

Firewise/Neighborhood Watch Old Oak Way Neighbors:

The Firewise/Neighborhood Watch Old Oak Way Steering Committee met at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 14 at 13340 Old Oak Way. In attendance were Dave House, Wilbert Lee, Linda Binkley, Bob Binkley, Stacy Baba and Jim Cargill. It was noted that, after a very wet winter, there is a lot of vegetation that will soon become dry and provide fuel for fire. Now is the time we need to prepare for what could be a very difficult fire season.

The agenda included 1) 2023 Education Event Planning 2) 2023 Neighborhood Party Planning 3) Old Oak Way Traffic Safety and 4) Emergency Evacuation.

Education Event. The 2023 Firewise Education Event is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 1 at 5:30 pm.** Dave House will work with the Education Committee Chairs, Linda and Bob Binkley, to locate a speaker and a topic for that event. An announcement will be distributed in the next few weeks. Please mark your calendar.

Neighborhood Party. The 2023 Neighborhood Party will be held at **5:30 pm on Wednesday, September 20.** It will be both a FireWise and a Neighborhood Watch event and will primarily be a social gathering where neighbors get to know neighbors. Please mark your calendar.

Old Oak Way Safety. This is primarily a Neighborhood Watch topic and is of primary interest to a subset of the larger Firewise Old Oak Way community. Discussion was led by Jim Cargill who leads the Neighborhood Watch neighborhood activity. The concern expressed by neighbors is largely about speed in the “straight stretch” between 13463 and 135598 Old Oak Way with concern also expressed about the speeds between 13382 and 13340 Old Oak Way. There was discussion about various forms of “traffic calming” (a city term for slowing traffic). Jim Cargill will invite a subgroup from the Old Oak Way neighbors to further discuss how we might work with City Traffic to increase safety on Old Oak Way.

Emergency Evacuation. There are several acts of nature that could block exit from the homes in our neighborhood, including fire on Pierce Road or Old Oak Way, falling trees blocking exit (as recently happened at 13341), road subsidence (sliding away), etc. We currently have an emergency exit plan on the OldOakWay.info web site that calls for parking at the property at the top of the hill (13336) and walking to the Garrod pasture and to safety. A plan was discussed that might provide emergency (only) automobile access to Mount Eden Road via Garrod Road.

Dave House

Steering Committee Chair