

Meeting of the Topanga Emergency Management Task Force May 18, 2011

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Pat MacNeil, T-CEP
Keith Harrison, CEO, Office of Emergency Mgmt
Susan Nissman and
Cynthia Scott, Board of Supervisors, 3rd District
John Adkins, DPW-Road Maintenance Division
Mary Lukins, County Animal Care and Control
Marge Santos, County Chief Executive Office
Stacy Sledge, Topanga Town Council

Alli Acker, LACDACERT
J. Lopez, FD

Chief Whittle, FD
Maria Grycan, County Fire
Ben Squire, FAW
David Ford, SCE
Vidal Milan, SCE

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair, Keith Harrison

I. Introductions and Minutes review

II. Canyon-wide Drill

A. Drill Debriefing:

- a. Approximately 974 persons participated but Maria warned complacency has set in and next years drill should aim to evacuate the entire canyon. This will require law enforcement buy-in.
- b. Type 1 engines were staffed at each CSA to interact with the arriving residents and answer questions. Five patrols were assigned to patrol the NSA's. Three CSR's were available to facilitate volunteers. A command vehicle was also present.
- c. Officials included Chief Osby, Dep Chief Bennett, and Supervisor Yaroslavsky.
- d. As of 5-17, 137 evaluation forms were received.
- e. The 2012 Drill will need to emphasize the unappealing conditions of smoke, heat, darkness and horror of a real event. The idea of having a surprise drill or staging at night was suggested. Incentives to encourage participation were discussed by all. SCE offered to supply flashlights.
- f. Though CSA's are defendable, one of the most notable findings was that residents need to be educated to evacuate not show up at CSA's as a first choice.
- g. CSA's and NSA's will be further developed to include diagrams and instructions posted for public to know what to do or not to do, what to look for or avoid, what to wear, and how to act.

III. Issues and Reports

A. Golden Spotted Oak Bore Press Release

J. Lopez discussed this pest plaguing So. California. The LA Co Fire and Ag Departments message is to keep firewood from being transported and imported to S. California from Mexico. A release with photos will be has been written to be distributed to firewood vendors.

B. Brush Clearance at Power Lines

- a. Alliance committee will manage Topanga Canyon Blvd and coordinate road closures.
- b. Cal-trans will cut the trees and remove arundo. They are looking into more permanent solutions with less clearance like extending road shoulders.
- c. SCE needs two months to complete their clearance around power lines. They typically clear within 10' of poles. Public Works and the Fire Safe Council can help liaison with private property owners to educate public. The SCE hotline is 800-655-4555.

IV. Future Agenda Items and Announcements

- a. Report from the Drill Committee regarding 2012 Drill
- b. Drill Film Update
- c. County-T-CEP Disaster Preparedness Fair- October 2
- d. Maria reported that FD has two new Social Media outlets: Facebook: www.facebook.com/lacountyfire7 and Twitter: www.twitter.com/LACoFD_DivVII.