

HARRISON GRADE ROAD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MEETING NOTES

APRIL 20, 2019

1. Introductions: welcome and agenda

Carol Swanson welcomed approximately 24 homeowners including a new participant from Morelli Lane. She shared posted agenda for meeting.

Carolyn Sell discussed most recent efforts of the Fire Safe Occidental steering committee to create a district wide council. She discussed the various levels of the steering committee and the many committees formed to further its goal. She also discussed a displayed map of 16 neighborhoods that she designated in the Occidental area. This helps identify specific areas according to proximity, various topographies and fire dangers.

2. Evacuation Routes: clearing along road sides and adding egresses for emergency evacuation

Paul Stange discussed more about most recent efforts of the Fire Safe Occidental steering committee and their goals to acquire public nonprofit status. This will be used to apply for grants from CALFIRE and achieve recognition from county supervisors as well as other local and state agencies so we may benefit from future policy making.

Paul stated that the CALFIRE **evacuation route** needs more details. "We have few routes to evacuate. We need to work together as neighbors and make agreements with landowners who can provide ingress and egress during a fire emergency. A more comprehensive fire evacuation plan is needed. We need a data base of run maps. We need professional assistance to design this."

Regarding **road side clearing**, many people present felt this should be a high priority. Paul shared that "the FSO steering committee is evaluating primary and secondary roads and will start acquiring data in the next 2-3 weeks to eventually show PG&E and the state what they are not taking care of regarding vegetation management." Upper Mark West has been successful in clearing road side plant growth since the 2017 fires. Joy Ridge road was also successful in clearing plant growth and creating wider egress. Discussion followed as to whether neighbors should start working on this or wait. Carol volunteered to talk to Ron Lunardi to get advice as to how many feet are needed achieve *safe clearance* on our smallest lanes.

3. House hardening: Protect under decks, eaves, gutters, drain spouts, sprinklers, products to spray

Carolyn reviewed a handout she designed; *Evacuation in Different Scenarios*. You can find and read this document on this website under 'Fire preparedness'. It includes a 3-minute plan to get out, a 20-minute plan, and a 2 hour or more plan, what to do when leaving home—no matter how much time you have.

Next, she reviewed handout info. regarding **house hardening**. This included covering vents, enclose soffits, replace decking with flame-resistant materials, replace wood siding with concrete board, replace roofing with Class A material or metal, keep gutters clean at all times and have ready fire-retardant materials such as spray foam or wraps or exterior sprinklers.

4. Defensible space: 5'/30'/100' rule and clear pruning 8' and lower, 10' apart, no 'laddering'.

Carolyn reviewed the handout information on **defensible space**. This included treatment of vegetation in the first 5' perimeter around your home, the 30' perimeter, and the 100' perimeter.

5. First steps... prioritize. How do you start? Informal evaluation

Lots of discussion regarding effectiveness of many ideas of hardening your home. Start around your house and work your way out: perhaps soffits and eaves or screening under your deck. You can't do everything all at once. Consider cost and benefit.

Discussion on evaluating plant growth on your property. Ask your neighbors to help you do an informal one to begin the process of fire mitigation. CALFIRE and other govt. agencies can assist, but will document what you need to do and hold you to it. Carolyn, Paul and Carol offered to help HGR neighbors.

6. Pod work time:

People opted to continue Q and A and discuss above topics further. The next FSO district meeting is on May 19, from 3-5pm, at Salmon Creek School. Suggested reading: [Firemonks: Zen Mind Meets Wildfire](#) (about the Tassajara fire) by Colleen Morton Busch.

7. Conclusion: Next meeting at Bob & Kitty Dixon's home, 13492 Harrison Grade Place on July 7 @ 3-5pm.

HGR website: www.harrissongrade.org/

Notes submitted by Carol Swanson