

# Coalition of Firewise Communities - NOTES

Tuesday Dec 3rd, 2019 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Our Mission: The coalition promotes fire safety through advocacy, education, and community involvement with other stakeholders interested in working toward stronger fire safety practices.

**Welcome, introduce officers, announcements** **Bob Long** 5 minutes

- Who's here for the first time? Sign in to get on mailing list.
- Fire season is over from a weather standpoint.
- Burn Ban Lifted for county. Call to find out if it's a burn day. Burn dry material (no wet leaves), no trash, not on windy days, etc. go to areyoufiresafe.com "are you burn safe"
- Article about proposal for Fair Plan comprehensive coverage.
  - In the Union. June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 CA Fair Plan offering comprehensive coverage. Coverage limit from \$1.5M to \$3M.
- Reminders –
  - Sign up for Code Red (see [mynevadacounty.com](http://mynevadacounty.com) – Wildfire Prep button, then bottom of that page under Helpful Links))
  - Complete requests for those shovel-ready projects, send to Fire Safe Council.
  - Promote the Fire Safe Council to your residents: \$49 membership, reflective address signs (\$35 single side, \$40, double, \$5 for stake)
- Reminder NFPA reports **were** due by the 15<sup>th</sup>
- Reminder about fuel safety - Generators
  - Gasoline in appropriate canisters. Leave room for expansion.
  - Stored away from home
  - Gas gets stale after 6 months.
  - Storing Generators. Drain tank, run until it stalls.
  - Check the oil upon every start up.

## Monthly updates – Burn Ban Lifted.

**Cal Fire**

**Chief Matt Wallen**

- We live in the country and the county infrastructure is limited. Take personal responsibility and obtain your defensible space and hardened home. Have a second home. Get more insurance. County needs more funds. Form a neighborhood impound account where they can afford to do the work. Be self-sufficient and take initiative.
- Roads help – form a CSA (County Service Area) or CSD (for 2 lane roads??) – impound account where all neighbors are forced to pay and seal/clear roads. Funding from some other higher governmental source probably won't come. With Newsome's new drive, you could ask county to help you form a new CSA or CSD for safe ingress/egress. Could mean you get a gravel or paved road that county clears for you annually.
- Jenn Tamo – fuels management projects in.

**Nevada County OES**  
Jacobs

Paul Cummings and Lt. Bob

- Paul Cummings, New County OES Manager. Emergency Action Plans. Lt. Bob Jacobs law enforcement arm of OES. Double the manpower than before. Bob will be involved with running Command Center and shelters.
  - Bolstering training. Rewriting 2020 Wildfire Action Plan. DSA Training = full time DSA Inspector for County, Shane Mclaughlin, manages seasonal inspectors. In conjunction w/ Cal-Fire/Dist Fire depts.
  - From fires to cold weather to floods – EOS addresses these situations.
  - Requesting multiple Fed Grants for current issues.

**UC Davis Extension: Reg Forest Fire Advisor**

Kate Wilkins 20

minutes

- Reduce your Chance of your home burning. See Coalition website for her full PPT presentation under “Education.”.
- Handout = The Institute of Business and Home Home Safety (IBHS) has a great website and catalog on how to Harden Homes for Wildfire: [www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org)
- USDA World Development Home Safety Renovation loan, website = lower 50% income of the area median income & (\$30K HH income or lower) and most not liquid = get a \$10K grant. Age 62 or older and not able to repay a repair. General maintenance and major renovations.
- Roofing, vents, vegetation (top risks), eaves, decks, windows.
- Design, materials, maintenance = combo of all 3. 1/8” baffled vents (or 1/16” if you clean it).
- 0-5ft NO Fuel Zone around your home & Deck. There is substantial research about this. Corners, pull out further.
- Fire resistant Plant list – not 1 plant is fire resistant. Nothing next to house. Look at how leaves come down around house (embers will flow the same). Maintain (prune irrigate, clean)
- Blow everything away from house. Maintenance.

Fire Safe Council – Donn Thane

- 38 In Training Communities
- 39 Certified Communities
- DSA Training begins tomorrow. 40 signed up.
- Jaimie working on grants. Ingress/Egress grant for private roads.

**My Sierra Wood Chipping and EQUIP update**

Jeff Peach 10 minutes

- Grant \$ to haul wood chips. 10 acres minimum. First Biomass Transport Incentive Program. Take out forest/land under story. Can be joint application w/ neighbors.
- Sarah Hendrix [sarah@mysierrawoods.org](mailto:sarah@mysierrawoods.org)
- Equip /Update: Jeff Peach 10 minutes
  - Environmental Quality Incentive Program. Paid to clear land. Start application process. Tour. Do work. Reimbursed for your work. Jeff Peach is getting approx. \$1500/acre. Trimming, limbing, chipping/burning, spreading. Takes awhile to start funding.
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Various Loans for home/yard improvements**

Bob Long 5 minutes

(not for most)

- County Website has info:
  - Housing & Community Services. One for lower income (own home) described above. \$30K HH income and 62 years or older.

**Defensible space on roads-diagram**

Bob Long 5 minutes

- On Coalition Website, “Fire Safety Education Resources” and “Hazardous Vegetation Codes and Ordinances.”

**Ad hoc group to study Boulder CO FWC & Insurance**

Bob Long 5 minutes

- Wander Mertins, BOD Fire Safe Council, contacted group who is sending their program so that we can pull together our county’s program. Home inspections based on Fire Science. \$250, 4 hours. List/photos of items you must do to update your home. You will be able to now get insurance once you can prove you did the work. Grants available, Tax deductions available.

Other Items from the Floor

**Next meeting: Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 -- 5:30 – 7:30 PM****336 Crown Point Circle**