

TOPANGA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

March 20, 2019

10:00am – 11:15am

Topanga Library

120 N. Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Topanga

MINUTES

Approved

Approved with changes

Co-Chairs: OEM, Jeanne O'Donnell and TCEP, James Grasso

Members: Fred Agoopi, Susan Clark, Scott Ferguson, James Grasso, Maria Grycan, Susan Nissman, Arthur Nissman, Jeanne O'Donnell, Flavia Potenza, Joseph Rosendo, Dan Schag, Simon T, Tam Taylor, Ryan Ulyate, Mark Winn, John Quiroga, Drew Smith, Alisa Hill,

Guest: Casey Ramstead, Jennifer Seetoo, Marisa Kuronga, Rojelio Solis

I. Welcome from Co-chairs

James Grasso called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Members and Guest were welcomed and introductions were made.

II. Mission Statement

Ryan Ulyate, N Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council, read mission statement.

III. Minutes were approved

Minutes were approved with a typo correction to Casey Ramstead last name.

IV. Southern California Edison (SCE)

Utility policy changed to increase the amount of space required for clearance between power poles and trees, from 4 feet to 12 feet. SCE is in the process of implementing this new policy but has not reached Topanga. Matthew Saddler, Vegetation Management Specialist from SCE, is working on not using any chemicals or poisons for brush clearance. Tessa C, mentions supervisor Barger from 5th district introduced a motion to find alternatives for brush clearance without chemicals and poisons.

V. LA County Updates

Susan N. asked if surveys and comments for Woolsey fire are still being accepted. Tessa C stated that transcripts from the two sessions would be available online once they are finalized. The transcripts will also provide outcomes from the two listening sessions.

VI. Woolsey Fire Task Force Update

Chief Williams provided an update to the two forums. One at Pepperdine one at King Gillette. 3rd District has a YouTube video of the steps going forward, e.g. working with groups, what can we do? What can we change?

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Discussion:

Questions asking for clarification on PSPS the day of the fire. There was 6 am power cut off the day of the fire was not a planned PSPS. Fire reported there will be an Incident Report which will compile reports from all agencies to show what happened during the fire.

VII. Topanga Emergency Preparedness Fair

Topanga Emergency Preparedness Fair, Topanga Unplugged, will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2019 from 10 am to 4 pm. The fair will focus on “off grid” preparedness and alternatives for residents. The fair will take place at the Topanga Community Center and the baseball field. There is currently a need of volunteers. County has signed off on vendor list and a schedule is set for the presenters. We are currently waiting on advertising and design elements for information to be pushed out to the communities. TCEP will be able to figure out how to get the info to the Topanga community. OEM will have a booth and staff on site to register people for Alert LA with computers. Fire will provide a QR code to digital version of Topanga ESG

Activities for Topanga Unplugged

Demonstration of the Fire Ball Extinguisher will be held at Topanga Community Center on March 26th at 11:45. Meet at the parking lot and everyone will walk together to the ball field. Discussion of children activities as to what kinds of activities should be done and where. Amber House from Fire Safe Council was suggested and confirmed by Ryan U.

Poster contest being handled by Susan Clark was asked to coordinate with the school. Suggestion was made if prizes for the poster contest can be given at the fair in order to entice residents to attend Topanga Unplugged.

Animal Care & Control is working on getting free or low cost microchipping for horses. Working on setting different locations and times depending on department and foundation resources. CHP was asked to conduct a horse trailer inspection with no citations to be issued. Suggestion was made that this event be promoted in the days leading up to the fair. A question was asked to see if small animals, e.g. dogs and cats, could also receive microchipping free at a low cost.

TCEP will be able to film Chief Williams/fire Presentation that will focus on what residents can do to prepare for disaster using Woolsey fire as an example. It will look over the past 100 years of fire patterns and address the effects of our climate change.

Fire confirmed helicopter water drop and fire engines at elementary school for Friday, May 3 at 1 O'clock.

VIII. New Business/Announcements

Fire announced they have seen growth in the Woolsey scorch pattern attributed to the last few rainstorms he encourages people to look if they can when hiking.

Two fundraisers coming up 1st on March 23rd at the Topanga Film Institute. Funds will support TCEP, SAMO, NacRec, 501(c) (3) fund. Second fundraiser will take place on June 22nd at Rosewood more details to come, but these funds will be channeled to the Santa Monica Mountains Fund.

Jeanne brought up new money (\$50 mil) coming down the pipeline that will be granted to 501(c) (3) organizations. The grant will be structured towards disaster preparedness for the whole community. Jeanne encourages organizations to come up with a ‘wish list’ of things that could be potentially funded. There will be three awards one for CERT, one for CBOS, and one for Geographic.

Ryan U. & Beth will hold a Defensive Home Preparation meeting at Camp 8 on April 8th at 7pm

Susan brought up state legislation bill ‘AB38 Wood’ that related to ember intrusion. Encourages people to look at it. The bill allocates a revolving fund of 1 billion dollars to for ember protection projects towards low

income and existing homeowners. AB38 Wood is currently being pushed by Senator Henry Stern and Assembly Member Richard Bloom

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned approximately 12:30 pm

Next Meeting: June 19th

Next Meetings: October 16th.