

FBM Firewise Community Mtg
March 11, 2020, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Madelyn Helling Library

Welcome/Introductions – reiterated mission “Educate and Energize the Banner Mountain Residents into Action concerning making our community more fire safe”

Firewise Sign Placement

- Jeff requested a volunteer committee to work on placement of signs (possibly 4) at the bottom of Banner Mt. Roads (Banner Lava Cap, Red Dog, Gracie, Idaho Maryland).
- Ted Beedy, Jim Brake, Ruth Berliner volunteered.

Person Protective Clothing and Equipment--What to Wear During a Wildfire Evacuation

- Chris Reilly – former Fire Fighter with decades of experiences throughout California; on safety committee with Metro Fire and he was tasked with fire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which gave him expertise with fire protective clothing. Evac chair of Firewise Coalition
- In evacuation, find a way to go AWAY from the wind
- In an evacuation, note that heavy smoke can affect how engines operate – cars can stall because it is an oxygen burning engine. Need to be prepared to face situations when you need to get out of your vehicle.
- Ways to protect yourself when you can't breathe in smoke, see, or think clearly.
- 2020 Wildfire Season Guide – Chris recommended page 11 on evacuation, shelter. Radiant and convection heat are the issues. Big commercial buildings are a good refuge (like this library) then leave once the fire burns through.
- Issues affecting you in a fire:
 - Ambient heat (i.e., air temperature of immediate surroundings)
 - Convective heat (i.e., the transfer of heat by the movement of air or fluids)
 - Direct flame contact
 - Hot objects
 - Searing hot winds
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Flying embers/firebrands
 - Dust
 - Nighttime limited visibility
 - Blocked roads
 - Downed power lines
 - Downed trees
 - Vehicles driving thru smoke – very disorienting in smoke
- Have a flashlight, whistle, compass.
- Any broad-brimmed hat that has a chinstrap and that is not easily blown flat; if have an ember stream then heat will protect your face.
- Helmet with shroud helps getting embers in our neck. Also goes around your face to protect.

- Eye protection - ESS goggles with adjustable strap. Have foam padding on edges so smoke doesn't get in your eyes. Costs \$30 to \$60
- Need to be hydrated as well – have water available.
- Respiratory protection – protect your airway from smoke-dust-fumes. Face mask/dust mask. When rebreathing exhaled air can heat up your lungs, and increases fatigue. Dust/smoke masks have filters, but rebreathing is not good. Can order these on-line. Bandana not a good filter.
- Gloves – when returning to a burned vehicle may burn hands. Structural v. firefighting glove. Leather gloves with wrist cover best. All leather good (but thin – if grab heat will come thru the glove).
- Upper body protection – NO SYNTHETICS. Can melt onto your skin. Leather jacket (lightweight). Cotton burns, will not melt. Flame resistant treated, best type. Wool is inherently flame resistant. Nomex/Kevlar/PBI – Flame resistant. Long-sleeve, heavy shirt, two-layers best.
- Pants = Jeans single layer (but close to skin). Two layers good, required by OSHA, but makes you hot and risks heat exhaustion. Expensive – Kevlar – but look at surplus stores. Probably could spend about \$250 and be well attired.
- Boots – or closed to shoes – NO SANDALS. Leather - hightop or lowtop.
- Protection from radiant heat – to protect yourself use:
 - Your vehicle
 - Protective clothing
 - Aluminized blanket
 - Wool blanket (100% 7.5 oz fabric weight)
 - Use solid object (like a truck)
- Have a wool blanket in the car to protect from radiant heat. Aluminized blanket even better.
- Keep light source available. Strobe light is useful. In heavy smoke proves a way to signal. Airhorn is good too if you are stuck. Cell phones will not work in most fires.
- In vehicle use recirculation, and A/C. If stuck stay in your car. Keep your lights on and flashers since poor visibility.
- Temporary shelter in place refuges – local governments hesitant to identify safe shelters for liability reasons. Commercial buildings built with non-flammable materials, metal rooves, sprinklers could serve as a refuge.

BLM Update– Ted Beedy

- Overgrown BLM lands at bottom of Gracie Rd. Dave Fournier (USFS) contacted BLM to see about doing fuel treatment. Challenging to get in touch with BLM (only one forester for 4 counties) – no time or funding.
- Ted contacted Erin Tarr at Bear Yuba Land Trust – put him in touch with Chris Friedel, Executive Director of Yuba Watershed institute. Has been working with BLM for years on Inimim Forest on fuel reduction and established a good working relationship.
- SNC Planning Grant #1221 Are to implement fuel reduction projects. Much of the land is Amaral property, now with BYLT conservation easement. Got a grant to do background

permitting work (NEPA, CEQA, archeology and bio surveys) before they can implement these. Will start doing studies, so soonest they could do work would be 2021. Also DCPFR SNC Implementation Grant.

- Chris mentioned work with BLM – noted there are only 2 people for huge tract of land in NorCal.
- Suggestions for getting action from BLM – write a letter to BLM, contact Heidi Hall, Dist 1 supervisor; Cal Fire, and federal elected officials

WUI Drill Update – Ann Westling

- May 31 – Cal fire and law enforcement conducted a drill to train their crews, and also giving residents a chance to do an evacuation drill from Banner Mt and Cascade Shores at New Forest Knolls, Old Forest Knolls, Mayflower, Upper Deer Creek Park, Upper Banner Lava Cap – Wings of Morning
- Team leaders – John Shultz, Jim Brake, Carv, Joan, Steve Baker, Bob Hanna, Ann Westling – most have rounded up volunteers to assist
- Red code alert will go out and all residents encourage to evacuate.

WUI Drill Schedule

1. **Morning briefing** – around 8:00 - . Encourage team leaders and those with role in simulation.
2. **Meet and greet** – fire personnel visit volunteer homes
3. **Code red evacuation** alert(maybe 11:00?) alert to Banner Mt and Cascade Shores. Then everyone should evacuate, except those involved in the simulation. All of us need to be evacuation ambassadors. Want everyone to practice evacuation, good for us, and for law enforcement.
4. **Fire Drill and Law Enforcement Drill**
5. **Debriefing in the Rood Center** – encourage everyone to come
6. **BBQ** - Suburban Propane donating the food, BBQ, and serving. May need a few volunteers.

Other Items

- Evacuation will be instructive, and chaos is expected and welcomed. Will be a good lesson as to what to expect. Law enforcement will block some roads and no access will be allowed. Past evacuations have had poor participation. But there is more enthusiasm now with the work done by Ann and Bob. Talk it up, the more participants and chaos the better.
- Ann is heading up the communication committee for ways to get the word out. FBM newsletter, Next Door, Union, KVMR. Sheriff's using sirens?
- Evacuation Collaboration -Jeff said that Greenhorn, You Bet, and FBM Firewise communities contacted him about working together on evacuation routes– will meet with OES to discuss plans. Will discuss at next meeting
- Next meeting – May 13, 2020 at same location