

Old Oak Way Firewise/Neighborhood Watch Education Meeting June 2, 2022
13340 Old Oak Way

(The Steering Committee of Firewise Old Oak Way decided to incorporate Neighborhood Watch into its activities at its February 2, 2022, Steering Committee meeting.)

The June 2, 2022, meeting was a joint Neighborhood Watch and Firewise Education meeting. The meeting began with a presentation by Captain Rich Urena from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's office. The handout from that presentation is available [here](#). Also available at the meeting was the brochure "Crime Prevention Guide" available [here](#) and a tote bag with the Sheriff Department logo (the officer suggested leaving it on the back seat of your car with the Sheriff logo visible.)

The crime rate is up slightly in the first 4 months of 2022, but down overall over the past several years. There has been no burglary activity reported in our neighborhood this year. The pattern of home burglary activity is highest on Fridays and in the evening. Recent burglaries have followed the pattern of ringing the doorbell to make sure no one is at home, breaking a second-floor window for entry (to avoid alarms), and stealing only from the Master Bedroom. Portable safes are a common target.

Several questions were asked and answered. Any suspicious activity should be reported to 911. Non-emergencies can be reported at 408-299-2311.

The Firewise training focused on the 5 major thrusts of our multi-year Firewise action plan: Education, Defensible Space, Road Safety, Emergency Evacuation and Membership. The handout is posted [here](#). The many helpful documents on fire safety were emphasized and can be found [here](#).

An emergency evacuation plan has been developed if the exit via Pierce Road is blocked. That plan calls for parking cars on the lawn at 13330 Old Oak Way (Cargill residence) and, if required, exiting by foot to the Garrod Farms pasture and/or vineyard. This is illustrated [here](#).

There is a wealth of information at our web site, OldOakWay.info including sign up for membership and for Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) inspections, minutes and materials from this and past meetings and more than 15 key Firewise documents. We encourage you to explore this site.

The next neighborhood wide meeting will be in the Fall, probably in September, and will be the annual Neighborhood Party with a focus on membership recruiting. The Steering Committee will meet in August to prepare for this party.

Dave House
Firewise Steering Committee Chair

Jim Cargill
Neighborhood Watch Committee Chair