

## FBM Firewise Community Meeting

July 24, 2019

**Attendees:** Jim Brake, Dave Fournier, Colleen Shade, Marlee Chamberlain, John Reves, Renee Weillmann, Carvel Hase, Brad Miller, Bob Hanna, Ted Beedy, Susan Sanders, Arnold Forman, Bob Anderson, Peggy Wall Slyker, Gale Peach, Jeff Peach, Ric Cameron, Nickie & Jim Wilkinson, Dave Kepler, Carvel Hase, Paula Orloff, Linda & Dennis Burbridge

**Mission:** Educate and energize the BM area residents into action concerning making our community fire safe.

**Neighborhood Leaders** – the term we decided on for the outreach leaders

### **Objectives of Meeting**

- Update on activities & prior action items
- What is the DSAV
- Enforcement
- Recording visited addresses
- Share Outreach

### **Follow up on action items:**

**Downed Trees:** What is happening on downed trees – depends on which LOB is doing the work. Contact [Joanne.Drummond@pge.com](mailto:Joanne.Drummond@pge.com) (530 889-3166, cell 530 510-1064)

### **Dave's Wildfire Manual**

- Jeff will send Dave's Wildfire Manual to the group as an attachment – very comprehensive. Main points
  - Defensible space (clearing, thinning)
  - Evacuation – so important; e.g., routes – safe refuge areas if blocked
  - Tips on how to drive thru a drive, how to keep heat down in car (foil windshield protector); wool blanket if exposed to flames don't wet it, turns to steam and burns. Wet only if can keep clothes/blankets wet
  - Tips on neighborhood notification plan – plan if Code Red is not working (which it probably won't with no cell phones) – so don't count on WiFi or cell – propose buddy system

### **BLM Coordination**

- Jerry Martinez (fire manager) was at the Coalition Meeting, talked about 200 ft of defensible space on BLM land (lots of red tape Ted and Dave researching). Dave reached htem. Ryan Abby fuels manager – has not reached him yet. Has a meeting with their leadership in mid August 15 or 16 (whatever Thursday is). Goal to get better coordination. They are meeting with County tomorrow (Round Hill Firesafe). They don't plan far ahead, they are reactionary instead. First step is to get together with them. He

also mentioned that BLM has assistance agreements (with Firesafe Groups) – need fiscally responsible entity to put money into.

### **Sirens**

- Coalition is looking into it and organizing discussion with proper authorities (CalFire etc.). If police car is driving thru with sirens message is get out. Dave – will be a distinctive siren, different from usual emergency siren.

### **Arnold's Bunker**

- Australian company, Concrete, underground shelter – small, short duration, for worst case scenario. County was not familiar with underground shelters – “somewhere between a shed and a septic tank” - \$1700 in permits, need engineering to assess soil. No law against it, ok with any kind of shelter to survive fires. Pre-fabricate them – list price on website for 6 person unit is \$8000, which doesn't include cost of installation, engineering. Lowe's has a tornado shelter for sale. Only rated to 1,000 degrees F., but fires can be 2000 degrees with fuel and wind.
- In Australia, mostly short lived brush fires. Here we are looking at 1 – 3 hour window. Need to have auxiliary air supply like scuba tanks, since air supply is only one hour or so.
- Next step – figure out the engineering, costs.

### **Sharing information?**

- Ok to share name and address with others? If someone requests information about who represents the numbers on the map, Jeff will send an email to those people and let them make the contact.

### **Neighborhood Outreach**

- Brochure – smaller pamphlet available - a little more user friendly than big brochure. Jackie and Ed Greenwood email – want more pamphlets, proactively to other places where others might have already visited. Jeff will order more small brochures from XX Snow
- Arnold's Google Map idea – track addresses by creating Google maps that pinpoint addresses visited. Just send an email to Jeff, log the addresses, then Gale or Jeff can enter them. Could share as read only with the group to avoid redundant visits. Arnold created a layer of visited addresses for FBM volunteers, and visited addresses. Just an address, not names. Green pinpoints are where he talked to them, yellow is left a brochure for them. Collect that info in an excel spreadsheet so it is easy to insert into master spreadsheet.
- Spreadsheet to Track Visits. Arnold will look into spreadsheet improvements and report back at next meeting – maybe have a formatted template that would make it more efficient to enter in master spreadsheet. If shared the master spreadsheet with the Neighborhood Outreach Leaders we could see who had been visited, and to target areas where there has been no attention.
- Message to Neighbors. Ruth has been asking neighbors have a plan, have been showing the newspaper articles with red flag warnings.

