



Shasta County Fire Safe Council

Shasta County Firesafe Council (SCFSC) Quarterly Public/Firewise Meeting

Date: 09/27/2024

Start: 0900am-1040am Public Meeting

Barb Holder: Facilitator/ SCFSC Board Member

- Welcome to all
- Meeting Guidelines, Purpose and frequency of meeting, SCFSC mission
- Invite to those interested in board or committee positions to please let us know
- Introduction Francis Berg a thanks for all his leadership help as he will soon be stepping down from The Board of Directors.

Francis Berg: SCFSC President

- SCFSC history, recognition of board and staff, recognition of Mary Rickert (Shasta County Board Supervisor) for her support of SCFSC
- SCFSC is here to support the citizens of Shasta County in making their homes and communities more firesafe
- With our mission it takes all of us to make a difference. Working together we accomplish more. SCFSC realizes this and is working with partners to be more effective
- "Egress and Ingress" is a very high priority in Shasta County and a high priority to SCFSC
- Introduction of Ron Rusten (Congratulations as Newly selected Executive Director of SCFSC)

Ron Rusten: SCFSC Executive Director email: ron.rusten@shastafiresafe.org

- Status of current projects
 1. FEMA Home Hardening and Defensible Space Whitmore
 2. Bullskin Ridge Project
 3. Chipping Program
 4. Firewise Communities (14 certified and 4 in progress)
- Grants Update
 1. Project Pipeline Grant awarded for layout and planning
 2. Chipping Grant active
 3. County Coordinator currently up in air on expiration at end of year

- Purpose and point of fuels group meetings to coordinate projects
- California Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) revision participation and critical role it plays in getting funding for SCFSC projects

Western Shasta Resource Conservation (WSRCD)

- Explanation of what CWPP is and purpose
- Solicitation of input from public and private entities in Shasta County
- Prioritization of Shasta County projects in the future will take place through this plan
- Public can submit input through various public meetings, contacting WSRCD directly and by submitting survey: [Click Here](#)
- Fielded questions and comments

Panel Discussion

Shasta County Sheriffs Emergency Services (SCSO)

- Evacuations can be from various emergencies, not just wildfires. It could be flood, earthquake etc.
- There are several systems available to Shasta County residents including:
 1. Alert Shasta; [Click Here](#)
 2. Genysys Protect [Click Here](#)
 3. Alert FM: [Click Here](#)
 4. Officers direct contact and door to door
- Citizens need to know their Genasys zone number for evacuations: [Click Here](#)
- Some communities are setting up their own communication systems to help themselves
- Exact evacuation routes are not given to residents. Cannot predict where incident is going.
- Citizens can benefit from establishing a plan now and not waiting. Remember you do not have to wait for an evacuation warning or order to leave
- Primary things to take in the event of rapid evacuation
 1. Cellphones and charging cords
 2. Medications
 3. Important Documents
 4. Pets and Pet Food
- Good idea to also identify safe zones or shelter in place areas within your communities for both you and pets/livestock etc.
- SCSO was fortunate with Park Fire that we had time to plan and establish decision points for evacuations. This is not always the case.

- Lots of stress on SCSO personnel/ dispatchers when evacuations are taking place because they truly care and want to get it right

Public Roads. Dept., Shasta County Public Works

- Shasta County is a large county with lots of roads to maintain
- When a fire happens, they perform a support role which takes personnel from their primary jobs
- It is recognized that many of County roads need vegetation management work. Shasta County does not own many lands with right of way. Resources are thin to do such work. Agreements need be set up with private landowners prior to work commencing. Vegetation and trees are the property of the landowner and not the County in many cases.
- Believe there are 26 roads identified by CALFIRE in the County that are a high priority for vegetation management work
- CALFIRE has approached the County to set up agreements and do work on some of the identified roads. One such project is Dersch Rd. scheduled to begin this fall.
- Shasta County sees additional benefits to the roadside vegetation management work in the form of better visibility, quicker snow melt and less wildlife hazards
- During evacuations Shasta County Roads works closely with the Sheriff's Office and other agencies in both public and private forums to benefit Shasta County Citizens.

Andrew Atkins: Redding Fire Department

- State Fire code requires an exit for the public in event of emergency
- Cannot stress enough how important safe access and egress routes are for both the public and first responders
- Good idea to have pre-established routes for citizens as well as emergency vehicles. Have both a primary and secondary route planned.
- Even if vegetation overhanging roads is trimmed or removed the route will be much safer.
- Redding Fire is actively involved in the CWPP revision process
- 50% of fires are transient camp caused fires within the City of Redding limits
- Safe access to the transient caused fires often is not present

Questions and Answer Session Summary

- Citizens need to know their Genasys zone. Do not expect maps to be printed for each community. Might look at other resources to do this if needed. Maps are available online.

