

Harrison Grade Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Meeting

Agenda & Notes October 16, 2022

Updates:

Safer West County received a chipper grant from CalFire. The Occidental fire station will house it and assist in its use. The firehouse also received a bulldozer from CalFire, which Chief Ron Lunardi and Jason Kesner are using to create a secondary evacuation route for the Stoetz Lane area. Torrey Farmer is helping with excavation of the route and lower Harrison Grade Road.

Becoming a Firewise Community:

Discussion about the National Fire Prevention Association, which is a non-profit organization and sponsors the Firewise Community program.

<https://www.nfpa.org/About-NFPA/NFPA-overview>

To qualify to become a Firewise Community, we all need to record the time we spend on fire hardening and mitigation to our homes and properties. 1 hour per parcel per year is required. This designation will help us achieve lower home owners' insurance rates and receive more grants.

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

Communication Systems:

Redundancy is the key to our safety.

Wildfire Communication Guide (things to consider before using One Call Now):

<https://www.nwfirescience.org/sites/default/files/publications/WildfireCommunicationGuide.pdf>

Also: Nixle https://www.nixle.com/zipcode_reg/

SoCoAlert <https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/sign-up/socoalert/>

WatchDuty <https://www.watchduty.org/>

One Call Now test:

People were given time to download the app on their phones. We then did a test. Carol used the app to activate a call. Everyone received it. Feedback: The system requires many steps to follow. We need more practice. Using the phone app. Helps.

Know your evacuation plan:

We are SON 4E1 (east), 1J2 (northwest), and 1J5 (southwest), your neighborhood is #1, your Pod letter A-H. Neighborhood #1 has at least 100 parcels.

Evacuation:

Handout shared with group on a '3-minute, 20 minute and 2-hour plan' for evacuation. See website.

Please check out our website:

For neighborhood mapping for emergency evacuation, newsletters, past meeting agendas and notes. www.harrisongrade.org

Next meeting:

3 months in mid-February. If you would like to host, please contact Carol Swanson swangirl@comcast.net