291 code and all homeowners should have them properly installed.

### Committee Status Reports

- **Evacuation** – Chris Reilly – Still working on the **Out OK** ad **Need Help** signs. The Wayfaring Sign program for Alta Sierra (lighted signs that direct residents out of the community) can be expensive. Kent strongly recommended that each household have an “evacuation partner,” a friend who lives 15-30 miles away and with whom you can trade house keys, so that you each has a place to go in the event you have to evacuate.
- **Enforcement** -- Dario Davidson – Goal is to improve the enforcement of defensible space regulations. There was some discussion of cooking and warming fires during burn bans. Cal Fire chimed in and said they must be on your private property.
- **Real Estate Partnership** – Susan Rogers – Susan is getting help from Rick Nolle, who is a realtor, a Defensible Space Advisor and on the board of the Fire Safe Council. The Realtors Association has said that the current Regional Disclosure is the best they can do for now. The brokers are concerned about liability.
- **Fire Adapted Communities** -- Jackie Mason – Not present

### Other Announcements

PGE is staging equipment at the Fairgrounds in preparation of upcoming clearing.

### Attendance

	Auld, Pam	Sherwood Forest FW
	Babiarz, Charlie	Mt. Lakes Estates
	Baldock, Ray	Forest Knolls III HOA
x	Becker, Bill	Dark Horse
	Beesley, Peter	Greater Alta Sierra FC
	Bell, Kevin	Bear River Ranch
	Bleile, Nancy	Greater Champion
	Bottomfield, Marlene	Tumbling Creek Neighborhood
	Branstrom, Bob	Wolf Creek Lodge
	Buschman, Gena	Greater Cement Hill
	Chandler, Steve	Lake of the Pines
x	Cuccia, Mike	Mt Lakes Estates HA
	Curtin, Ed	Darkhorse HOA Auburn
	Dary, Raymond ?	
x	Davidson, Dario	Lower Colfax FW
	Davis, Dennis	Toller Ridge Ct

	Davis, Jim	Fire Safe Council
	Diamond, Eve	Owl Creek/Jones Bar Neighborhood
	Dodge, Charolette	Wolf Mountain
	Drummond, Joanne	Alta Sierra POA
x	Drutz, Lauren	6B Ranch
	Ellisor, Jim	Rattlesnake Ridge Estates
	Emery, Jack	Echo Ridge Neighborhood
x	Enoch, Beth	Greater Cement Hill NA
	Ericson, Krista	Wolf Creek Lodge
	Feiler, Larkyn	Wolf Mountain, Orbit Road
	Fish, Cathe	Squirrel Creek HOA
	Fites, Jo Ann	East Sages - Salmon Mine
	Freeman, Chrissy	Lower Colfax
	Fusshoeller, Pascal	LVRMNA
	Gardner, Scott	Sierra Knolls Estates
	Gardner, Suzanne	Sierra Knolls HOA
	Gilbert, Ames & Nancy	Lower Colfax
	Gitchel, Sam	Greater Champion
x	Gompertz, Virginia	Lake Wildwood HA
	Guerwitz, Phyllis	Lake Wildwood HA
x	Gulserian, John	OES
	Hall, Helene	Banner Mountain Neighbors
x	Hanna, Bob	Forest Knols III HOA
x	Hardy, Joan	Cascade Shores HA
	Hawkins, Vicki	Darkhorse HOA Auburn
	Hedman, Jan	Dalmation Drive
	Hofeling, Russ	Forest Knolls Estates
	Hoff, Barbara	Tumbling Creek
	Hood, Dave	Stonebridge HA
	Houdyschell, Bill	Tahoe-Donner Assoc.
	Israelian, Thomas	Dalmation Drive
	Jansen, Sandy	You Bet Community
	Jeffrey, Nancy	The Gazebos
	Johnson, Ryck	Buck Mountain Rd Assoc
x	Jones, Jamie	Fire Safe Council COO
	Jorgensen, Frances	Greater Champion
	Knox, Christine	Red Dog-You Bet Community
	Leach, Pat	Salmon Mine East Sages
	Lee, Bob	Lodestar HOA & FWC
	Long, Bob	Chair – Sherwood Forest
x	Main, Martin	Bear River Ranch
	Mann, Gordon	Lake of the Pines

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	Mason, Jackie	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Masters, RuthAnn	Cole Country Estates
x	Mathias, Jim	CalFire
x	Mazorra, Debbie	Lake Wildwood
	McGillicuddy, Paul	Lightening Tree Rd Assoc
x	McLean, Mike	Ridgeview Woodlands HA
	McMahan, Terry	Nevada County Consolidated Fire
x	Mezzetta, Jim	Rough & Ready Estates
	Muldord, Steven	Friends of Banner Mountain
x	Novak, Gloria	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Peach, Gale	Friends of Banner Mtn
x	Peach, Jeff	Friends of Banner Mtn FWC
	Peach, Justin	FBM
	Peck, Tom	No Affiliation
x	Pettis, David	Wolf Mountain
	Porter, Debbie	Golden Oaks HA
x	Pridemore, Karen	6B Ranch Estates
x	Proano, Robert	6B Ranch Estates
x	Reeder, Vicki	Greater Champion
x	Rees, Kent	Cascade Shores HA
x	Reilly, Christopher	Alta Sierra POA
	Rigdon, Dusty	The Cedars
	Roberts, Moana	Jumper Hills FWC
x	Rogers, Susan	Glenwood-Maidu-Charlene
	Russell, John	Rattlesnake Neighborhood
	Scarmon, George	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Scarmon, Jeanne	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Sims, Gopal	Ananda
	Small, F.Mac	Alta Sierra POA
	Smith, Mike & Dana	
	Smith, Vern	Ranch Rd HOA
	Staetz, Chuck	Friends of Banner Mtn
	Swisher, Tom	6B Ranch
	Taylor, Marilyn	LVRMNA
x	Taylor, Wendy	Darkhorse HOA Auburn
x	Thane, Donn	Salmon Mine East Sages (FSC)
	Thrush, Greg	Sierra Fund
x	Van Arsdale, Rhonda	Lake Wildwood HA
	Warner, Michael	Alta Sierra POA
x	Wetzel, John	Upper Rough & Ready
x	Williams, Curt	Foxwood Estates
	Williams, Mike	The Cedars

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Williams, Pete	Greater Champion
Wilson, Bill	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
Wolfe, Taylor	County Communications Specialist
Young, Pam	Wolf Creek Lodge
Ziebron, Michael	ASPOA - Alta Sierra

**Next Coalition Meeting, Tuesday Nov 6th, 5:30 – 7:30**

**Madelyn Helling Library**

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