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CASCADEL WOODS FIREWISE PLAN



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Submitted by Cascadel Firewise Committee 1/22/14 updated 01/20/2022

CMWC President - Stan Eggink

Fire Brigade Chair - Carol Eggink 559-877-6290

Purpose

This document has two purposes. The first is to familiarize residents with the actions they should take in the event of a fire emergency. The second is to let residents and property owners know what actions are being taken to improve fire safety conditions in our area.

A brief description of our area

In general our area includes the 480 acre block of private property surrounded by National Forest Lands. Cascadel Woods is currently the #1 at risk community for catastrophic wild fire as specified in the Madera County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) page 103. The Plan was adopted by the Madera County Supervisors in 2008 and can be found at this link: <https://firewisemaderacounty.org/madera-county-community-wildfire-protection-plan> . Click on the link at the bottom of the page.

General Landscape

Cascadel is surrounded by public lands which are managed by the US Forest Service (USFS). Cascadel is classified as a State Responsibility Area (SRA) with primary fire protection responsibility assigned to CAL Fire by the State of California. Mutual and automatic aid, are also provided by the Madera County Fire Department and USFS (summer only).

General Outline

1. Emergency Fire Notification (911)
2. Evacuation Plan – Road access both in and out.
3. Safe Haven Fire Shelter/Safety Zone (Cascadel Clubhouse and surrounding meadows).
4. Fire Protection –28 Hydrants, Water Storage, Six stationary Fire Boxes containing at least 300 ft of hose and related equipment placed throughout the community for initial response on a fire before CAL Fire arrives.
5. Hazard removal – Privately owned land, road side and fire break brush clearance.
6. CAL Fire inspections – Notices, citations and enforcement.
7. Fire Brigade – Training and volunteer work around the community and private property as requested.
8. Community Outreach and Education – The Woods monthly newsletter, The Cascadel website – [www.http://cascadelinternet.com](http://cascadelinternet.com) and two Facebook pages - <https://www.facebook.com/cascadelwoodscommunity/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/797742927443851>
9. Keep evacuated residents updated daily on conditions in the community if personnel have remained to maintain the water system for the emergency firefighting equipment through the Cascadel Woods Facebook Group and Facebook Page.

ACTION

1. **Emergency Fire Notification.** Notification of a fire emergency should always begin with a call to 911. This will cause a wide variety of responses including Fire Department/CAL Fire, Law Enforcement and Paramedic/Ambulance. Residents are strongly urged to register with MC Alert at www.mcalert.org. You can sign up the entire family to be notified on all devices and phones.

2. **Evacuation Plan.** In the event of fire, residents are urged to evacuate as soon as you receive the call from MCAAlert (Madera County Alert) or when emergency personnel direct them to do so. The Cascadel Woods Mutual Water Company (CMWC) will maintain roads to a fire safe standard (see item 5) for traffic to include emergency vehicles and residents. Roads in the community will be clearly posted with relevant information.
3. **Safe Haven Fire Shelter/Safety Zone.** This area will only be used if attempts to evacuate fail and/or residents are directed to do so by emergency personnel. This area is the Cascadel Clubhouse and adjacent meadows. The meadow will be mowed to a length of 3 inches or less after drying. The trees will be trimmed to 8' above ground level and all existing ladder fuels capable of igniting trees will be thinned and trimmed to existing fire codes and Heliport standards. Heliport standards to be maintained in the winter to facilitate other emergencies.
4. **Fire Protection.** Hydrants to be maintained by S&S Water Services. Expand water storage to at least 200,000 gallons (as a long term goal and as funding permits). Provide Fire boxes and equipment for Safe Haven Fire Shelter areas and throughout the community. Hose cabinets should contain a minimum of 300' of fire hose along with spanner wrench, hose/hydrant reducer, a hydrant wye, McLeod (a fire fighting rake/hoe), Pulaski (axe), hydrant wrench, nozzles & gaskets, spade, first aid kit, box of plastic gloves, and fire extinguisher.
5. **Hazard removal.** Promote fuel reduction using federal grants, the Firewise Brigade, and volunteers. Road standards will include weed whacking all easements not done by property owners. Trees within the easements to be limbed up to allow traffic clearance. General chipping days will be for the community during the year and as needed if there are unforeseen events causing fallen trees to block roads.
6. **CAL Fire/California Department of Forestry Inspections.** Violations and warning reports may be issued for any property not in compliance with existing state fire codes by the governing state agency. If the property owner is advised of a hazardous condition they are encouraged to take the appropriate action to alleviate the hazard. The governing state agency will be responsible for the enforcement of all laws regarding fire hazards. CAL Fire does not have the resources to inspect 100% of the properties in a given response area each year and rotates target areas annually so some years may not include Cascadel.
7. **Fire Brigade training and equipment.** Training to include the use of hydrants and hose as well as other fire suppression techniques. Training should also include traffic control and the identification and reporting of fire hazards. Training and operations of the Fire Brigade will be directed by a Brigade Captain to be chosen by a majority vote of the Brigade. Hand held radios will be provided by Brigade members at their own expense.
8. **CASCADEL WOODS FIREWISE USA COMMUNITY.** The Fire Brigade was a result of the need to suppress wildfire vegetation in our community. In 2010 the Brigade Captain of the time connected the community with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and we became a Firewise USA community. In order to remain a member in good standing with NFPA hours worked by residents and the Brigade are logged and reported to NFPA along with other meetings of the community on fire protection. We are funded fully through community donations. The direct and indirect benefits are numerous and valuable including potential homeowner discounts on insurance premiums for living in a community certified by the National Fire Protection Association as a FIREWISE USA Community.
9. **Community Outreach and Education.** Continued Education and Outreach to all property owners through multiple means including (but not limited to), website: [www.http:cascadelinternet.com](http://www.cascadelinternet.com) , two Facebook sites as listed in the GENERAL OUTLINE #8 on page one of this document. Reminders of good Firesafe items for in and around the home are in most of the newsletters. The Firewise Brigade can help you assess your home for areas that may need more attention. Annual meetings of the Firewise Brigade on fire safety will include local agencies such as CAL Fire, Citizens On Patrol (COPS), Forest Service Personnel, and Sheriff Department.

Primary Emergency Contact is 911

Secondary Emergency Contact Information

- Madera County Sheriff (Oakhurst Sub Station) (559) 658-2555 48267 Liberty Dr, Oakhurst, CA 93644
- CAL FIRE Madera Mariposa Merced Unit – Rancheria Station, Road 200, O'Neals, CA 93645 (559) 877-2322
- Sierra Ambulance Service – 40755 Winding Way, Oakhurst, CA 93644 (559) 642-0650
- CMWC Offices located at 57839 – F Road 225, North Fork (The Old Mill Site) 93643 (559) 877-2635

Approved by

Directors of the Cascadel Mutual Water Company
Cascadel Woods Fire Brigade Chairman Carol Eggink