

TULARCITOS RIDGE FIRE SAFETY GROUP MEETING

February 19, 2022 @ 10:00AM

PRESENT: Jenn Jackson, Meredith May, Ron Hanik, Betsy Vobach, Shaheen Kazi, Eugene Weiss, Laura Anderson, Jason Campbell, Amy Wells, Ian Smith, Paul Campos, Jim Pederson, and Craig Bua

Meeting Began: 10:30 AM

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Old Business:

- A. A discussion whether there is enough interest in hiring a chipper for the community. The community will most likely not be getting a chipper from Cal Fire.
- B. Betsy spoke about TRFWG merch. She has been working with Fashion Streaks who works with first responders and will provide us a discount. Betsy polled the group to see who is interested because there is a minimum order.
- C. Insurance update. Community members are receiving a Firewise discount. **State Farm** is now insuring properties on Sky Ranch Rd. and their rates are lower so far. Shaheen hopes that this development will encourage other companies to provide insurance in this area. Shaheen has also investigated startup insurance companies who are insuring “wildfire” areas. The one startup she spoke to stated that they are still limited as to how many policies they can write.
- D. Meredith spoke about “Alert Wildfire” (a non-profit) who is monitoring area via cameras for wildfires. Meredith has messaged Alert Wildfire and stated that the community can discuss this option. A video presentation can be done at the next meeting.

2. New Business:

- A. Firewise signs have been received. Need to coordinate where to place the signs. They will be installed at Via Cielo and Sky Ranch roads. Craig Bua will install, and a work party will be scheduled. Tularcitos Ridge Firewise is the 13th group to be recognized in Monterey County.
- B. Firewise stickers were passed out to group for vehicles and homes.
- C. Meredith May provided a new Firewise Volunteer Hours/\$\$ Worksheet to be filled out annually by each property owner. She also provided an educational sheet that gives examples of what to record on the annual sheet.
- D. The TRFW now has a checking account at Union Bank in Monterey. There is \$770 in donations in the group’s account.

- E. Laura will be keeping track of the group's volunteer hours and dollars metrics. She is looking to put together a 1-year action plan and 3-year plan. The plans need to be measurable. Example of event:
Wanda Vollmer from Peace of Mind Fire Preparedness is willing to have a Zoom meeting about go-bags. Another Zoom meeting will be about burn pile education. Establishing an emergency phone tree. There is a place on the website to sign up. The group can hold a practice phone tree drill to ensure community members are on the phone tree.
- F. Robles del Rio Firewise is holding a Fire Safety Fair in CV at the Community Park on July 9th. TRFW is going to have a table at the event and provide volunteers for the event. This will be a good way to meet first responders and partnering with other local Firewise groups.
- G. May 7th is the annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Meredith applied for a \$500 grant through this event. The grant application discussed making our mid-tanks more fire safe (fuel mitigation). Paul Campos stated that the Tularcitos Mutual Water Co. will also be receiving FEMA money and part of the money is earmarked for mid-tank area repairs.
- H. Stacey Woods from Robles del Rio Firewise and TRFW are collaborating on tow-chain covers made from retired fire hose. These covers will be distributed throughout Cachagua, Tassahara and Carmel Valley at gas stations and hardware stores to reduce the chance of chains causing road sparks that lead to wildfires. Steve Park and Steve Imbimbo are cutting the hose, and we will need volunteers to help distribute them.
- I. Jim Pederson stated that the POA should put out a paper calendar that should be mailed out to the community. He stated that some people don't check their e-mail. The response was Jim should provide mailing addresses for the specific people who don't check their email to address the issue. Also, a whiteboard has been added to the mailbox area on Sky Ranch Road to alert neighbors of Firewise meetings. The group agreed it was too cost prohibitive and time consuming to create a calendar and individual mailers when email is free and everyone on Tularcitos Ridge has an email account.
- J. Jim also asked if Asoleodo is Firewise. That neighborhood is not but TRFW can reach out to come to the next meeting. The goal should be to mentor that neighborhood to create their own group. This would create opportunity to work together as individual groups. Meredith stated that a Firewise table is going to be added to the Sunday Farmers' Market at Mid-Valley Safeway to help spread the word of Firewise throughout the community. Volunteers will be needed to staff the table a handful of times a year for 2-hour shifts.
- K. Laura Anderson, Shaheen Kazi and Meredith discussed a presentation that was given on a Firesafe Council of Monterey Zoom about wildfire surveillance cameras. AlertWildfire has placed 900+ cameras in wildland areas that connect with CalFire to give early detection and warning of fires as well as real-time info during fires. The footage is public and can be accessed on the internet by firefighters as well as citizens. Homes can be blurred out. There is interest from AlertWildfire to place a camera on Tularcitos Ridge. More discussion is needed to see if this is acceptable and appropriate for our

community. Shaheen offered her home for a camera if the group's decision is to join AlertWildfire.

- L. Betsy updated the merchandise plan. She brought an order form showing T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, and a tote bag and asked for an indication of interest. Our first order must be a minimum of 36 items.

3. Questions

- A. Ian Smith asked about private firefighting companies. Meredith stated that Liberty Mutual offers that service. There company will send a crew out to spray your home with foam. They may not be firefighting professionals.

The next Firewise Meeting will be on April 2, 2022 at 10:00. The meeting will be held at Jim and Paul's home 35182 Sky Ranch Road.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00AM