

**Glen Ellen Traffic and Safety Committee
Emergency Response Plan Development meeting notes
Jan 3, 2018**

Next Glen Ellen Traffic and Safety committee meeting is Wednesday, January 17, 3p, at the London Lodge Saloon

Participants: Captain Gary Johnson and Marty SVFD, Candice Ludlow, Nick Brown, Michael Wray, Leslie Vaughn, Bill Olson, Stacey Vilas

Captain Gary and Marty started our meeting.

SVFD conducted a local review.

- * The night of the fire there were 250 fires in California.
- * The state, Cal Fire(?) dispatch decides where to send resources. Mutual aid FD's were called in from all over, time of arrival depended on distance to the area
- * Our FD requested 70 engines within the first 2 hours of the fires. We got 5. Napa and Santa Rosa were given priority due to the high density of urban area
- * 911 Dispatch was overwhelmed
- * Telephone Base was down in the first hour
- * 3 Cell towers were out in the first 2 hours
- * Fire Command Center started in Napa, then split into 2 with Santa Rosa being Command Center for the western region. Outside agency personnel headed the command centers, familiarity of the area was lost.

These issues (among others) are being seriously considered by our FD to improve the system. (NOTE...Everyone did what they could!!!)

Things we can do to help

- * Address labeling. Every house/property needs to have addresses visible for emergency response personnel. Be it fire, medical emergency or criminal activity. Lump addresses listed on a post at the beginning of a drive is not sufficient. Each driveway should have a posted address.
- * Access. The fire engines need 15 feet headroom and 10 feet wide (official is 20 feet wide) clearance to pass an area. Some properties have low lying branches preventing access. Fire Engines also need a place to turn around. If you have a long driveway or private road, consider clearing a pullout/turnaround area.
- * Create defensible space around your home and buildings.
- * Organize neighborhoods and continue with the Glen Ellen emergency plan incorporating SCOPE, include the sheriff department in the planning, they are in charge of evacuations and perimeter security.

Triage

Fire Departments respond to large fires using a triage system. One component is access. If a driveway is overgrown, and/or the buildings are hemmed in by foliage, it is more likely to be passed by for a defensible location nearby.

Embers

Fire embers were everywhere. They started fires days after the flames were extinguished. When looking at your house make sure the vents are metal mesh, 1/8 to 1/4 inch. Consider installing Vulcan Vents, they automatically close when they detect heat from a fire. In addition, embers went under decks and festered a few days then started a fire. Clear out the clutter, leaves and debris regularly. Get rid of mulch, firewood and plants near the house/building.

Educate and look after each other

- * SVFD has SCOPE and they are incorporating Cal Fire "READY SET GO" program.
- * When our Glen Ellen Emergency plan and neighborhood group system is ready, SVFD (Capt Johnson) will provide SCOPE training. He suggested training the neighborhood coordinators first, they can take the information back to their groups. Knowing our neighbors and needs is key to improving our own emergency system.

Volunteer

We discussed ways we can help by volunteering for non firefighting roles. Captain Johnson will look into the potential of adding an affiliate member similar to how volunteers can help during the 4th of July celebrations.

Gary and Marty left the meeting and we discussed...

Ready Glen Ellen

Using Ready Ventura and Ready Marin websites as a template develop "READY GLEN ELLEN"
Cal Fire Ready for Wildfire APP
Link to SVFD and Sheriff Department
links to emergency preparedness kits and lists
Link to ask questions and get answers (FD, Sheriff?)

Neighborhood groups

Michael Wray and Beverly Rodondi are working on the database for the emergency prepared neighborhood groups. They are developing a form to fill out for each participating household that coincides with the data base. Information includes address, phone #s, number of people and animals, special needs/mobility issues, special skills, ICE (in case of emergency contact info)

Initial startup process will be:

- * contact the people listed who are willing to help organize. Set up a meeting date and invite SCOPE training.
- * Neighborhood groups get developed and have meet-ups, handouts and SCOPE information available.
- * Plan a Glen Ellen emergency alert trial run to coincide with a Forum meal gathering, first 10 minutes of gathering to discuss emergency planning

Glen Ellen Emergency Alert System

Captain Johnson shared that Sonoma County does not have an emergency alert siren system. It is something being looked into by officials. It's very expensive to install and maintain. The Glen Ellen FD siren is being considered for local emergencies, however it is not heard in all areas needed. SVFD is reviewing the potential of using the Valley sirens if needed. More discussion is needed before they can take an official stance regarding the use of these sirens.

In the interim, the Ready Glen Ellen plan will encourage the use of a marine airhorn and/or car horns if a situation arises that requires mass awareness of a danger. Community education before use is a must! The use of the horn/car horns does not mean to evacuate, but it could.

Air horn and or car horns- what does it mean?

**** I NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IS GOING ON!***

Go outside and see what is happening - talk to the person sounding the alarm.

Turn on your TV or Radio (KSVY 91.3 fm, and KSRO 1350 am were good in OCT)

Use the phone tree

Help sound the alarm

**** Be Prepared***

Get your people and pets together, go-bags, documents

Review your emergency plan - if separated, where and when to meet

**** Respond***

Depending on the emergency, do what you have been training and preparing for!

Notes by Stacey Vilas

Remember...

Emergency preparedness is creating “what if” scenarios and mentally responding to them, gathering the tools needed, sharing information with our neighbors, get the training you want for first aid, radio operation, and more.