



CASCADEL FIREWISE BRIGADE

ANNUAL FIREWISE COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL WILDFIRE PREVENTION MEETING and BBQ POTLUCK MAY 4, 2019 CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS

The meeting began with a “Thank You” to the Firewise Brigade for their selfless time in volunteering to keep the easements cleared of high grasses and other debris and a huge “Thank You” to all present for their work on their private property in making defensible space around their homes. All this work keeps Cascadel Woods defensible during a wildfire.

We had 38 people in attendance this year. Residents from Cascadel Heights and Autumn Ridge Way Road were present as well.

We heard from Madera County Sheriff's, Citizens On Patrol (COPS), who started us off. We were informed regarding the MC Alert – Emergency Warning System, and reminded to sign up and to let any renters know about this program so they too will be in the know. There were several other programs introduced to the residents.

- C.O.P.S. - <https://www.maderacounty.com/government/sheriff/citizens-on-patrol-cops>
- Search & Rescue - <https://www.maderacounty.com/government/sheriff/search-rescue>
- MC Alert System - <https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387831894#/login>
- Elder Orphan Program - <https://www.maderacounty.com/government/sheriff/elder-orphans-program>

United States Forest Service presented some great maps showing the different areas around us that have endured wildfires over the past four years and the major concerns USFS are working on this year, including fuel breaks, to keep us more defensible in the event of another wildfire in this area.

CAL Fire Rancheria Station personnel as well as Engine 4255 were present. Residents' questions were answered. We were most grateful for their attendance.

CAL Fire representatives Simon Elman and Steve Knight were present to discuss the proper use and correct type of household fire extinguishers. A few key points that warrant repeating are:

- 1) periodically check the gauge on your extinguisher(s) to make sure it has a full charge as it tends to lose its charge over time;
- 2) shake the tank vigorously before use as the retardant tends to settle at bottom over time;
- 3) it's probably cheaper to replace a home extinguisher versus paying to have it recharged, if it can even be recharged.

Simon and Steve held a competition to see who could get the fastest time on putting out a fire on their electronic fire simulation/fire extinguisher practice machine. Everyone had some fun while learning how to use the fire extinguisher, adults and older children alike. Small gifts were presented to the top two adults with the lowest timed scores and the children were given a small token for actively listening to the things they need to do in the event they happen to spot a fire.

Thanks to Ken Wood for the awesome ribs and to Brian Curtis for doing the cooking on the grill provided by the Begley's. Bob and Sheila have donated the BBQ grill to Brian and Cindy for the community's use. Thank you so much Bob and Sheila.

The raffle for 20 hours of free labor to assist in firesafing a private property was won by Kitty Williams. She asked that we perform the work hours on Kristen Fry's property. Your donations came to \$300 for the Firewise Brigade. Many thanks for your generosity!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME OUT TO ENJOY OUR ANNUAL EVENT!



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