

**CAMBRIA FIRE SAFE FOCUS GROUP
GENERAL MEETING MAY 22, 2014
CAMBRIA VETS' HALL & ZOOM**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Church, Marshall Hamilton, Joe Torres, Blake Fixler, Michael Thomas, David Pierson, Greg Alex, Baxter Boyington, Michael Burkey, Karin Argano, Kitty Connolly, Kathleen Toth, Debbie Hori, Roberta Vitols, Jeff Wilson, Cheryl McDowell, Chris Landgreen, Taylor Hilden

WELCOME: Dave Pierson called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. No introductions needed.

ALL RISK SHIELD: As President of All Risk Shield, Joe Torres presented a description of his company and the services he provides to homeowners. He is a former firefighter and he provides certificates for defensible spaces. He makes assessments, offers services, gives homeowners priorities for home hardening, e.g., install 1/16th inch flame-resistant mesh over vents, remove combustibles (brush clearance, vegetation maintenance). He sends a letter to the homeowner and to the insurance carrier. He said that there are some bills in Sacramento providing incentives for carriers to underwrite home hardening. People with wood fencing can utilize a Class A retardant, such as Flame Check or Flame Stop. The average cost is between \$3000 to \$5000.

Torres is also hired by some carriers to do ground assessments with more specificity than the home inspections that CalFire does. He forwards the assessment to the carrier and shares it with the homeowner.

Jeff Smith noted that there are a lot of choices for home hardening. Chief Burkey suggested that the homeowner start with their carrier and find out what their priorities are. Carriers may be waiting for regulations to be revised in Sacramento before they decide what to do next.

GRANTS UPDATE: Dave Pierson reported that Dan Turner (FSC) has not heard about the fuel reduction grants he submitted. He does have confirmation of the Forest Health grant of \$6.7 million as well as the PG&E grants.

Karin Argano reported that Greenspace has a grant to do work in Strawberry Canyon. Spencer Gordon reported that the work on Rancho Marino is complete and crews are moving on to Camp Ocean Pines.

R&I COMMITTEE: The R&I committee of the CCSO had a presentation by the U.S. Forest Service regarding aid for excess fuels: chipping piles, etc. They discussed the COGEN unit designed and produced by All Power Systems. Currently they are working machines. They propose to install it at the wastewater treatment plant.

Karin Argano is using Bio-Char machines to take care of chips in Strawberry Canyon.

CHIPPING DAY: We are still awaiting a date for a chipping event from Bob Putney.

POSTER CONTEST: Roberta Vitols reported on the status of the poster contest. She thanked Chris Landgreen and Joyce Renshaw for their hard work on the committee. There were eight winners from the poster contest and their posters as well as the 4 ft. by 8 ft. posters were on display at the Wildfire Preparedness Day Town Hall on May 11. Suzette Morrow introduced her students and their work to the audience and shared information about the process she laid out for them. A reporter from KSBY interviewed some students. However, she was unable to accommodate a Spanish-speaking winner. The winners are Liliana Cisneros, Alexandra Katsanes, Flor Akabi Peay, Derek Quintero, Catherine Mercado, Carlos Chavez, Marisol Pena, Diego Alvarez Puerto.

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS DAY ASSESSMENT: Everyone present contributed to the discussion: The speakers were great, the progression from one to the other was well laid out, the recording was well done, closing the doors to the smaller room reduced background noise during the presentations. There were concerns about flow from one speaker to the next: 1) The moderator might benefit from another person up front to field questions, help with the raffle, fill gaps from one speaker to the next; 2) questions from the audience tended to interrupt the flow and resulted in some people leaving between speakers. The entire program may be too long, the raffle needs some re-thinking as to when/how/who and the simulation demonstration might have been more effective if introduced earlier in the program. There were a sizeable number of first timers in attendance, suggesting broad interest in these subjects.

INSURANCE INFORMATION WEBSITE: Both Jeff Wilson and Dave Pierson presented updates on the issue of homeowner insurance. It appears to be a nation-wide problem. Governor Newsom has concerns as well.

HOUSE NUMBERS: Dave reported that he would like to get funding to underwrite a campaign to promote the importance of house numbers in Cambria.

FIREFIGHTERS' EVENT: Debbie Hori reported that she has formulated her committee and they are excited to be working on this project. They are reviewing possible venues and plan to hold a live auction, a silent auction, dinner or appetizers. They are proposing May 3rd as the date. Ideally they need 100 paid attendees @ \$125.00 per person. They still have matters to explore including insurance, advertising, sponsors, and big-ticket donors.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM. The next meeting is June 26th.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Vitols