

Valley Center Community Planning Group  
Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee  
May 26, 2022 6:30pm  
Minutes



Committee

Delores Chavez Harmes  
Chair / VCCPG

LaVonne Norwood  
Vice Chair / VCCPG

Lisa Adams  
VCCPG / Mobility

Sgt. Michael Davis  
SD Co. Sheriff

James Gordon  
LAFCO/Community

Chief Joe Napier  
Valley Center Fire

Chief Rick Johnson  
Deer Springs Fire

DC Robert Reynolds  
Cal Fire

Jim Courter  
Great Valley Center  
Fire Safe Council



Representatives

Adrienne Selekmán  
District 5 Representative

Lt. Jim Emig  
SD Co. Sheriff

**A. Attendance:** Dee Harmes, Lisa Adams, Sgt. Michael Davis, Chief Joe Napier, DC Robert Reynolds, Ty Davis.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Meeting called to order at 6:45pm having waited for members to join to attain quorum.

**C. Welcome & Introduction of Guests:** CAL Fire Northern Division Chief, Ty Davis, will be added to the committee as well as CAL Fire Battalion Chief, Adam Gettman.

**D. Approval of Minutes:** March 24<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, minutes moved to approve by Chief Joe Napier with a second by Lisa Adams. Motion passes unanimously.

**Public Comments:** None

**E. Action Items:**

1. **Chair's Report:** Dee Harmes provided background on the Emergency Evacuation subcommittee of the Valley Center Community Planning Group explaining how the subcommittee came into existence as well as the goals of objectives of the subcommittee.

Topic was introduced of possibility for public safety subcommittee. Discussion followed on goals of objectives and implementation and possible duplication of services.

2. **VCFPD-Chief Napier:** Upcoming events will help spread word this committee exists. Two grants out for widening the extra evacuation routes through tribal lands and areas that have not been touched by the county. CAL Fire hand crews are coming down areas identified as high risk. Quest for direct and grant funding for Paradise Mtn, Hell Hole Canyon and Hell Hole Creek fuel break cuts to give them time to evacuate when fire comes from east. All fires that have required general evacuation have come from the east.

An eight-segment video is up on Ready Set Go. These and other efforts need to continue and grow so neighborhoods can tell fire agencies if they have a neighborhood issue that fire dept's can evaluate for them.

Chief Johnson has a grassroots evacuation group developing in Deer Springs and the County also has established an evacuation advisory committee.

Question asked what agency should overgrown brush on private properties be reported to? HOA's should be involved if property has an association and VCFPD will also make contact with leadership of the HOA with a meeting at the violation property. Contact with homeowner is also part of the process. Further discussion on steps leading to legal enforcement.

Wildland Symposium will be held at the library on June 11<sup>th</sup> 9 to 11am. Review and discussion on what to do and not to do as well as insight into insurance claims. Important to get new community members to attend. In August SDG&E will host a multi-agency wildlife symposium at Bates Nut Farm.

3. **Deer Springs Fire Protection District-Chief Johnson:**

4. **CAL Fire Update Station 71-Division Chief Reynolds:** No. Division Chief Ty Davis is the direct supervisor and Battalion Chief Adam Gettman is under the supervision of Chief Reynolds. June 6<sup>th</sup> station 71 will upstaff to peak staffing with two engines. A new fire center has been brought on under augmentation at Camp Fox on Hwy 76. Additional crews there in addition to the three crews at Rainbow.

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- 3. San Diego County Sheriff-Sgt. Mike Davis:** Law enforcement is working on a few problem properties with county code enforcement and Fire Marshall Davidson. Primarily electrical and fire safety issues that have the potential to cause the next wildland fire, i.e. illegal electricity, extension cords. Property owners have been sub-letting areas on their properties that are causing serious fire hazards. At times, meters are pulled utilizing SDG&E and occasionally a property is condemned.

Draft corridor plan from Cole Grade to Woods Valley Rd. is exploring idea of 3 roundabouts. This corridor is a prime evacuation route and serious concerns have been raised for congestion and safety concerns in the way of not being able to evacuate quickly. Currently, emergency personnel can open both directions of this corridor and massive flow people out of the area for evacuation measures. If someone in a roundabout crashes or a car stalls, or an RV that is barely running stops in a roundabout, a bottle neck occurs. We only have minutes to hours to evacuate the community. The roundabout on Hwy 76 and Valley Center Road is notorious for accidents. Information was shared that although roundabouts have been entertained for potential traffic slowing measures between Woods Valley Rd and Cole Grade Rd, no decision has been made by the county. VCCPG has been very vocal on concerns that roundabouts slow emergency response times, not only with evacuation but also with non-evacuation calls i.e. medical, sheriff, etc. Essentially, roundabouts are safe when placed in downtown pedestrian areas where apt. complexes are placed right on the road edge. When applied to a two lane highway designed for 45 mph, we need controlled intersections. Significant injury accidents are already seen at Mira de Valle with the new housing development where the line of sight is bad coupled with high speeds. VCFPD command vehicles is equipped with keys to signal control boxes. In the event of an emergency, a control box can be accessed to control the flow of traffic expediently. Additionally, while cars are being evacuated out, we are bringing in large heavy equipment to fight the fire ie. Bulldozers, 50 plus fire equipment engines, strike teams. A GIS study has been done on everyday response times on roundabouts vs controlled signals. The study found that every day, with no traffic, roundabouts slow fire department response times. Add traffic and you add seconds. This is critical when you are considering emergency response times. Additionally, Valley Center is the number one community for law enforcement pursuits. Roundabouts add a complex variable when considering these factors. When the final plan is decided upon it is this committee's hope that these circumstances will be considered.

- 4. Community Action Network (CAN)-Lisa Adams:** Planning group reviewed green houses on Cool Valley Road, but project was not reviewed by VC DRB. Project is tabled till next month. SDG&E is implementing the gas line pipe replacement. Fire safety grants are still available. Rodeo and Western Days is coming up. Mobile Mental Health Team is part of the Sheriffs outreach. BOS will discuss the budget. Superintendent of School, Ron McGowan, shared the VCPUSD receives 800K for bussing when 2.5 million is actually needed. There has not been an increase in the budget for bussing since 1996. Neighborhood Health gave a great presentation on MarCom. Audience at 411 (CAN) meetings is decreasing in attendance.

## 5. F. New Business:

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm

**Next Meeting:** July 28, 7:45pm

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