

## EVACUATION ROUTE WORKSHOP

November 16 and 18, 2017

Attached is a summary of the slides from the Evacuation Route Workshops presented by Gretchen Hayes, from FireSafe Council. Also in attendance were: Battalion Chief Mike Mathiesen from CalFire Alma Station (Thursday and Saturday), Battalion Chief Jeff Sadler from Santa Clara County Fire Department (Thursday), and Patty Ciesla from FireSafe Council (Saturday).

### SLIDES:

#### WUI – Wildland Urban Interface – Santa Clara County

- FireSafe has coordinated four grant projects over the past 10 years in the Park.
- Defensible space – makes sure it is safe for firefighters to protect our homes *and keep them safe*. Visit [readyforwildfire.org](http://readyforwildfire.org) for more details on defensible space.
- Reduce the amount of fuels in the area, keeps forests healthier too

#### DEFENSIBLE SPACE

- Home ignition zone – be “ember” aware – roofs and gutters clear of debris, where do leaves pile up from winds? That’s where to look for areas prone to catch fire from embers.
- 5 feet is the non-combustible zone – where leaves accumulate; don’t use wood chips in gardens; wooden fences that attach to the house are hazards.
- 30’ zone – keep clear of ladder fuels, shrubs and low hanging branches from trees which are dead.
- 100’ zone – if you have this much property, keep trees, brush, etc. tidy, not overgrown.
- If house is on a hillside, downhill slopes should be cleared out up to 200’

#### BE PREPARED

- Have a fire extinguisher and know how to use it!
- Know how to shut off gas and water (don’t shut off the water – firefighters will need it)
- Maintain emergency contact list – outside of cell phones!!! Write down the numbers and know where to find them.
- Portable radio and batteries
- Create evacuation plan
- Assemble emergency kit for each person in the family and cars.

#### CREATE AN EVACUATION PLAN

- Designate meeting locations:
  - o One right outside the house
  - o One outside neighborhood – if you need to evacuate the house
  - o One in town if you can’t get home
- Know escape routes from home and from the neighborhood
- Have a plan for pets and livestock
- Have a family communication plan
- **MAKE SURE YOUR HOUSE NUMBERS ARE VISIBLE SO EMERGENCY CREWS CAN FIND YOU.**

## KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ROUTES

- Know how to get out of the park.
- Fire engines will be coming in
- Chemeketa Park will designate routes with arrows on the road. Will meet with first responders to get this approved, then distribute to community.

## KNOW THE ROADS

- Explore your neighborhood
- Know all possible evacuation routes from home
- Know which streets are dead ends
- Know alternate routes to school to get your children

## FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

- Designate someone out of state as point of contact – make sure they know you have designated them.
- Make sure children know their full name and parents full name.
- Write down contact names and phone numbers and keep up to date.
- Write down meeting locations.
- Meet with your family and go over the plan – practice! (Work out the kinks.)
- **UPDATE EVERY 6 MONTHS TO MAKE SURE STILL VALID**

## GET TO KNOW NEIGHBORS

- Have a block party – make a map and draw a square for your house and put name, phone number. Then send it out to all in that area of the neighborhood.
- Wine Wednesday – same as above – make map of who is on your street get their phone numbers.
- Walk the dog or just walk for pleasure and talk to people.
- **FIND OUT WHO CANNOT EVACUATE** in your area of the neighborhood so you can help them.

## GO BAG

- Should have one for each member of the family and each car
- 3-day supply of food and water
- Evacuation map and contact list
- Prescriptions/eyeglasses
- Toothpaste, deodorant, personal items, sanitation supplies
- Extra keys, credit cards, cash (small bills), copies of important documents
- Change of clothes, shoes, blanket, maybe some comfy clothes, comfort item for child.
- Flashlight, radio, extra batteries, swiss army knife
- Masks and bandanas (assists breathing in smoky air)
- Pet supplies
- Notebook/note pad, pen – can leave notes (like if you take someone's cat for safety), or put note with your phone numbers on car for identification, etc.
- Duct tape
- Copy of important papers, put on a thumb drive to have access (keep in purse)
- Car "go bag" should not have sensitive security information

## FIRST AID KIT

- Bandages
- Antibiotic ointment
- Antiseptic wipes
- Tweezers
- Cold compress
- Gloves
- Gauze pads and roller bandages
- Thermometer
- Specialty supplies for you and your family (things like diabetes, etc.)

## IF TIME ALLOWS (Emergency Grab Bag List):

- Make list of what you want to take if time allows before evacuation.
- Easily carried valuables
- Photos
- PC or hard drive
- Chargers
- Put the list in your Go Bag and also **tape it to inside of highly used cabinet** – post the list in the cabinet that has your sugar for coffee so see it every am. Check and update the list as you think of things.

## PRE-EVACUATION STEPS – IF TIME ALLOWS – INDOORS

- Shut all windows and doors
- Shut off gas and AC
- Leave porch light on
- Close blinds and curtains

## PRE-EVACUATION STEPS – IF TIME ALLOWS – OUTDOORS

- Locate your animals and check your neighbors – should be #1
- Put flammable items, patio furniture, etc. inside the house
- Turn off propane tanks
- Move BBQ away from structures
- Connect garden hoses, leave sprinklers off

## WHEN IT IS TIME TO LEAVE

- Review your evacuation plan checklist
- Make sure your emergency kit is in your vehicle
- Cover up to protect yourself from embers
- **Don't wait for an evacuation order – if you feel threatened leave!**
- Know how to get your auto garage door open if power is out

## HOW TO PACK YOUR CAR

- Think about the items that you will be taking and how they will fit into your vehicle.
- **Practice and take a picture.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION shared by Mike Mathiesen, Battalion Chief, Cal Fire Alma Station

### PREATTACK PLAN

- East Lexington Plan – to suppress fire – map and instructions given to Strike Teams that come into our area to support during a wildfire.
- **IF WE DO NOT HAVE DEFENSIBLE SPACE IN THE PARK, THE STRIKE TEAMS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAY AND DEFEND THE PARK.**
- **WE ARE ONLY AS SAFE AS OUR NEIGHBORS' DEFENSIBLE SPACE PLAN!!!**
- Our emergency responders are Santa Clara County E84 (Redwood Estates) (local), and CalFire (state), Alma Station, Burrell Station, Saratoga Summit Station, and Stevens Creek Station. CalFire is in charge of watershed protection.
- The East Lexington Plan maps are for Chemeketa Park, Aldercroft Heights, Soda Springs, and the other side of 17.
- We are on a north slope with heavy redwood canopy, that's good.
- House fire will probably be the start of a major fire in our community.
- Cars parked in the roadway will hinder an emergency response.

### SHELTER IN PLACE

- If fire is too swift and you cannot leave, you will have to shelter in place.
- **THE ABOVE DEFENSIBLE SPACE ROUTE FOR YOUR PROPERTY WILL BE PARAMOUNT IN SAVING YOUR LIFE.**
- Cleaned gutters
- Leaves and litter removed from roof
- Type of roof will make a difference – wood shake roofs will catch fire quickly
- Close all curtains, etc. to keep as much heat out as possible.
- Close off vents to keep smoke and heat out.