

Valley Center Community Planning Group Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee January 28, 2021 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

Dorothy Kennedy
Community

Chief Jim Davidson
VC Fire Marshal

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, William Del Pilar, James Gordon, Jim Courter, Chief Joe Napier, Chief Robert Reynolds, Sgt. Michael Davis, Chief Rick Johnson, Cpt. Ryan Sylva

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting called to order at 6:30pm and Chair Harmes led the pledge.

C. Welcome & Introduction of Guests: Chair Harmes introduced Cpt. Ryan Sylvia, Community Risk Reduction Program San Diego Co.

D. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve November & December minutes by Chief Reynolds, second by Chief Napier. Motion carries unanimously.

Public Comments:

- Email received from Mari Guernsey. Discussion on Ms. Guernsey's concerns for use of private road for evacuation. Chief Johnson will follow up.
- Email received from Fred Wollman re: Wilhite Road and possibility of gating an easement. Chief Napier provided insight.

E. Action Items:

- 1) **Chair's Report:** Chair thanked all members of subcommittee for the great work and tremendous progress the team has made the past two years. Going forward in 2021 a report will be provided from each fire district or agency each month.
- 2) **Revitalization Update:** Next meeting is scheduled March 11th. VC Emergency Evacuation committee minutes are submitted to Shaina Richardson at Spvr. Desmond's office to update their matrix.
- 3) **VCFPD-Chief Napier:** Since stay at home order in effect, defensible space inspections (DSI) has been suspended. Senior DSI have received their first vaccinations. Once inspector's vaccinations are complete and stay at home is lifted DSI's will resume. Collaboration with Chief Mecham in gathering state funds to funnel through to Greater Fire Safe Councils. Collector app for i-pads allows CAL Fire, county fire and VCFPD, who are contractually bound in contract, to partner using same tools for DSI. VCFPD also has a local ordinance in conjunction with County Code Compliance for DSI enforcement. Chief Napier elaborated on remedies for out of compliance properties beginning with education. If the property owner continues to be out of compliance, VCFPD will look to the county and other governmental agencies for enforcement. Public resource code 4291 allows fire dept's to issue citations.
- 4) **Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council-Jim Courter:** Grant money received for fuel reduction along 19 miles of major evacuation routes with targets on Lilac and Old Castle roads. Joint meetings with VCFPD, DSFPD, CAL Fire, Ryan Silva, and contract biologist Robin Kinmont to engage CEQA. A report must be produced indicating no endangered species violations or turning over of archaeological sites. Currently in phase III of mission. Fuel reduction work is targeted for April/May and rapid completion is expected. Northern evacuation routes next to be addressed. Capt. Silva reported county roads cuts back 10ft on each side. Fire Safe Council requires 20 to 25ft back. County has already limbed several trees on Couser Canyon due to damage done to an RV. GVCFS will cut back an additional 10-15ft. in this area. Sgt. Davis asked what Pala tribe's part is in maintaining clearing and safety. Some areas of Lilac ext. are on the reservation and some are county. Lilac extension into Pala reservation is also a high priority with county and fire agencies.

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Minutes (cont.)

- 4) **Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council (cont):** County vegetation management has reported Couser Canyon will be a priority in next budget (April 2021).
- 5) **LAFCO-James Gordon:** Questions raised at the December meeting related to San Diego County Fire Protection District will be addressed by Chief Mecham at the February meeting of VCEE subcommittee.
- 6) **Deer Springs Fire Protection District-Chief Johnson:** Moosa fill break on southeast end has been completed and now working on northwest end. La Cima crews have been assisting. Chief Pemberton's previous presentation on evacuation handouts is currently in draft form.
- 7) **CAL Fire Station 71-Chief Reynolds:** Toured area with Cpt. Silva with particular attention given to Hell Hole Canyon area. Von Sagan Truck Trail opened and brushed with mechanical equipment now going in to push brush back further. Guejito truck trail will also be addressed down into Escondido allowing for a bigger buffer
- 8) **San Diego County Sheriff-Michael Davis:** No update, making rounds with personnel and surviving Covid-19.

F. New Business:

- 1) **2021 Meetings:** Discussion on virtual vs. zoom meetings. Consensus is in person. Chief Napier offered his meeting space with technology available for those interested in meeting in person and those who would prefer to maintain social distancing.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm

Next Meeting: February 25, 2021 6:30pm

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