

FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY

Minutes
May 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Co-Chair John Sims. Self introductions were made. Scotty Jalbert was welcomed to his first Fire Safe meeting.

Attendance: Brian Malone, MROSD; Lori Cuesta, WGCI/PG&E Vegetation; Jim Palisi, BSCFD; Denise Enea, WFPD; Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Bio. Preserve, Stanford; Dan Coyle, Menlo Park, F.D.; Pam Noyer, Priscillia Alvarez, San Mateo County Parks; John Ferreira, Angela Bernheisel, Rich Sampson, Clayton Jolley, Scott Jalbert, John Sims, Cal Fire; Guido Ciardi, SFWD and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

Additions to the Agenda:

1. A report by Denise Enea regarding the presentation made to the Fire Chiefs by Fire Safe. There was much interest shown regarding the Ben Lomond Crews for project work and for fires in the county. Denise did a great job with her presentation.
2. Chief Ferreira, Cal Fire, asked the committee to allow the CCV that has not been used for four years to be transferred to Santa Cruz County so it can be converted to a communications unit. After discussion, a motion was made by Philippe Cohen and seconded that Steve Richmond negotiate a price to be paid for the unit.

Chipping Program: Enea and Richmond reported Fire Safe has been awarded about half the funds requested for a county wide chipping program. This will reduce the number of days to contract with chipping companies. They will meet to finalize the application that is due to the Grant Clearing House on May 22.

The San Mateo County CWPP: Angela Bernheisel, Cal Fire, made a presentation with wall maps, on the progress of the project. Public meetings will be scheduled. The first one will be on HMBFPD Training Room at 7:00 pm on June 2.

AGENCY ROUND TABLE:

Priscilla Alvarez, S.M. Co. Parks reports their personnel are doing trail maintenance. She doubts they will be able to use the Ben Lomond Crews this summer because of the budget. When state grant funds become available, she will submit a request.

Guido Ciardi, SFWD, expressed his appreciation to Cal Fire for the excellent Wildland Safety and Fire Training given to their employees. Another session is scheduled for May 14. The Northern and Southern Fuel Breaks are slowly being converted to grasslands with the annual mowing of approximately 240 acres. Guido is willing to sponsor a field trip for fire agencies.

Brian Malone, MROSD, reports the district board approved a permit process for adjacent homeowners to cut brush and grass on district property to attain their 100 ft. clearance as required by PRC 4291. Crews are working on trails and roads, brushing and using herbicides. The district is requiring communication vendors to clear around their equipment on mountain tops. Russian Ridge VMP burn is scheduled for July.

Lori Cuesta, PG&E says crews are working in Wunderlich Park. Inspectors are in North County and will move south and then to the coast.

Jim Palisi, Belmont-San Carlos, F.D. made a presentation to the Chief's Association on what the Prevention Officers have planned for the year. The City Councils have agreed to use Chapter 7A in very

high hazard areas. A small section of Devonshire Canyon is now in the city. A developer plans to build homes but is first required to construct roads. This will help for egress from the top of Winding Way.

Denise Enea, Woodside FPD reports engine companies have begun hazard inspections. The department plans to be more strict in requiring compliance than in past years.

Dan Coyle, Menlo Park FPD is working on street signs for egress in the wildland area of the district. Their department will be making complimentary home inspections.

John Ferreira, Cal Fire reports that next week they will begin using nine, two person crews to make L.E. 100 inspections. There are may be instances where boundary lines are crossed.

Pam Noyer, SMCO Parks: Her section continues to work with Brisbane City on the fuel break and to provide an employee to supervise the Ben Lomond Crews as well as equipment. This will continue until the end of the month.

Angela Bernheisel, Cal Fire: They received a grant for work on Hwy 35 right-of-way and will be working with Cal Trans. The grant is for 30 Ben Lomond Crew days.

Rich Sampson, Cal Fire: Coral Reef Project begins Monday creating 20 acres of defensible space behind homes. The property belongs to the school district. POST and RCD have helped with project funding.

Clayton Jolley, Cal Fire/Coastside FPD: The weed/abatement mowing contract will begin June 1 with three weeks funded. They plan to do weed abatement in Moss Beach if the county approves. Clayton distributed fire history information obtained from past newspaper accounts in and around HMB.

Scott Jalbert, Cal Fire reports they have a Type I strike Team out of county. Cal Fire engines should be staffed by May 23. No dozer is available in the county.

Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve reports they are in the process of flail mowing the roads. Chipping and herbicide spraying will be done in some areas. The Preserve is looking at a 25% cut in their budget. Philippe will conduct a fire crew familiarization of the Preserve.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 10 at 9:30 am at Woodside Independence Hall