- Responses from Neighbors? Dan said he found some indifference on the part of neighbors. Other experiences – of 10 that they talked to, about 5 had go bags, and some were grateful for the information.

### **Meeting Frequency?**

- Jan, March, May, Sept, Oct. Maybe eventually get down to 3 meetings. Dave suggested every month for this year until we hit our stride. Jeff will schedule these meetings for all five for next year. Currently have one in Aug and Sept 2019
- Continue with email communication., and schedule extra meetings as needed.

### **Firewise Certificate Reporting**

- Several have requested a certificate of Firewise Community. Jim Brake said the CA Fair Plan gives a 10% discount in in a Firewise community. Have more than met certification for next year - at \$246,000 want to hit ¼ million.
  - Hours worked 3,452 hours
  - Money Spent
    - Chipper \$600
    - Other Equipment: \$10,744
    - Contractor Costs: \$61,031
    - Home Improvement \$23,922

### **Badges by Ruth**

- Ruth created official-looking tags with Firewise USA badge on a neck lanyard. All agreed that it was a good idea.

### **Garage Evacuation Sign**

- One pager Evacuation Plan – laminate and post in garage. Pass them out at

### **Out/Help Signs**

- Alta Sierra created signs – Red “Help” and Green “Out” – CalFire etc. will not abide by these because of liability. Sheriff will still knock on every door. Concerns about looters being alerted to an empty house. Arnold pointed out that it would be very helpful to know if his neighbors had evacuated.

### **Meet your DSAV**

- Requesting a Defensible Space Advisory Visit. 4291 -2463
- PRC 4291 – 100 ft of defensible space to the property line around structure to protect residents, first responders, and property. Does not address hazardous vegetation abatement beyond property line.
- County Ordinance No 2463 – 100 ft BEYOND the property line. 10-10-15 feet on rural roads. Ordinance ensures defensible space is maintain on parcels adjacent to improved parcels, along emergency access, and evacuation routes. Must have neighbor’s permission.

### **DSAV Advisory Visit (Ric Cameron)**

- Go to areyoufiresafe.com
- On home page click on “Defensible Space Advisory Visit”
- Last paragraph click on “Contact Us Form’ and fill out requesting advisory visit.

- Main thing Ric sees is excess litter on ground, needles and leaves, then ornamentals on top of them, then pine trees. Ladder fuels. Keep it a ground fire, not a crown fire. He provides a checklist for the homeowner.
- Fuel density is another factor he advises on.
- During outreach let neighbors know that this is a resource.
- Wait time for DSAC – out to late July. Can tell Jeff and he will communicate to Ric

### **Enforcement**

- If neighbor has a problem property. Neighborly thing to do is knock on the door and talk to them but if need can use County Portal for reporting (see handout).
- Go to [READYNEVADACOUNTY.ORG](http://READYNEVADACOUNTY.ORG) and make inspection request. Inspector will inspect multiple properties to maintain anonymity.
- Outcome is a letter to landowner giving them 30 days, then re-inspection occurs. 2<sup>nd</sup> letter, possible \$130 fine. Fines go up after that (\$700), 3<sup>rd</sup> is \$1300. Then case could go to code enforcement.
- Jeff thought they were not overwhelmed, so should be responsive.
- Can also turn in the private road that is an issue – “go to AskNevCo- Road Maintenance go to Roadside Tree, Vegetation and brush concerns. Expand map, move pin to exact location, complete form.
- Should be a County ordinance for vacant lots, absentee owners.
- Public lands? Dave said USFS has gotten \$7 million in grants with partnerships for fuel management.

Jeff will ask Patrick to come to next meeting to discuss

Other topics – Evacuation Routes

Next meeting – August 27, 6:00