



Board Meeting

Date 4/15/21

Location: Zoom Meeting

Call to order 6:04 PM

Quorum - yes

Attendees

Jack Roberts
Doug Compton
Lucy Bauer
Shelby Edwards
Luke Bagwell
Monte Poague
Jeff Ravage
Bonnie Smith
Patti Newman

Old Business:

- 1) Approval of minutes of prior board meeting
 - a. Delayed until changes suggested by Lucy have been incorporated.
- 2) Treasurer's Report
 - a. Approved
- 3) Evacuation Plans Workshop summary
 - a. Discussed notes for action items are attached.
- 4) SAFE285 town hall
 - a. Discussed, removing the traffic light at 43A and Hwy 285 has been delayed for further study.
- 5) Update on FEMA Grant
 - a. Jeff let us know that the grant will be awarded in June / July timeframe. We are getting good feedback on the grant application.
- 6) Update on Pond Project
 - a. Signed authorizations from:
 - i. Burland
 - ii. Elk Creek Highlands
 - iii. KZ Ranch (Miller Pond)
 - iv. Messer
 - v. Romer Ranch

- b. Mr. Britt is interested in participating but since his pond is decreed, he will have to wait until the undecreed ponds have been taken care of to determine if that can happen.
 - c. Next step is to engage the engineers to start the studies.
- 7) Congressman Joe Neguse Town Hall Meeting summary**
- a. There was about an hour of the meeting where input was provided from the public.
 - b. An additional townhall has been scheduled for 4/28 at 6PM. Invitations were emailed to all board members.

New Business:

- 1) Introductions – getting to know members.
- 2) May Planned communities
 - a) May 1st Wildfire preparedness day.
 - b) Email Blasts each week on topic. MITIGATION, INSURANCE, EVACUATION, SLASH REMOVAL, HOME HARDENING.
 - i) Board discussed using social media as well. Robin will send out the logo to the board to use.
 - ii) We can use some of these email blasts as the basis for articles in the Flume and Mountain Connection. Bonnie is looking for articles that were written in the past to re-use.
 - iii) Once the blast has been written send them to Robin who will apply some formatting to provide a recognizable look / branding
- 3) Bailey Days
 - a) We are going to have a booth in Zone 4 with games for children. I checked with Sheila and she has no problem with having the Centennial booth in the same area.
 - b) Planning sessions for Bailey day (June 19th) will be scheduled.
- 4) Dues question was asked, who has paid.
 - a) Have been paid by, Lucy Bauer, Burland, Woodside, Centennial and DCVR

Firewise Community Updates

- a. Elk Creek POA – Luke
 - i. Working with the Pond project and installing a dry hydrant when the weather permits
- b. Friendship Ranch – John S – Needs help with ideas for community engagement.
 - i. We discussed going door to door, wearing branded t-shirts. Robin and Luke both volunteered to go with. We could use some of the brochures that are going to be created by the Evacuation Planning Workshop sub-group.
- c. KZ Ranch – Tommy M
- d. Woodside – Monte
 - i. Going to be working on evacuation education
- e. DCVR – Robin
 - i. Looking to mitigate the ROW inside the neighborhood.
- f. Burland - Jack

- i. Burland is doing an awesome job of getting out evacuation information to the various neighborhoods in Burland.
- ii. They are working with the County on their areas of refuge to get them established and maintained. The ballpark and equestrian area are two of them. Another is on private property; the Deer Park Valley Ranch and they are writing a proposal to the owners.
- iii. They have scheduled several Saws and Slaws sessions through September.

Adjourn 7:45 PM

Attachments

Bailey Area Evacuation Planning Workshop

Action Items

GROUP ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEM 1: Create a working group (members from FAB, PCSO, PCFPD, PCSD, and Chamber) to create a Refuge Area master plan for all 4 evacuation zones. (slide 13)

ACTION ITEM 2: Create a working group (members from PCSO, PCFPD, and PCSD) to coordinate and game out solutions for school evacuation including scenarios where buses are in route. (slide 15)

ACTION ITEM 3: Create a working group (members from FAB, PCSO, PCFPD, and Road & Bridge) to create a plan for all 4 evacuation zones regarding alternate route priorities, development, and maintenance. for presentation to the BOCC. (slide 15)

Action Item 4: Develop a risk/action brochure (PCSO & FAB) that can be handed out to motorists at various critical roadways within the community. Possibly make it a message from the County Fire Marshall. (slide 36)

