

Valley Center Community Planning Group
Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee
November 14, 2023 6:30pm
Minutes



Committee

Delores Chavez Harmes
Chair / VCCPG

Dr. Matt Matthews
Vice Chair / VCCPG

Lisa Adams
VCCPG / Mobility

Sgt. Tyler Skeels
SD Co. Sheriff

Chief Joe Napier
Valley Center Fire

Chief David Morrison
Deer Springs Fire

Chief Chip Duncan
Rincon Fire

BC Adam Gettman
CAL Fire

James Gordon
LAFCO / Community

Jim Courter
Great Valley Center
Fire Safe Council

BC Robert Reynolds
CAL Fire

Julia Feliciano
VCCPG

Representatives

Adrienne Selekmán
District 5 Representative

Lt. Aaron Meleen
SD Co. Sherriff

A. Attendance: Dee Harmes, Lisa Adams, Chief Joe Napier, Chief Chip Duncan, Julia Feliciano, James Gordon, Chief Reynolds, Robb Rattray

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

C. Welcome & Introduction of Guests:

D. Approval of Minutes: No minutes to approve.

Public Comments:

Dr. Rattray addressed the concern of getting out of Valley Center, specifically in relation to the accident on the corner of Woods Valley Rd & Valley Center Rd.

E. Action Items:

1. **Chair's Report:** Community concern for the increase in migrant fires. There has been an influx of individuals trekking up the grade into Valley Center. VCCPG has received calls from the community with concerns about where these individuals are camping. Winds and dry weather do not make for a safe environment for campers. Chief Napier shared that a joint response from VCFPD & CAL Fire will assess the purpose of the fire. If fire is for warmth and cooking and is contained with clearance, then those individuals are allowed to continue. If there is not enough clearance, the fire is too large, or no real purpose i.e. bonfire; it is shut down. If wind is blowing, low humidity and the potential for fire spread is significant, it is shut down. Under very strict circumstance fires are allowed for cooking and warmth, however there must be adequate clearance, a contained fire area, ability to arrest sparks and prevent fire spread. Chief Reynolds added that arrests are made if fires are deliberately started or are illegal based on health & safety codes, investigators are brought in. If fires are started on private property and trespassing is involved, Sheriff is contacted.

2. **VCFPD-Chief Napier:** Zone Haven have been moving forward with County OES and CAL Fire. All public agencies are getting ready for training, probably starting in January. Grants are available for fire agencies in San Diego County to acquire Zone Haven maps that will replace the previous aged SDG&E maps. Training will start with new evacuation processes. This is a large partnership with former VC Evac members, Sgt. Mike Davis & Chief Rick Johnson leading this effort.

Conversations are continuing with Escondido re: the pass through from Mirar de Valle to Deer Springs. Apx. 1.25 miles needs improvement for this pass through. VCCPG can help by addressing issue with Escondido counterparts. Deer Springs will also benefit with an eastern exit should there be a westerly wind fire. And most importantly, no private property is affected.

Evacuation signs are not posted for the specific reason that fire conditions change quickly. Zone Haven will be immensely helpful when an evacuation is called for.

3. **Deer Springs Fire Protection District-Chief Morrison:** No Report.

4. **CAL Fire Update Station 71-Chief Reynolds:** Fully staffed with aircraft as well. This has been a relatively quiet year in California. Reynolds has been deployed to Maui for over a month. Stark comparison of resources between CA and HI. Our county and state is very fortunate.

Defensible space inspections are ongoing, roadside clearance and pretreatment on roads and surrounding areas. Truck trail maintenance will take place on Ridge Ranch.

Big push with Zone Haven, Reynolds has used it with instant management teams and considers it a great tool. San Diego County is the pioneer for evacuations using map grid system. Now Zone Haven will bring us even better evacuation management.

5. **Rincon Fire-Chief Duncan:** Small fire on reservation bordering SRA land. Addressing sirens, not the best methods to notify the public. WEA (wireless emergency alerts are far superior.

6. **San Diego County Sheriff-Sgt. Tyler Skeels:** No report.

7. **LAFCO Update-James Gordon:** Quarterly meeting produced agricultural trends report. Addressed policies to help farmers increase ag opportunities. VC area is very much an ag community and might be interesting to the community.

G. New Business:

1. **Lisa Adams:** Opposed to purchase of Butterfield Trails Park. County spending money on purchasing park lands is not best use of money. They should be using this money for Valley Center fire stations and VCFPD wages for firefighters. Harmes shared county has money to do both. One does not need to affect the other.

Next Meeting January 23, 2024 30pm Zoom

Access and Correction of Personal Information

You can review any personal information collected about you. You may recommend changes to your personal information you believe is in error by submitting a written request that credibly shows the error. If you believe that your personal information is being used for a purpose other than what was intended when submitted, you may contact us. In all cases, we will take reasonable steps to verify your identity before granting access or making corrections

Public Disclosure Notice

We strive to protect personally identifiable information by collecting only information necessary to deliver our services. All information that may be collected becomes public record that may be subject to inspection and copying by the public, unless an exemption in law exists. In the event of a conflict between this Privacy Notice and any County ordinance or other law governing the County's disclosure of records, the County ordinance or other applicable law will control.