



# CASCADEL FIRE WISE / BRIGADE

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September 17, 2017 MINUTES of MEETING and Tour of Mission Fire Areas

The Cascadel Firewise Brigade met at the Clubhouse on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

The special meeting was held to tour the areas where the Mission Fire crept into Cascadel Woods.

The residents were invited to attend this meeting to see for their selves how their support has helped the Brigade to keep the wild fire fuels to a minimum in many areas of the subdivision. We had 11 residents show up for the tour and 5 Brigade members were present.

The tour was led by the Training Leader, Brian Curtis.

We began at the fire hydrant in front of the Clubhouse and discussed the shelter in place. Brian informed us all why the Fire Boxes are kept under lock down. It is so no person which is not a qualified operator can be permitted to hook a hose to the hydrant and cause damage to themselves, the hydrant and/or the entire water system and creating the scenario where we would not be able to fight the fire at all.

The tour moved to the Red Barn on Cascadel Road where we saw how the reduction of fuels allowed the fire crews to defend the area before the fire took the Structure. This area is flat and the trees had been trimmed up and ladder fuels cut to the ground.

We moved on to Loma Linda Lane to view the area where the fire crossed Autumn Ridge Road onto Forest Service that butted up to private property inside Cascadel Woods. The private properties had been cleared to the ground and raked the debris into their burn pile. Their trees had been limbed up nicely. The Forest Service land had not been cleared as well so it did burn. The fire crews were able to cut down many small trees to prevent crowning of the fire in this area onto private land. One home up on Autumn Ridge did have damage to one out building due to their split log pile being next to this building. The fire took another out building on this property and everything inside the remaining damaged out building. The house was saved. The owner had removed most of her dead trees and cleared her property. Her downfall was where she kept her wood pile during the active fire season. It should not be kept next to any building during this time.

There were two other homes which were threatened as well in this area. Due to both owners clearing of the dead trees and the clearing of ladder fuels their properties were defendable.

The tour moved on to Mr. Morgan's property outside Cascadel to view how the fire managed to take his home. Brian explained how the fire came across 233 and into the Forestland ravine, below Mr. Morgan's property. There the fire gained power due to the mass of fuels, creating its own wind and increasing its force causing the fire to climb the hillside of the Forest land and took his house. The fire was unstoppable at this time.

The tour ended with everyone feeling glad they came.

The next Brigade Training Day will be October 21. Time will be 10:00AM unless notified otherwise.

Minutes by Carol Eggink  
September 20, 2017