

## **Sierra Springs Owners Association Annual Meeting 6/22/2019**

### **Comments from Chief Lloyd Ogan, El Dorado County Fire Protection District:**

Chief Ogan has over 33 years experience – most serving with the Sacramento City Fire Dept

We have 6 staffed fire stations. Our District is approximately 300 square miles. However, we have initial first response criteria for approximately 300 square miles of National Forest which means that we have a total response area of 600 square miles. Approximate area boundaries: (West) Cameron Park to (East) Camp Sacramento / (South) Pleasant Valley to (North) Cool

Automatic Aid System – All County fire departments are dispatched by a single dispatch agency and we share a dropped boundary agreement. This means that the closest unit to the incident responds regardless of jurisdiction.

Current staffing of fire engines averages 2 firefighters per engine – but 3-4 are needed

The Bad News – “we live in a forest” – But that’s likely why many of us moved up here.

Paradise was a ‘Centennial Event’ a perfect combination for fire – abundant dry fuel and high east dry winds – it only took was one spark to ignite the fire. It spread so quickly, that even if they were able to send in more firefighters – it likely would not have helped much.

### **#1 Take-away from this meeting = When you get the word to evacuate... GO!**

If you don’t already have the **CODE RED** app loaded on your phone – **DO IT TODAY!**

This app works even when cell towers are not working well – emergency backup power is used to send text messages to subscribers via the CODE RED app.

If you smell smoke – trust your feelings – LEAVE!

Have a PLAN - Prepare - valuables, backup your computer files, collect important documents – birth certificates, insurance paperwork, etc. - have them ready to go!

PG&E is sending out a nice “PLAN” pamphlet to help guide you on what to stock up and have ready to go.

Know all multiple routes - In and Out of the neighborhood – not just the main roads.

Go EAST if the fire is WEST of you (most likely) don’t head toward the fire!!!

Consider Mormon Immigrant route to HWY 88 – head East to Tahoe (if the fire is west)

Police and Sheriff Departments are responsible for Evacuations – NOT Fire Teams

Conversations with Insurance Commissioner are being had on a regular basis to discuss concerns about our situation (ISO ratings, response times, etc.) The Chief will be touring the County (including SSOA) to demonstrate the diligent cleanup work being done here. He is very pleased with the steps our neighborhood has accomplished and thanked us and the SSRFSC for their efforts. We are setting a great example for other neighborhoods to follow!

ISO Ratings are only one criterion that insurance companies use to determine rates for home fire insurance. ISO Ratings are reviewed every 5 years – it has been 4 years since the last review was done. Sierra Springs is rated a 10W high risk area (W = good water access – helps our rating)

He noted that most **Sierra Springs Drive** properties with a street address of **4700 or lower** ARE within the ‘5 mile circle’ of a manned fire station – so if you are in that area and your insurance company says you’re not - contact EDC (4040 Carson Rd) and they will provide you a letter to give to your insurance company.

Fire Stations 19 and 17 both have a good rate of response times and the **US Forestry Fire Station** on Sly Park Rd has 2 fire engines as well. He is trying to convince the Commissioner this station should be considered a ‘Manned’ Fire Station as well, since it is open during the entire Fire Season. He’s making progress with that.

Station 18 was a volunteer only station and is not likely to be re-opened due to extreme costs.

**Financial data shared with the group:**

In 2011-2012 the EDC Fire District was nearly bankrupt <\$1.6MM> under funded. They were forced to reduce the number fire engines and ambulances, and Firefighters took a 25% pay / benefit cut. They have had no increases for the past 10 years!

**He asked us to please show our support for our Firefighters and vote YES on Measure B on election day August 27<sup>th</sup>**

- ***Better Prepared - More Firefighters on duty - ready to respond***
- ***Better Equipment - Better resources to fight wildfires***
- ***Better Protection - More Paramedics and advanced medical care***