

Valley Center Community Planning Group Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee Minutes

January 30, 2025 6:30pm

Valley Center Library

29200 Cole Grade Road Valley Center CA 92082



Committee

Delores Chavez Harmes

Chair / VCCPG

Chief Chip Duncan

Rincon Fire

James Gordon

LAFCO / Community

Chief David Morrison

Deer Springs Fire

Chief Joe Napier

Valley Center Fire

Dr. Robb Rattray

VCFPD / Community

Chief Robert Reynolds

CAL Fire

Sgt. Scott Hill

SD Co. Sheriff

Representatives

Adrienne Selekman

District 5 Representative

Sgt. Daniel Hollywood

CHP

A. Attendance: Dee Harmes, Chief Joe Napier, Chief Chip Duncan, James Gordon, Vlad Ciupitu, Robb Rattray, Sgt. Cook, Chief Jeff Wyndham, Fire Marshall Justin Laffredo

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting called to order at 6:38pm

C. Approval of Minutes: No minutes from 2024 to approve.

Public Comments: None

D. Action Items:

E. Chair's Report: Update on meeting schedule change to quarterly meetings. Discussion on CERT and large animal rescues. Chiefs Napier and Reynolds both addressed requirements and management of these emergencies requires processes with OES and county animal control with strict guidelines.

F. VCFPD-Chief Napier: Continuing to address community development with investment grant funding with Dist. 5 for established evacuation routes most of which are primary, secondary and tertiary evacuation routes. Met with City of Escondido fire chief, asst. city manager and director of planning for feasibility of adding an additional evacuation route through Mirar de Valle through Daley Ranch to the Escondido side ending near the parking area of Daley Ranch on west end. The goal is to establish a 20ft wide, prius safe route with controlled gates at either end. This would require vegetation cut back on either side. This could also be used as evacuation to Cougar Pass ultimately ending up at I-15fwy. A grant is needed to address first steps i.e. ceqa attorney, biologists, etc.

Chief Napier attended the BOS meeting where Supervisor Desmond and reporters where the request was made for a new modern helicopter, cut red tape on vegetation management, water tenders, heli hydrants, etc. BOS voted unanimously to buy helicopter, water tenders and other assets operated by CAL Fire.

Review of the air assets for CAL Fire. Looking for additional locations for heli hydrants. Turner Lake is available in Valley Center that is not connected to our municipal water district. Blackinton airport is also instrumental in providing support to our fire districts.

Update on fire station 3.

G. Deer Springs Fire Protection-Chief Reynolds: Broke ground on new station. New fire engine to be delivered next week, going into service within a month.

H. Rincon Fire-Chief Duncan: New brush engine will be delivered apx. June. Another engine has recently been placed in service. Recent high winds and power shutdowns have not affected Rincon as critical infrastructure is undergrounded i.e. casino, government & admin bldgs., etc. C risk reduction continues with brush clearing on roadsides of Lake Wholford & Cole Grade. Ridge Ranch truck trail has been opened. Crews are sent out from Camp Fox & Rainbow to complete crews projects. Guejito Ranch has prescribed burning scheduled. County OES is pushing our Genasys Protect.

A. New Business:

- a. Visibility of departments at rodeo, western days, Bates fire event, etc.
- b. Grant acquired for multi-language material.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2025 6:30pm Valley Center Library

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm