



Old Oak Way

March 24, 2021

Firewise Old Oak Way Community,

On Wednesday, **May 26 at 5 PM** our neighborhood wide Firewise meeting will focus on Fire Evacuation. You will be receiving more details about that meeting in early May.

Your Firewise Steering Committee met on March 24. The following is a summary of the discussions at that meeting.

Fire Defense. Dave House and Paul Porrini reported.

The greatest risk of a firestorm comes from the Santa Cruz Mountains east of Skyline Drive and would enter our neighborhood from the Open Space to our north and west. Vineyards (Garrod and House) provide good firebreaks, but paths exist between those two vineyards and along the creek to our north next to Parker Ranch. Paul Porrini (Chiquita Court) will schedule a meeting of the four member houses on Chiquita Court where fire defense will be discussed. Steps are needed to stop a firestorm at that point. Dave House and Jim Cargill are developing plans to stop a firestorm proceeding between the Garrod and House vineyards.

There is also danger of a firestorm coming up or down the creek along Pierce Road and the houses closer to Pierce are especially vulnerable to that path, especially given the growth of mature trees in that area of Old Oak Way. Jim Cargill reported on an agreement with Garrod Farms to create an emergency exit road at the top of Old Oak Way leading to Garrod Road in the event of a fire blocking exit to Peirce Road.

Fire Alert Systems. Devi Kamdar and Jim Cargill reported.

In the event of a firestorm, we will need to alert all residents in our neighborhood. Devi and Jim have researched applications, text and phone trees, sirens and pod/buddy systems to alert neighbors. Grace Cargill will fulfill her high school community service requirements by approaching neighbors to get contact information. While doing that, she will inform neighbors who have not joined our Firewise Community the advantages of doing so. We now have 18 members out of 30 neighbors, we need 12 more neighbors to register as Firewise Community members.

Traffic Safety. Dave House and Jim Cargill reported.

The committee has worked with Santa Clara Fire and the City of Saratoga on removing fuel from the roadside. This has improved not only fire safety but also traffic safety by improving sight lines on curves. Sight lines have also been improved left of the stop sign at Pierce Road to provide visibility of cars traveling at high speed around the corner on Pierce Road. The City has agreed to additional safety improvements to reduce speed, mark hidden driveways and repair the road in areas that cause cars to swerve towards the center of the road in areas with poor visibility. The City has scheduled a meeting of the Saratoga Traffic Safety Commission on May 13 to review requests for traffic safety improvements on Old Oak Way. Anyone interested in participating should email Dave@DaveHouse.com. We will want good neighborhood representation at that Traffic Safety meeting.

Fire Safety Training. Bob Binkley reported for Linda Binkley.

The next Firewise Community training will be on May 26 at 5 pm. Zoom and health department approved in person attendance are planned. Our 2021 Community Training will be presented by Santa Clara FireSafe Council staff (same as last year) and will focus on Fire Storm Evacuation planning. This training will be promoted with communication to the neighborhood several weeks in advance. Please put it on your calendar now and plan on attending.

Membership. Stacey Baba and Jim Vokac reporting.

The FireSafe Council had complimented us for signing up more than half of our eligible membership in our first year (18 of 30 homes). We have had 2 new members sign up in March. We will work on improving this number by our May 24 meeting. Some neighbors who signed the sign in sheet in 2020 may think they signed up as members but everyone must to go to <https://oldoakway.info/firewise-sign-up> to register and be recognized by the Santa Clara Fire Department

Fire Insurance. Dave House Reporting.

A number of us have had our fire insurance revoked. We will add a section on the OldOakWay.info website for recommended fire insurance agents. See below for more information on Fire Insurance.

Wildfire Preparedness. See attached.

Santa Clara County Fire is sponsoring separate webinars in April and May on 1) Fire Insurance and 2) Wildfire Readiness. See the attached flyer for the dates and details. We encourage you to attend the webinars on one or both of these topics.

We look forward to seeing everyone on **May 24** for our next meeting of the whole Firewise Neighborhood.

Dave House
Chair
Firewise Old Oak Way