



Wrightwood Fire Safe Council
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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 July 16, 2024 at 1900 hours local time, at the Wrightwood Community Building, 1275 SR-2, Wrightwood, CA 92397. Audio of this meeting is available here:

<https://www.wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.8.20.24.mp3>

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

The following agency representatives were present: Tracy Hall (ANF), Ray Mitchison (LA County Fire), Leandra Prince (News Plus), Tracy Shaw (SB Co Fire), Adrian Shum (CalTrans), Drew Smith (CAL FIRE), Strech Suba (CERT), Kayla Thompson (IERCD), Ariel Verayo (LA County Agricultural Commission), Wendy Walker (Transition Habitat Conservancy), Adrian Zavaca (LA County Agricultural Commission).

Flag salute: The flag salute was led by Jim Emery.

Public comments and questions: Strech Suba announced basic CERT training will be held on September 13,14,15, 2024. For more information, email: certwrightwood@gmail.com.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the July 16, 2024 meeting were approved as written. A motion to approve was made by Tom Foley. Motion seconded by David Larkin. Motion approved 5/0. John Aziz abstained as he was not at the meeting.

GSOB: A new hot spot was discovered on Oriole Road at the border of the forest service road. 6 trees were discovered on one property. We will be working with property owners. GSOB Outreach efforts continue. There is a \$400k grant available to be awarded in January 2025. This grant can be awarded to communities or FSCs, etc. for work related to the fight against GSOB. Julie Clark (via email) discussed work they are doing in various LA County communities.

ANF Sheep Fire Restoration Project: Tracy Hall gave a presentation regarding their plans for restoration of the Sheep Fire. The Sheep fire occurred in June 2021, and burned 865 acres. Diagrams and maps were provided for people to view. These maps showed the areas that will be included in the restoration project. The restoration project includes removing of fuels, and replanting of various trees in the area. ANF also proposed to remove the road leading to the former quarry in the area. This road is no longer needed. For more information, or to leave comments about the proposed restoration plan, contact the Wrightwood Firesafe Council, or contact Tracy Hall by email at: tracy.hall@usda.gov.

Cooperative partner & agency updates:

Angeles National Forest: No additional updates.

San Bernardino National Forest (via email): The Forest is working with CalTrans on an ignition reduction plan. This proposed project will provide a 30 to 50 foot clearance on both sides along highway 138 and I-15.

A fuels reduction project in the upper Lytle Creek road area has been awarded. The Forest is currently soliciting bids for a fuels reduction project along Boundary Ridge.

The Vista fire is now 100% contained. There are some hot spots in the interior regions of the burn area, that are being watched.

All engines are back from remote fire assignments. We still have 2 hotshot crews and one dozer that are still out on assignment.

CCC: No representative, no report.

CAL FIRE (Drew Smith): Drew briefly talked about other smaller fires that CAL FIRE has been working on. Statewide, there is significant fire activity in the northern portion of the state. The Park Fire is the largest, at over 429,000 acres. Support for this fire included 4,150 personnel, 80 bull dozers, 219 engines and over 100 hand crews. As of this date, the fire is 55% contained. CAL FIRE is currently doing defensible space inspections in the Wrightwood area.

CAL FIRE grants: No Wrightwood grants were applied for. Drew urged the WFSC to consider applying. Grants can be used for many fire related things, including education, and fuels reduction.

Moisture levels: Drew discussed moisture levels and how those correlate to fire danger. Currently, Oak Hills chaparral moisture levels are at 65%. Critical is 60%. This means we are close to the critical moisture levels. We will most likely be in this critical level by October, when the Santa Ana winds begin.

Drew took Q&A from audience.

LA County Agricultural Commission (Ariel Verayo): This is Ariel's last day before he retires. He's been representing the LA County Agricultural Commission at the WFSC for the past 7½ years. Ariel introduced Adrian Zavaca to the WFSC. Adrian will be the new representative.

Wrightwood area update: Last year, we had 100% compliance by this time. This year there are 2 parcels that are still not in compliance. One property was sold. A notice went to old owner. This parcel is near SR-2 at boundary of LA County. Before the end of August, crews will clean this property. Another vacant lot located on the south-east SE corner of Flume and Swallowhill is also out of compliance. That property will also be cleared. A total of 67 parcels were on the re-check list.

LA County Fire (Ray Mitchison): There has been a lot of fire activity in the Antelope Valley area. We are averaging 2-3 fires per day. Some of our hand crews are assigned to the Park Fire, in northern California. LA County provided helicopter support to the Vista Fire.

Ray discussed two recent tragedies in the department.

On June 14, 2024, Firefighter Andrew Pontious, with engine 93, lost his life battling a heavy equipment fire at a quarry near Palmdale. One tire on the piece of equipment that was on fire exploded. This kind of accident is very rare. The only other documented incident similar to this is from Russia. Details of this accident will now become a part of training for firefighters, to teach them the dangers of being near large tires on fires like this. Andrew was 52 years old, and had been a firefighter for 20 years.

In July 2024, paramedic squad 93 enroute from Palmdale to Lake Los Angeles was involved in a head-on collision. The driver was trapped. A passenger in the squad helped extract the driver from the squad using the jaws of life. The driver lost a leg in the collision. The passenger that helped the driver, was paramedic Dustin M. Roberto. Sadly, Dustin was diagnosed with cancer, and passed away on August 10, 2024. Dustin was 34 years old, and with the fire department for 5 years.

SB County Fire (Captain McCarthy): Statistics for this past month: 121 total calls which include 16 fires, 93 medical aid and 23 misc. calls. The department will be supporting the Red Cross smoke detector event. Every home in Wrightwood should have smoke detectors. On November 16, 2024, crews will be out to install smoke detectors in homes that currently don't have any. Contact SB County Fire or the WFSC to get your home added to the list.

SB County Code Enforcement: No representative, no report.

Cal Trans (Adrian Shum): A fuels reduction project in the I-10/I-210 junction has begun. Other areas being treated include the I-10 toward Yucaipa, and in the Riverside areas along the I-15 toward Temecula.

Highway 138 fuel reduction project planning continues. Expect the project to treat the Highway 138 corridor from the LA County Line eastward toward Lake Arrowhead.

Adrian discussed an area along SR-2 that will also be treated.

Treasurer's report: No activity this reporting period.

Fire Hydrant mapping: The WFSC has received a high quality fire hydrant map from Golden State Water. We need to find a plotter capable of printing out this large document.

CWPP: No updates

New/continued business: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1950 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held on September 17, 2024.

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Comperini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Comperini, Secretary
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

WFSC Meeting Aug. 20, 2024

<u>Name</u>	<u>Org.</u>	<u>Email</u>
Jim Emery	WFSC	—
Tim Heinrich	WFSC	—
John Aziz	WFSC	—
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