

Valley Center Community Planning Group
Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee
April 22, 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
Community

James Gordon
LAFCO/Community

Chief Joe Napier
Valley Center Fire

BC Robert Reynolds
Cal Fire

Jim Courter
Great Valley Center
Fire Safe Council

Chief Rick Johnson
Dear Springs Fire



Representatives

Benjamin Mills
SDCo. Public Safety

Ryan Sylva
CAL Fire

Juan Escobar
CHP

A. Attendance: Dee Harmes, LaVonne Norwood, Lisa Adams, James Gordon, Chief Rick Johnson, Lt. Karla Menzies, Capt. Ryan Sylva & James Courter.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Chair Harmes followed by the pledge.

C. Welcome & Introduction of Guests:

D. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve March 25, 2021 minutes by James Gordon, second by Lisa Adams. Motion carries unanimously.

Public Comments:

- None

E. Action Items:

- 1) **Chair's Report:** Welcomed our new Lieutenant Karla Menzies. Reinvestment committee is moving forward with Supervisor Desmond's office. Assistance and direction has been provided to other planning/sponsor groups to facilitate their own communities emergency evacuation teams.
- 2) **VCFPD-Chief Napier:** Excused, no report.
- 3) **Deer Springs Fire Protection District-Chief Johnson:** Moosa fuel break activity has slowed due to difficulty securing crews. Utilizing CAL Fire field crews to finish portion on far northwest portion. A private contractor through the Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council will be enlisted to maintain that area. Other targets of opportunity are being reviewed as well as implementing the DSI (defensible space inspections) announcements for fire season.
- 4) **CAL Fire Station 71-Chief Reynolds:** Chief Johnson reported a new Type 1 fire engine has been purchased for Deer Springs and is currently being outfitted in Louisiana with all the equipment required. Very exciting that Deer Springs will be receiving a new fire truck in late May, early June. Additionally, Chief Reynolds has been working in the Ridge Ranch area working the Van Sagan truck trail and DSI in the community. Station 71 also has a new a patrol truck, a Type 3 brush engine, and an ambulance.
- 5) **San Diego County Sheriff-Lt. Karla Menzies:** Looking forward to meeting everyone and understanding more about what this committee does and how the sheriff's dept. can be more instrumental.
- 6) **Community Risk Reduction Program-Chief Silva:** Met with Ridge Ranch HOA president and identified a road that could be used as an additional emergency egress. The dirt road has a lot of growth and needs clearing. Additionally, the road belongs to the City of Escondido. A meeting is being scheduled with Escondido to grant permission for brush clearing. San Pasqual tribe also gave permission to clear brush along top of ridge line of Ridge Ranch.
- 7) **Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council-Jim Courter:** Meetings and consultations with VCFPD, CAL Fire and the consulting biologist reviewing the mapped evacuation routes out of Valley Center. A list has been developed and over the next year action will be taken to clean up various routes. A good problem to have is that many of the routes have already been cleared and cleaned up. Clarification on use of grant money was provided. The upcoming Wild Fire symposium at Bates Nut Farm was also discussed. Chipping program will resume in May and will be continued on a regular basis. An auxiliary program will be available to transport material to the chipping site for those who need it.

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Minutes (cont.)

- 4) **Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council-Jim Courter (cont):** Ten segment video project has been completed. Three additional segments have the rough information and will be fine-tuned in the coming weeks. Segments cover recovery, barricade gel, go-kits, SDG&E services, defensible space inspections, structural hardening. Red Guide to Recovery is scheduled to film in the next few days. Tremendous opportunity for agencies to get their word out. Additionally, GVCFSC is submitting grant applications for public education and chipping.
- 5) **LAFCO-James Gordon:** No update pertaining to emergency evacuation. Mr. Gordon had an opportunity to attend OES training sessions with Deer Springs and is impressed with what they are doing. Requested a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

F. New Business:

1. **Lisa Adams** shared how impressed she is with the work of the professionals and the team. We are the first community to have taken action in measures to assure fire safety and she offered her appreciation to all.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm

Next Meeting: May 27, 6:30pm