



Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 3100
Wrightwood, CA 92397
(760) 249-3249

www.wrightwoodfsc.com

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: The general meeting for the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) was called to order by Jim Emery on November 22, 2023 at 1800 hours local time. This meeting was held at the Wrightwood Community Building. Audio of this meeting is available here:
<https://www.wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.11.21.23.mp3>

Roll call: The following WFSC Board of Directors were present: John Aziz, Robert Comperini, Jim Emery, Hank Hallmark, Tim Heinrich, David Larkin, Ben Smith. Absent was Tom Foley.

The following agency representatives were present: Kelly Anderson (SB Co Fire), Rita Bemis (WWPOA), Kenny Funk (Camp Wrightwood), David Haas (CAL FIRE), Sandi Hanlon (WWPOA), Jeff Harms (LA Co Fire), Robert Gonzales (SB Co OES), Elisa Gurley (WWPOA), Ken Lutz (SB Co SD), Marcia McFauls (WWPOA), Ramiro Mendez (SB Co OES), Franklin Papaloana (CERT), Nick Papaloana (CERT), Jocelyn Perez (IERCD), Carol Pettigrew (WWPOA), Vicky Rineck (Mountaineer Progress), Ryan Smith (SB Co SD), Stan Souders (CERT), Strech Suba (CERT), Kayla Thompson (IERCD), Steve Tracy (SB Co Fire), Pam Wright (WWPOA), Ron White (ANF)

Announcements:

The WFSC board voted to appoint (retired CAL FIRE Chief) Mr. Tom Foley to the WFSC board.

A memorial was held for Kathy Smith recently, at the Table Mountain Campground.

Public comments and questions: None

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting were approved as written. Motion to approve was made by Hank Hallmark. Motion seconded by John Aziz. Motion approved 6/0. Ben Smith abstained as he was not present at the October meeting.

GSOB update: IERCP canvassed the area recently and made contact with resident in the affected areas. One resident was contacted regarding removal of a GSOB tree on that person's property. Hank asked about reimbursement for people who paid for treatments before grants were available. Unfortunately, those funds won't cover costs incurred before grant money was made available.

Winter traffic meeting briefing/update: Jim Emery recapped the outcome of the meeting.

Special Presentation – EAS Sirens by San Bernardino County Fire:

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the implementation of sirens in Wrightwood, to announce emergencies. Chief Kelly Anderson and Chief Steve Tracy of the San Bernardino County Fire Department gave presentations. Frank Kams, Robert Gonzales and Ramiro Mandez with the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services also spoke.

Chief Tracy discussed the various siren technologies and experiences of other communities that used these kinds of systems. Chief Tracy discussed the various pros and cons of such systems.

San Bernardino County Fire does not support the idea of implementing sirens in Wrightwood, for a number of reasons. These include:



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- The challenging terrain of Wrightwood would mean that over 30 of these systems would need to be installed.
- The high cost of such a system. Each system costs a minimum of \$60,000 each (and Wrightwood would need over 30 to have complete coverage)
- There are challenges getting the systems powered, and linked to operate remotely.
- There are challenges to deciding who is responsible to activate the system, and what conditions must be met to activate it.
- Little thought has been put into what residents are supposed to do upon hearing a siren. We do not want the entire population to panic, or start driving to the center of town to find out what's going on.

San Bernardino County Fire, the Sheriff department, and the county OES all believe that the plans and processes they already have in place, are much more robust and orderly. The Fire and Sheriff department implemented the "High/Low" system in their vehicles in early 2023. This new system includes a new/unique sounding siren, and a recorded message, to alert residents as to what they need to do. When the system is activated Sheriff deputies would drive around the affected areas making the announcements continuously.

If Wrightwood wants to pursue the siren option, County Fire is willing to help by providing information to vendors of these systems, and they are willing to point us toward possible funding paths. However, County Fire will be unable to help fund these sirens.

Robert Gonzales and Ramiro Mendez of the OES discussed the role of CERT during widespread emergencies.

There was some discussion with residents about the lack of communications from OES and other agencies. OES admitted that there have been some changes in staffing. They pledged to do a better job of communicating in the future.

The agencies agreed to return to Wrightwood in the near future to do a community outreach to help disseminate their plans for disasters.

Cooperative Partner & Agency Updates:

Since it was so late after the discussion of EAS, it was decided to table the remaining agency reports, and adjourn the meeting.

Financial Report: Ben Smith did submit a finance report. It is attached to these minutes.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2007 hours local time. There will be no meeting in December 2023. The next general WFSC meeting will be held at the Wrightwood Community Building on January 16, 2024 at 6pm.



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Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Comperini".

Robert Comperini, Secretary
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council



Meeting Attendees

11-21-23		
NAME	Agency	Email
John Aziz	WFSC	
Bob Comperini	WFSC	
Tim Heinrich	WFSC	
Jim Emery	WFSC	jimandmoe@tt.net
Ben Smith	WFSC	ben@mthigh.com
David Larkin	WFSC	dlarkinMtn@gmail.com
Hank Hallmark	WFSC	
MARSHALL RILEY	909 534 1680	MOUNTNVALLEY@VERIZON
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Martha McTauls	WWPOA	ladylala5@msn.com
CAROL PETTEGREW	WWPOA/TRAIL keepers	Bikecarol@gmail.com
Kayla Thompson	IERCD	kthompson@iercd.org
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Ronelle Ingreax		Ronellei@msn.com
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STAN SOUDERS	WW CERT	" " "
Rita B. Bemis	WW POA	RBemis@verizon.net
Elisa Gurley	WWPOA-Lions	elisagurley@gmail.com
Sandi Axelson	WWPOA - Lions Guild	shanelowman@aol.com
Franklin Papaioanu	WW CERT	papaioanuF@gmail.com
Nick Papaioanu	WWCERT	npapaioa@glendale.edu
JEFF HARMS	BATTALION CHIEF LACOFD	
David Haas	CAL FIRE	David.Haas@fire.ca.gov
Gail Smith	WW resident	gailsmithwwca@yahoo.com
Steve Traey	Battalion chief SBCOFD	STraey@SBCFire.org



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Kelly Anderson	SB COUNTY FIRE	KANDERSON@SBCFIRE.ORG
Ryan Smith	SB SHERIFF	rysmith@sbcsd.org
Ken Kutz	SB SHERIFF	KKUTZ@SBCSB.DIGS
FRANK KAMS	SB SHERIFF	FKAMS@sbcsd.org
Kenny Funk	Camp Wrightwood (Inhabitant)	Kfunk@CALPACUMI.org
RAMIRO MENDEZ	SBCOES	ramiro.mendez@oes.sbcounty.gov
Robert Gonzalez	SBCOES	robert.gonzales@oes.sbcounty.gov
RON WHITE	ANGELUS NF	ronald.white@usda.gov





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11/21/2023 5:08 PM

Register: 1 - WFSC

From 09/19/2023 through 11/21/2023

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment C	Deposit	Balance
09/30/2023		WFSC DCB	65160 · Other Costs	Paper Statemen...	4.00		24,706.05
10/18/2023	213	John Aziz	65050 · Telephone, Tel...	Zoom/ Tech So...	92.95		24,613.10
10/18/2023	214	John Aziz	62840 · Equip Rental a...	AED Pads and ...	454.59		24,158.51
10/31/2023		WFSC DCB	65160 · Other Costs	Paper Statemen...	4.00		24,154.51
11/21/2023	215	Mountain High	62890 · Rent, Parking, ...	Kathy Smith Se...	600.00		23,554.51