10/19/19

Cuyamaca Woods Fire Safe Council-Meeting Minutes

Attendees: John and Terri Groth, Bill Stowers, Steve Nankervis, Matt Arsena and Jon Driscoll

The meeting was held at the CalFire Station #50 located at 1587 Hwy 78 in Julian via invitation to open house by Chief Jeff Windham.

There will be no Treasurer Report or review of prior meeting minutes at this meeting.

The purpose of having the meeting at the fire station was to obtain information on the following:

1. Most efficient road signage for assisting fire/rescue services.
2. Identifying what information and format that would most beneficial to fire/rescue services.
3. How we as a Firesafe Council can assist fire/rescue services going forward.

Fire Chief Jeff Windham and his associate spent over an hour with our group going over many concerns pertaining to our community. They also discussed the order of their responsibilities upon a fire evacuation. The emphasis on evacuation was if you are asked to evacuate, evacuate! With the difficult ingress and egress conditions of our community, only very knowledgeable (familiar with our community) fireman and rescue workers will attempt to enter the community under a wild fire condition. This puts a lot of the homeowners at risk if there is a large wildfire, due to unfamiliar fireman/rescue workers working the area.

Chief Windham stated that all of his fireman/rescue workers are continuously briefed on our community and routine community inspections are completed. He however recommended that we have good street and address signs for identifying properties/residences.

The fireman and rescue worker’s first priority is to save lives, then dwellings and structures. So if people do not evacuate, they have to place the resources towards saving lives vs. putting out fires!

Also discussed was that the Firesafe Council has the right to contact County code enforcement for property owners who do not keep their properties clear, defensible space, dead trees etc. Contacting Code enforcement should be first, then if no success, contact CalFire and they will assist with Code Enforcement.

Ready, Set, Go preparation and education was emphasized.

Chief Windham is responsible for 5 area Fire safe councils and would really like to see more collaboration in the near future. He will assign a Captain at Station 51 to liaison with CWFSC.