

Valley Center Community Planning Group Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee November 20, 2020 6:30pm Minutes



Committee

Delores Chavez Harmes
Chair / VCCPG

LaVonne Norwood
Vice Chair / VCCPG

Lisa Adams
VCCPG / Mobility

Sgt. Michael Davis
SD Co. Sheriff

William Del Pilar
VCCPG / Villages

James Gordon
LAFCO

Jim Davidson
VC Fire Marshal

Dorothy Kennedy

Chief Joe Napier
Valley Center Fire

BC Robert Reynolds
Cal Fire



Representatives

Benjamin Mills
SDCo. Public Safety

Kevin Johnston
SDCo. Planning Dept.

Sgt. Patrick Shannon
SDCo. Sherriff

Mark LaTulippe
CHP

A. Attendance: Dee Harmes, LaVonne Norwood, Lisa Adams, James Gordon, Robert Reynolds, Joe Napier, Geoff Pemberton, Michael Davis, Rich Johnson, Todd Phillips.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting called to order at 6:38pm and Lisa Adams led the pledge.

C. Welcome & Introduction of Guests

D. Approval of Minutes: Approval of September minutes with correction of spelling of Chief Tony Mecham's name. Motion by LaVonne Norwood, second by Chief Reynolds.

E. Action Items:

- 1) Fire Board Update:** Chief Napier and Jim Courter reviewed evacuation routes that lead into and out of tribal partner areas. Greater Valley Center Firesafe Council grant is being revised to change the focus of 13 miles of roadway that the county has already cleared and reallocate grant monies to areas that exit out Lilac to Pala reservation and Lilac extension; working with Chief Ravago and Chairman Smith. Areas covered by the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) are Canal Rd from Paradise Mtn Rd to Lake Wohlford Rd with additional improvements from Duror Rd down to Lake Wohlford Rd and identifying additional roads to improve them to Prius safe standards. Cougar Rd needs to be improved as this is a critical evacuation route for dam & heavy rain inundation as well as earthquake and wildfires. A biologist and grant writer are aligned with Courter to help facilitate this. CAL Fire, VCFPD, Deer Springs, tribal fire and their community wildfire protection plans are working jointly to facilitate. Assemblywoman Marie Waldron has been very instrumental in grant revision process addressing law fire protection districts throughout the state to purchase equipment and hire people to operate this equipment.
- 2) Red Cross:** Covid safe temporary evacuation point caches have been established at VCFS #1. Cones, vests, lights, easy ups; everything suggested by Red cross has been secured. VCPUSD has given permission to use school parking lots as evacuation areas. Water district field and Melrose Ranch fields off Guejito Rd is also an option. County animal services is also cooperating. Chief Reynolds also set up similar cache at CAL Fire station #71 as well as has tribal partners San Pasquale. Decision on evacuation routes and points will be determined by command post. Once an evacuation branch has been established by command post, notifications to OES messaging will come through text, web, social media, radio, etc.
- 3) Chief Pemberton Update:** Approval from county to assist in roadside clearing providing equipment and traffic control. 200 hours are allocated to traffic control while road capacity is at premium. Service areas outside of VCFPD are having county Knox lock program moving forward and installed within next few weeks. This allows first responders access to residencies where greater than 52 yo reside, individuals with disabilities, etc. who have difficulty accessing doors.
 - a. Ember Resistant Grant Program:** Ember grant program not rolling out as well as hoped.
 - b. Community Information Feed:** Chief Pemberton reviewed Palomar map area. QR codes will be added to maps to allow smart phone access for public. Evacuation routes are updated with law enforcement, CHP and county road planning dept. component looking at road capacities and best routes.
- 4) Chief Reynolds Update:** Cal Fire Station #71 will be kept manned and open year-round. Continue to resource defensible space inspections finished. Ridge Ranch truck trail area, Paradise Mtn and Guejito truck trails are major focus.

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- 5) Dee Harmes gave an overview of the topics discussed on the zoom revitalization meeting. County staff, planning board members, members of the community and members of this subcommittee participated. Meeting focused on three main areas: mobility & traffic, parks & rec and emergency evacuation. Dee echoed the sentiment that the work done in our subcommittee has been recognized as being a standard for the county.
- 6) **Valley Center Dead and Dying Grove Ordinance:** Chief Napier shared there are a significant number of groves that go to roads edge and must be cut back at least 20ft. Many of these property owners are out of town owners. They have been contacted with certified letters advising what needs to happen to comply with ordinance.
- 7) **Chief Johnson Update:** Deer Springs CWPP has been finalized and approved. Deer Springs Firesafe Council working hard in community with chipping, brushing roads, etc. Cougar pass has been brushed. DSI is in year 2 with station 1 (VC), and station 3 (Hidden Meadows) has had a lot of work done. Apx 1,000 dsi's have been accomplished.
- 8) **Neighbor to Neighbor:** Importance of neighbor-to-neighbor conversations on their personal knowledge of emergency evacuation reinforced. Do they know what they need to get out of town safely? It is important to share ideas with community. Once evacuation branch is established there is a plan for them to get out and a secondary plan available. Understanding that not everyone should go out the same way and which areas are established for temporary evacuation so an airplane can drop knowing that no one will be harmed. Sgt Davis impressed how critically important the evacuation maps are for Sheriff.

James Gordan Update: Expressed how pleased he is with what has been accomplished and has exceeded his expectations. Should a memorialized document be produced, and should we have broader objectives that we can benchmark? When good work has been done it is good to summarize where we were, where we are and where we hope to be. Dee Harmes shared that a report has been provided to Supervisor Desmond's Revitalization dept. led by Shaina Richardson. Report provided overview of meetings from inception of subcommittee to apx. Sept. of 2019. Harmes will update this document from that period to date. Emergency evacuation team will set attainable goals and objectives and devise a strategic plan for 2021. Important to understand that much of this is driven by funding and what people we serve expect for services. Chief Pemberton suggested a charter that defines foundation of subcommittee and goals so that we can partner together in accomplishing and prioritizing goals and needs. Fire world is changing dramatically in near future. CAL Fire normally operates 19 crews. By January 1st will be reduced to 3 or 4.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by LaVonne Norwood with second by Chief Reynolds.

Respectfully submitted by:
LaVonne Norwood