

## **FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY**

### **Minutes April 8, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 0935 by Co-Chair John Sims.

Attendees: Rich Sampson, Clayton Jolley, John Sims, Cal Fire; Jim Palisi, BSCFD; Denise Enea, WFPD; Dan Coyle, MPFD; Brian Malone, MROSD; Ken Dueker, Palo Alto PD, Guido Ciardi, SFWD and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

Correspondence: Fire Safe Account Balance - \$169,400.00

Additions to Agenda: Richmond reported progress being made on a contract for retired Cal Fire Captain Steve Hernandez to replace Ken Gilbert in assisting with Fire Safe projects. Ken returned to full duty with Cal Fire at Ben Lomond Camp.

Fire Chiefs Presentation, May meeting: Items to include in presentation:

- \* Stress the importance of the Ben Lomond Fire Crews working in the county and their availability to respond to wildland fires.
- \* Need for projects from the various agencies.
- \* Insurance companies requirement for homeowners to clear defensible space.
- \* Discuss Community Wildfire Protection Plans for the county.

Ready, Set, Go: Denise Enea shared a draft of this new program. It included much of the good things in the LEOSD Program but leaves out the stay and defend. There is another program, Shelter in Place, which may be of some benefit for new developments.

2009 Fire Season Outlook: John Sims and Rich Samson reported indications for an early fire season. Fuel moisture is below average and fuels are beginning to cure. There have been fewer burn escapes this year as opposed to 2008. Data recently released indicates vegetation types will make an adjustment to dryer and warmer conditions. Another impact for 2009 may be budget reductions which will affect dozer, engine, helicopter and air tankers supply.

#### AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:

Denise Enea, Woodside F.D. reports letters are being sent to last years clearance violators. Thirty-six days are scheduled for the Woodside Chipping Program usin Ben Lomd Fire Crews. Engine companies will make clearance inspections toward the end of May. Woodside City adopted Chapter 7A of the Fire Code. Portola Valley may follow. The public is still interested in learning more of Sudden Oak Death. It was noted the last rain came at the worst time for the spread of SOD.

Brian Malone, MROSD, is looking to do the Russian Ridge VMP burn in July. The Board of Directors will consider a staff recommendation for permits for adjacent home

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owners to clear on district land to obtain the 100 foot clearance from structures required by Public Resource Code 4291. On agreement, the District will provide funds for a new rescue vehicle for La Honda Volunteers. There is legislation being introduced to allow Santa Cruz County to form an open space district. Brian attends the South Skyline Fire Safe Council meetings. They are hopeful to obtain a grant to begin a chipping program. Ano Nuevo State Park had to cancel a scheduled burn because of high winds. The District is planting acorns to offset the loss of Oaks because of SOD.

Dan Coyle, MPFD is attending his first Fire Safe meeting. We appreciate having a representative from Menlo Park. Dan has worked with Cal Fire in the past and is interested in the Fire Safe Program. MPFD has only a sliver of wildland and wants to begin an evacuation plan for that area.

Clayton Jolley, Cal Fire reports they will send letters to 400 vacant lot owners for clearing property. Coastside FPD will send out 750 letters to lot owners and another 150 letters in the Montera and Moss Beach communities. Cal Fire plans to make as many as 1000 LE 100 Inspections in state responsibility areas.

Jim Palisi, Belmont/San Carlos Fire says their department's Disaster Preparedness Officer is working with Menlo Park and Redwood City on a Mass Evacuation Plan using a grant of \$2,500 from Fireman's Fund. Ben Lomond Crews have been working in the Waterdog Lake area and in San Carlos School District property.

Ken Duekei, Palo Alto, P.D. reports the city is interested in the Ready, Set, Go program. City Council will address the Foothill Fire Protection Plan on May 10 at 7 p.m..

Rich Sampson, Cal Fire – Their staff is working on updating the Santa Cruz "Living with Fire". Once this is completed, we can review and use to update the San Mateo version. Rich says the staff is also working with R.C.D. and are close to making a presentation on CWPP's for San Mateo County. They would like to make a presentation to Fire Safe in May or June. There will be two public meetings in May and in the fall in San Mateo Co. There is not much news on grant funds. Staff is working with Coastside F.D. on school property dealing with a Eucalyptus grove next to a housing development. They will also be working with Penn. Open Space District on a VMP burn in late July or early August. They are also working with Belmont/San Carlos F.D. on LE 100 inspections and will also address clearance of long driveways for fire equipment access.

Guido Ciardi, SFWD reports a tree crew supervisor was injured in a chainsaw accident. Tunnel Rescue Training will be conducted this week by the fire service. SFWD is using two contracting Brontosaurus making 500 feet breaks.

Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator attended a start-up meeting of the Soquel Fire Safe Council. He also met with the Coastside Equine Evacuation group. Chief Paul Cole

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will assist them in getting County OES to allow members to become Disaster Service Workers.

He is working with Ben Lomond Crews and Cal Fire Engine Companies to complete pile burning on the Highlands Red. District Project. The need to review pile construction with the Ben Lomond Camp Crew Leaders was discussed.

The Brisbane Project has progressed well and will probably be completed in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next meeting -