

Firewise Old Oak Way Neighbors,

The Firewise Old Oak Way Steering Committee met on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 5 pm at the House Family Vineyards Deck. 15 Firewise members attended this meeting.

1. Firewise Training. On May 26 we completed a very successful and well attended training event focused on Evacuation Planning taught by Brad Hartzell of the SCCFD FireAlert Council. Our next training session is planned for the Spring of 2022. The committee will select a topic, possibly from those offered by SCCFD FireAlert.
2. Emergency Fire Access. Discussions continue with the Garrod Family about creating an automobile accessible emergency fire access route to Mount Eden Road from the top of Old Oak Way. Jim Cargill stated that an alternative route south of that path could easily be navigated. Meanwhile, if the exit at bottom of Old Oak Way is blocked by fire, neighbors should drive to the House property at the top of OOW where there is safe space to escape a fire and there is a foot path to Garrod and Mount Eden Roads if that is required.
3. Firewise National Recognition. While our focus has been on fire safety rather than national Firewise recognition, there are advantages to national recognition. That requires an action plan. A draft plan was submitted, and additions were recommended including creating/documenting an emergency buddy system, promoting HIZ inspections and developing a fire break plan at the interface of open space and the Chiquita Court members. Jim Cargill is leading the effort for national recognition.
4. Traffic Safety. With input from interested neighbors, Saratoga City Public Works generated a plan for traffic calming and traffic safety for Old Oak Way. That plan was reviewed by the Saratoga Traffic Safety Commission at their June meeting and approved at their July meeting. According to Saratoga Public works this work will be completed "this Summer".
5. A neighborhood party is planned for Thursday, September 9 from 5 to 8 pm. Everyone in the Old Oak Way Firewise neighborhood will be invited. Firewise information will be available and computers and paper Firewise signup will be available. Sign up will be encouraged for neighbors who have not formally joined. It was noted that some neighbors who have signed the sign in sheet at previous events may think they are members, but membership requires filling in the questionnaire at OldOakWay.info. House Family Vineyards will supply pizza and beverages of choice at the event. Stacy Baba, chair of the membership committee, is working with Dave House and others to plan this event.

The next meeting of the full Firewise OOW neighborhood will be the Firewise Pizza Party on September 9. The next meeting of the Firewise steering committee will tentatively be Wednesday, November 10 depending on the availability of Steering Committee members – to be confirmed.

Firewise members are BCC'ed on Firewise emails for privacy.

Dave House
Firewise OOW Committee Chair