



Wrightwood Fire Safe Council
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Meeting Minutes

Call To Order: The general meeting for the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) was called to order by Chuck Carroll on October 21, 2008 at 1900 hours local time, at 6000 Cedar, Wrightwood, CA 92397.

Roll Call:

The following WFSC Board Of Directors were present: John Aziz, Chuck Carroll, Robert Comperini, Bob Fino, Hank Hallmark, Joyce Harrison, Al Morrissette, Kathy Smith, Vince Pulsipher. Absent: John Bauer, Miles Wagner.

The following WFSC community members were present: Carol Goss, Dee Potter, Bonnie Ross, Ed Ross, Jack Smith.

The following agency representatives were present: David Brackin (LA County Agricultural Commission), Pam Bierce (SB National Forest), Thomas Brandt (SB County F.H.A), Dan Filter (SB County Fire), Brian Headley (SB County Fire), Julie Hernandez (SB County Fire Hazard Abatement), Bill Hoehnke (SB County Hazardous Tree)

Flag Salute: The flag salute was led by Vince Pulsipher.

Review of previous month's minutes: The minutes of the September 2008 meeting were approved as written, after corrections were made during previous review by the board. Motion to approve made by Kathy Smith. Motion seconded by Bob Fino. Motion passed 9/0

Cooperative Partner & Agency Updates:

SB County Fire (Brian Headley) - Discussed the need to clean chimneys annually. We are approaching the season where fire places will begin to be used. You should clean your chimney and spark arrester one a year. If you smell smoke, this indicates you have a problem. In a fireplace or wood stove, use only dry, seasoned wood to avoid the build-up of creosote. Creosote is an oily deposit that easily catches fire and accounts for most chimney fires and the largest share of home heating fires generally. Some woods such as Pinon Pine, create more creosote than others. Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Make sure ashes cool before disposing them into a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance for your home. He also discussed the dangers of spontaneous combustion with such materials as linseed oil, which is commonly used to seal decking.

Angeles National Forest: No report

San Bernardino National Forest (Pam Bierce): Boundary Ridge project. No timeline for completion yet. Equipment still broken, Lone Pine Project: No start date announced. Red Flag warning expected for later this week. Staffing increased for this event. Fire danger is currently high. Campfires are allowed in approved containers only. Fire shed analysis: planned for some time this year. Boundary Ridge burn piles: No updates on when those can be taken care of. Burning depends on weather, and equipment availability. We will be notified when burning will take place.

Forest Care Program: No report

CAL Fire: No Report

LA County Agricultural Commission (David Brackin): 60 properties, that were previously issued citations, have complied, and are cleaned up. There was a discussion concerning the bridge leading to the Wrightwood Ranch property. The bridge is not strong enough to support large vehicles, such as fire engines. David said he would mention this to the Captain of the responsible fire station (Pearblossom) serving that area.

SB County Code Enforcement (Thomas Brandt): Discussed recent miscellaneous clearing projects. Also discussed chimney clearance issues, and the process by which those complaints are addressed. Due to liability and county rules, they have no authority to trim trees that overhang a person's house. They will be getting training on the new clearance ordinance soon.

SB County Fire (Dan Filter): No major items to report. He also discussed the importance of cleaning chimneys, and proper disposal of combustibles.

SB County Hazardous Tree Removal (Bill Hoehnke): Introduced himself to the group. Announced that their office does have funding to continue operating into the near future. In addition to fuel modification projects, their functions include tree removal of dead trees, and trees that pose a hazard. He was made aware of the trees near the top of Lone Pine Canyon that pose a threat to that road, if those trees fall. No updates on the Wrightwood Guest Ranch project. Bill can be reached by his cell phone: (909) 522-1666. E-mail: whoehnke@dpw.sbcounty.gov

Public Comments And Questions:

John Aziz: Discussed a letter property owner (Michael Mulvihill) received from his home owner insurance company (Allstate). The letter informed him that they were not renewing the home owner policy, because the property did not meet their "Wildfire Hazard underwriting guidelines".

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report: Paid our annual SLIP insurance premium (\$1,728.03). FSC balance after this premium was paid is: \$10,258.33

New Business:

John Aziz: Discussed notes from water advisory meeting which was held on October 21, 2008. Sheep Creek Mutual Aid Agreement is now in place. Wrightwood water usage is down 6-7%, mainly due to resident's conservation of water. Discussions between Mountain High and Golden State water continue.

John Aziz: Talked about upcoming Wrightwood Golden Guardian Disaster Exercise. The Exercise Plan, and samples of the emergency info magnets and materials to be distributed to residents for this event was distributed to board members for review.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2115 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held on November 18, 2008. There will be no meeting in December 2008.

Minutes submitted by: Robert Comperini, Secretary Wrightwood Fire Safe Council