

Valley Center Community Planning Group
Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee
May 27, 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, Sgt. Mike Davis, William Del Pilar, Chief Joe Napier, James Gordon, Chief Rick Johnson, Capt. Ryan Sylva & James Courter.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting called to order at 6:35pm by Chair Harmes followed by the pledge.

C. Welcome & Introduction of Guests: Dori Rattray

D. Approval of Minutes: April 22, 2021 minutes are tabled till June 2021 meeting.

Public Comments:

- None

E. Action Items:

- 1) **Chair's Report:** Calls and emails from concerned residents regarding recent fire on I-15. Agenda sent out to those concerned inviting them to join tonight's meeting. Chief Johnson offered to contact these individuals to respond to all questions and concerns. County also forwarded information to Chief Napier who also responded with photos, grids and detailed information.
- 2) **VCFPD-Chief Napier:** SDG&E, VCFPD and allied agency wildfire symposium is on schedule for June 12, 2021. Through fire safe council we have over 500 folders full of information to hand out. Meeting with Kevin Johnston with development team to discuss various subdevelopment areas. Evacuation maps and process were provided to PDS and response times were run from stations to development sub areas. County PDS provided great opportunity to weigh impact on high density development in rural areas without infrastructure and consequences when houses and people are placed without bypass, secondary egress, new roads to offset capacity. Most areas are within 5 minute drive time, but impact of development decreases reliability due to simultaneously calls and general evacuation order and everyone goes out on the roads at the same time. Request made to county to come to us first before adding more to the development equation. PDS agreed to come through VC Planning Group to address concerns. There different fire behavior models were presented to PDS for the North Village area (Cole Grade) with half hour and hour fire progression with 25mph Santa Ana winds and 4% humidity providing a reality check for development planning. All this information will be included in the development report including fire behavior. Great discussion to work collectively with county and have our voice heard.
- 3) **Deer Springs Fire Protection District-Chief Johnson:** Moosa Creek DSI continues for third year. Flyer sent out to community emphasizing importance of community taking ownership of keeping their properties fire safe. This has resulted in an influx of calls to station with questions. The six-acre fire southbound of I-15 & Deer Springs also created a lot of interest in fire safety. Fire is still under investigation. Deer Springs Fire Safe Council (Steve Kerrin) is working on newsletters to community with information on evacuation, Ready Set Go and Alert San Diego emphasizing importance of evacuating when a notice is put out and everyone doing their part.
- 4) **CAL Fire Station 71-Chief Reynolds:** No report.
- 5) **San Diego County Sheriff-Sgt. Mike Davis:** CHP staffing issues has prevented a rep from participating in our subcommittee. Capt. Silva will continue to communicate with CHP to add a representative from their agency.

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Minutes (cont.)

- 5) **San Diego County Sheriff-Sgt. Mike Davis (cont):** Screen share for information on Alert San Diego and San Diego Emergency app created by the office of San Diego County Emergency Services for community to register cell phones, emails, voice over IP. Those with a land line will automatically be included in the 911 system. When the regional notification system is activated for evacuation, gas leaks and shelter in place, etc. on a small to medium size scale; those with cell phones only who are not registered with the SDCES will not receive these notifications. The SD Emergency app and Alert San Diego are method for the community to receive information on emergency map information, shelters, and updated information as situations progress. Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) is limited to 90 characters. These app methods provide more detailed information for the county residents to help themselves, be prepared, have a plan, build emergency kits, etc. These apps are specific to all of San Diego County and tie into the regional 911 system with updates to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.
- 6) **Community Risk Reduction Program-Chief Silva:** Currently in holding pattern for several actions related to Ridge Ranch truck trail. Hoping new firefighter crews will be trained by next month to help finish these projects. Incarcerated individuals are used as hand crews. Currently there are two crews out of La Cima that are staffed to 12 or more incarcerated inmates. We also have a joint relationship with California Dept. Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) utilized on projects, fires, etc. We are struggling with the early release population which took us from nineteen crews in San Diego County down to two crews.
- 7) **Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council-Jim Courter:** Gearing up for chipping program to begin within the next 3 to 4 weeks. Working on CEQA fuel reduction on evacuation routes.
- 8) **LAFCO-James Gordon:** Deer Springs has been researching availability of grant money. Thanks to Chief Napier for assistance on this effort. If anyone on the committee hears of grants available be sure to pass it along. Question raised if committee members should be more active in procuring and securing grant monies. Chief Napier responded with information that special districts have been disenfranchised from the American Rescue funding.

F. New Business:

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm

Next Meeting: June 24, 6:30pm