- Need to work together to make our communities safer
- Mary Rickert: Everyone should know about AG Pass training developed at the County Level that allows Agricultural and Livestock owners to go behind evacuation boundaries to tend to crop and livestock left behind. [Click Here](#)
- Would like CALFIRE report on access and egress issues within Shasta County made more public and available
- Alert Shasta works wherever there is internet or cell service if signed up
- Alert FM works on radio frequency that is programmed in machine, so location of unit needs to be exact for correct programmed frequency
- Lots of private meetings take place on evacuations with multiple agencies both prior to, during and after incidents. Working to make things better all the time. Agencies work hard to recognize the impact of an evacuation decision
- Most citizens know the best way in or out of their communities but at times we all have a fight or flight response in emergencies. It is human nature. Try to stay calm, think and act rationally
- Realize responders will be thin during emergencies especially if multiple incidents are happening. There are agreements in place to assist neighboring counties that can affect the number of responders available

Break

1050am-1230pm Firewise (FW) Community Meeting

Thanks to all Firewise Communities for your efforts, SCFSC truly realizes the value in these communities and is dedicated to assisting them when possible

Doug Young (SCFSC Project Assistant) email: doug.young@shastafiresafe.org

- Results of Firewise Survey explained
- Chipping Program available. Explanation of how it will work for FW Communities.
- Looking for chipping contractors in your areas as the program pays travel time and it is more cost effective to hire local. If you have someone contact Doug
- Please assist in your communities to get the word out on the chipping program
- Remember required NFPA renewal is **due November 15th**. SCFSC may be able to assist if you have questions

Ron Rusten/ Doug Young:

- \$5,000 mini-grant approved by The Board of Directors for all 14 NFPA current certified Firewise Communities in Shasta County.
- Explanation of purpose, intent and mini grant process.
- Will get mini-grant application out to Firewise contacts next week

- Encourage communities to look at their specific 3-year action plan when developing projects.
- Home hardening not included but not much limitation on funding otherwise.
- Payment will be through SCFSC, so please look at lump sums vs multiple payments to minimize staff impact for reimbursement
- SCFSC will approve projects and assist where possible if needed
- Remember \$500 available already for your communities' consumables purchased to support events, printing mailing etc.
- Hope to continue financial support of FW communities in their Firesafe efforts but future funding uncertain at this point

Kat Camplin (Media Consultant) email: Social@shastfiresafe.org

- Hardcopy for manual hour reporting created to use in your communities available if needed sample. Will be available on website for download
- Developed an online prototype to use for Firewise work investment, material and hour reporting displayed so group could view. Will email link and get feedback from communities. Only drawback is communities would need to request statistics if needed. Most in favor but not all
- Have ability to create standardized website template for all FW communities SCFSC can host but there is some financial investment. Most in favor but not all

Firewise Attendee Group discussion highlights

Montgomery Creek FW:

- Close to being NFPA Firewise certified. Leadership had to take a break due to unforeseen events. Still expecting to move forward with the certification soon

Old Station FW:

- Started Green Waste program in partnership with Volunteer FD for residents that hauls material to Burney.
- Has website up and running now
- In process of creating a better residential location map for their community
- Also close to getting NFPA Firewise certified

Old Shasta FW:

- Have been working jointly with local water district to mail FW information to residents. Seems to work well but still not getting majority of community to respond.

Whispering Woods FW:

- Recommend folks look up IBHS wildfire prepared home program as this is the standard many insurers are going to enforce. There is basic and plus designation you need to do then pay a fee to obtain certificate for insurer. [Click Here](#)
- Helped develop a low-cost reflective sign program in cooperation with local volunteer FD. Reach out for more information for how this can be done
- Lassen Firesafe Council (LFSC) has done a tremendous amount of work with their grant funding in terms of defensible space
- Most but not all residents received fuels work from LFSC
- Home hardening is primary need for most residents at a large cost

Dusty Oaks FW:

- Have logged over 1500 hours of work so far this year primarily on access and egress
- Safe zone established in the community is 40 acres pasture
- Not many that are computer savvy folks so upgrading to web-based entries may be difficult. Process in place seems to work fine.

Inwood FW:

- Organized a community work party at resident's home that was physically incapable. Was successful.
- Have signed evacuation areas, and safe areas in a pinch for resident as well as pets and livestock
- Access and egress vegetation removal work is priority

Shasta Forest Village FW:

- Community grass roots effort to lower the Fireline Risk Score by mailing re-evaluation request to Verisk and Redzone. Verisk has already committed to re-evaluate. Will email sample letter out. Reach out for more information
- Lassen Firesafe Council has done a huge amount of vegetation management work both within and around the FW community
- Getting more and more requests for Firewise certification by insurance companies
- Recommend adding assets addenda to your risk assessment upon NFPA renewal. Found out risk assessment companies view your communities risk assessment when trying to determine your Fireline Score.

Thanks to all participants and agencies that took time out of their schedule to attend! Next meeting will be set for January 16, of 2025