



Old Oak Way

January 18, 2021

Firewise Steering Committee,

Evacuation Planning: Several members of the SouthBay-Firewise-Partners (Chapters) have updated or developed Evacuation Plans following the August CZU fire west of Skyline Boulevard and have told stories of the importance of developing an Evacuation Plan. This should be a 2021 project for us. Jim Cargill will renew discussions with Jan and Emma Garrod about completing an emergency car exit to/from Garrod Road from the top of our hill which will greatly help emergency exiting in the case of fire blocking Old Oak Way or Pierce Road.

We discussed the problem of alerting neighbors in an emergency. Text messaging can be explored but depends on cell coverage, which is not reliable in the best of times in some locations. Land line telephones are not always available, many neighbors get packaged internet and phone lines from Comcast and when the power goes out, neither are available. Devi will investigate warning systems that can operate without power or cell coverage, such as sirens. The fall back at this point is a car horn signaling SOS while driving up and down the street. We agreed that Evacuation Planning is a good topic for the planned May 26 Members meeting. Dave House and Linda (and Bob) Binkley will contact Eugenia at FireSafe/Santa Clara County Fire about delivering their course on Evacuation Planning at our May 26 member meeting.

We also need to develop a plan to make sure everyone, despite their age and physical abilities, can evacuate in case of an emergency. Other Firewise communities have developed “pods”, neighbor groups that look out for each other to assist in case of an evacuation. This is a future project for us.

HIZ Inspections. It is recommended that all home get a Hazardous Ignition Zone (HIZ) Inspection. These are arranged through Santa Clara, sign up here <https://sccfiresafe.org/forms/#1582217066163-70cf9c40-dcb5> Those of us who have done this have learned a lot and been able to make our homes more fire safe.

Street Fire and Traffic Improvements. Jim Cargill reported on street fire and traffic safety. Fire fuel has been removed from the north side of the street at the Habib property and on the inside of the big 180-degree curve (Fred Goodfellow and nearby properties), which also improved visibility and street safety. Dave House will follow up with John Cherbone on the cities commitment to make safety improvements on our street.

Dave House will follow up with Eugenia about getting SCC Fire to do a street fire inspection with us including Ge and/or Wilbert.

Curved (convex) traffic mirrors have been installed near the top of the hill across from Carl Rigg's driveway. This is an experiment to see if it slows down traffic at the blind corner and improves safety for the exit from Carl's driveway. If this is effective, there are other locations where we have dangerous driveways where safety could be improved with traffic mirrors. Neighborhood feedback is encouraged.

Membership. We have 17 out of 34 homes in our neighborhood signed up on our web site for Firewise membership (an 18th signed up during the meeting, thank you Paul). Several people who signed the sign in sheet at our neighborhood meetings probably think they are members, but they need to also officially signed up on our web site, OldOakWay.info. Stacey will compare the list from the website to the mailing list to see who still needs to officially register and contact them to encourage them to complete their registration. Registration is at <https://oldoakway.info/firewise-sign-up>.

Parker Ranch Firewise. The 4 houses on Chiquita Court (adjacent to House property) have joined our Firewise Community as they represent an important part of the fire path from open space to Old Oak Way and Pierce Road. Paul Porrini represents that group and has, at our request, asked Parker Ranch Homeowners Association about starting a Parker Ranch Firewise Community. We want to encourage this as it will provide more fire safety for us. Dave and Paul will work on advancing that plan and to improve the fire protection at the creek.

Future Meetings. The next committee meeting will be a Zoom meeting at **5 pm on Wednesday, March 24.**

The next full Firewise Community meeting will be at **5 pm on Wednesday, May 26.** That meeting will be held outside at Vineyard Point and will be an education

event focused on Evacuation Planning. Dave and Linda will work with Eugenia to have SCC Fire present the training on Evacuation Planning.

Dave House

Chair

Firewise Old Oak Way