

Valley Center Community Planning Group Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee

September 30, 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 Sylvia
CAL Fire

Juan Escobar
CHP

A. Attendance: Dee Harmes, Lisa Adams, William Del Pilar, Chief Joe Napier, Chief Rick Johnson, Lt. Menzies, BC Reynolds, Capt. Silva.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting called to order at 6:33pm by Chair Harmes followed by the pledge.

C. Welcome & Introduction of Guests:

D. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from August 26, 2021 tabled.

Public Comments: Lisa Adams attended CAN meeting with Superintendent of Schools spoke on COVID requirements and protocols. Much is being done to prevent spread. Chief Napier reminded group to be on high alert for fire safety this month. Lt. Menzies also spoke on crime activity in the area with caution to be more alert as holidays approach.

E. Action Items:

1. **Chair's Report:** October meeting date discussed. Meeting will be held on normal meeting date.

2. **VCFPD-Chief Napier:**

A few small fires occurred last month not requiring evacuation. Today, Vista had a fire where evacuations were required. VC, CAL Fire and North Co. Fire responded to event. Timing of intelligence coming from command post to the county and 211 is not live, but information is received quickly and in alignment.

VCFPD has received some grant money for station improvements, brush engine purchase and new fire station. County received over 5 million dollars for road clearing and wildfire mitigation programs.

Fire Safety Expo will take place this weekend at Bates Nut Farm from 9am to 3pm. Valley Center Fire, CAL Fire, Sheriff, Forest service and Mercy Air helicopter will all be participating. This live event will be much more extensive and interactive than the previous drive through events. Kids will be able to climb on fire equipment, talk with fire and sheriff personnel and view a live demonstration of a car extraction. Due to pumpkin season apx. 4,000 people are expected to attend Bates who will be in contact with this event.

3. **Deer Springs Fire Protection District-Chief Johnson:** Chief Johnson will continue to oversee Deer Springs FPD for the foreseeable future. A special commendation was presented virtually to Chief Johnson for his dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the Valley Center Community Planning Group Emergency Evacuation Subcommittee.

Chief Johnson was incident commander for the Vista fire incident which encompassed apx. 20 acres. Great collaborative effort. An evacuation warning was issued to some areas. Good effort from all agencies including with San Diego Sheriffs. CAL Fire has conducted 12 sessions with San Diego Sheriffs on emergency evacuation since August.

Moosa fuel break has been completed but is ongoing as vegetation grows back. Chipping program continues to go through the community as well as defensible space inspections.

4. **San Diego County Sheriff-Lt. Karla Menzies:** Kudos to Chief Johnson for the great training. Sheriff Dept will participate in Wildfire Expo with two bomb arson trucks and fire extraction applications. Senior volunteer training is scheduled within the upcoming weeks.

5. **CAL Fire-Capt. Silva:** No new report. Also lauded Chief Johnson for his training with Sheriff evacuation training.

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