

Harrison Grade Road Emergency Preparedness Group Meeting Notes
Occidental Firehouse – Sunday, March 3 - 4:00-5:30

Update on Pods, and mapping

Carolyn discussed a map on display that she has made of all of the Harrison Grade Road area. It is a map of all of our small groups, or Pods. There are 8. Neighbors were able to locate their small area and learn what their pod letter is (A...H). This is a useful tool for organizing our area for fire mitigation and evacuation plans.

There was also a map of the fire department's OCS map, which shows the entire Occidental area to view. It was very helpful to see our entire area to get a perspective of the bigger picture and our district goals.

HGR residents want to create egress routes on Fitzpatrick and Stoetz and maybe a few more areas for a quick and safe evacuation. Dupont has recently added one. Further discussion included asking Calfire and/or the county to create an ordinance of an egress policy. It should include a requirement that during a Red Flag Alert property owners with land that can provide quick access to a safe evacuation should provide access for neighbors to use.

Assessing needs for clearing brush, etc.

Lots of discussion on how to approach fire mitigation on each property. Everyone should look at information on the U C Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County web site for guidance. <http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/>. There will be a guest speaker from their program at the Fire Safe Occidental council meeting March 17 at 3:00 at Salmon Creek School.

Also, there is a workshop on Sunday, March 10 at Landpaths called Fire Fuel Reduction Workshop, from 10:00 to 2:00. To register go on line to www.Landpaths.org.

Don Herzog will obtain photos of flammable plants to avoid in landscapes and create a document for HGR neighbors to use to identify 'unfriendly' plants on our property. He will send it to Chip and it will be uploaded it onto our web site.

Discussion about concern with disrupting wildlife habitat in our efforts to protect our homes by fire mitigation. How can we do this with discretion?

Another neighbor expressed concern about their surrounding neighbors and their lack of effort to prune and remove undergrowth. Everyone agreed it is a difficult issue that must be approached with a lot of 'honey'.

Organize work teams

We worked in our pods. Each group assessed each property's needs, tools and time that is needed. We organized towards a goal of scheduling a work day to help each other remove unwanted plants and gather dead undergrowth for removal.

Update on HGR website and phone tree

Evan shared progress on security issues. In the meantime, Chip has created a website for us to use, www.harrisongrade.org. It now has schedules of meetings, agendas, notes of meetings, lots of articles and links of great resources. Everyone can now send important updates, resources, etc. to the website by using the link at the bottom of the website page and Chip will upload them.

Update everyone on efforts of the new steering committee in Occidental

Our area of Occidental is hard at work creating an Occidental Fire Safe Committee. Their goal is to become a nonprofit council which will enable neighbors to get grants to help with fire mitigation.

<http://firesafeoccidental.org/>

Cal fire evacuation signs

Carol Swanson has fire evacuation signs that are free. Contact her if you need one. There are also water source signs for Cal Fire for sale at the hardware store in downtown Occidental for \$10.

Other items

Discussion about our beautiful new road on Harrison Grade that is now very narrow with almost no shoulder. The county has been notified and HGR has requested white stripping on the edge.

Next meeting Wednesday, April 24th at 6:30-8:00. Location TBD.

Notes submitted by C. Swanson 3/3/19