PCSO and/or PCFPD ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) Strategies regarding potential resource limitations and contraflow policies.
- 2) Strategies regarding resources and mutual aid required for 285 or other road closures.
- 3) Strategies regarding potential ICC locations
- 4) Strategies and policies regarding evacuation notifications
- 5) Policies regarding when and how to use potential alternate evacuation routes.
- 6) Overlapping jurisdictional issues (differing policies & protocols) with the ECFPD and JeffCo Sherriff's Office.
- 7) Development of potential fire location and direction trigger points for Mass Notification

Park County Emergency Communications ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) Embed PCFPD CWPP Evacuation Unit Polygons into our Code Red System
- 2) Provide the percentage of unique addresses that have signed up for Code Red in each Evacuation Unit. This will provide important intel for the PCSO or PCFPD when they trigger an evacuation call (i.e. how many homes can I expect to reach). This intel will also be used to target efforts to increase subscription rates.
- 3) Untapped opportunities
 - a. How can we better leverage social media?
 - b. How can leverage the full capability of our Ham Operators?
 - c. How can leverage area email & text lists?

Bailey Area Evacuation Planning Workshop - Notes

Objectives

- Understanding how we got here. “The Bailey Area Trifecta”
- Understanding our evacuation challenges
- Develop the outline of a plan and action items to improve our evacuation profile.
- “Plans are worthless, but planning is everything.” General Eisenhower

The Bailey Wildfire Trifecta

Development

As we subdivided our ranches and morphed into a metro Denver bedroom community, we greatly exceeded the capacity of our roadways for a safe evacuation.

Getting people to 285 is no bargain. It is still a two-lane road with poor survivability.

Policy

Over 100 years of active fire suppression have left our surrounding forest overgrown and primed for an extreme fire event.

Climate

warmer dryer Colorado climate has created a longer fire season with more intense and destructive fires.

Average Temperatures in CO increased 2F between 1977 and 2006 and are projected to increase another 2.5 – 6.5 degrees F by midcentury (Lukas et al. 2014)

We do not have an Evacuation Plan.

- We are currently a Paradise CA (Camp Fire) waiting to happen.
- We have not “gamed” out possible scenarios
- This Workshop is the event that begins that planning process.

Gaming Out Possible Wildfire Scenarios

- Large & Relatively Slow Moving – Think Snaking & Hi Meadow Fires
- High Severity and Fast Moving – Think Camp Fire (Paradise, CA)

Bailey's Evacuation Challenges

- Major Evacuation Zones
 - County Roadway Constraints
 - Clearing Times
 - 285 congestion
- Communication
- PCSO Capacity Issues
- Integrating PCSD into our Plans
- Populations at Risk
 - Seniors
 - Up to 50% adult population
 - Require more time/and planning to evacuate, especially with pets.
 - May not drive, so reliant on others.
 - Of the 85 official fatalities in the Camp Fire, 57 were over the age of 60. Another ~50 senior deaths in the weeks following have been attributed to secondary effects of the fire.
 - Disabled
 - Latchkey Kids
 - e.g., 75% of 8th graders and some of their siblings
 - None signed up for Code Red, so can't be notified directly.
 - Visitors / Campers / Hikers
 - Not signed up for Code Red
 - Will not know evacuation routes unless there is signage.

CR43

- ~2,500 Households
- One Evacuation Route
- ROW's need fuels treatment
- Poor Cell Coverage
- Refuge areas - Multiple
- Estimated Evacuation Clearing Time > 5-Hours.
- Water Sources for Suppression – Excellent
- DCES & Bus Barn w/ Above Ground Fuel Tank

Areas of Refuge

- HP Dry Pond
- HP Stables
- Elk Creek Stables & Pond
- KZ Ranch Pasture Areas
- Romer Ranch at Hangman Pond
- Park County Open Space (future)
- Tomahawk Ranch

- Need an area for Friendship Ranch neighborhood

CR43 Possible Alternate Emergency Evacuation Routes

- Forest Road through Magness Ranch to Woodside – only one that is possibly ready for use.
- Vigilante through Magness Ranch to Woodside
- Tapidero through Teachers Retreat to 285
- CR43 through Park County Open Space and Deer Valley Ranch to 285

Some CR43 Open Issues

- Resources required for:
 1. On the ground evacuation support
 2. Traffic Management
 3. Refuge area access, control, & management
 4. Locked Gates
- Contra Flow policies/options for CR43
- Refuge Area Development, Signage, & Maintenance
- Alternate Route Priorities, Development, & Maintenance
- DCES evacuation
- Explosive hazard at Bus Barn
- Loss of CR43A traffic light

Burland/Roland Valley

- ~1,500 Households
- Three Evacuation Routes
- CR72
- Roland Valley Drive
- Rosalie Drive/Sleepy Hollow Dr
- ROW's need fuels treatment
- Marginal Cell Coverage
- Refuge Areas – Limited in the North
- Estimated Evacuation Clearing Time < 3-Hours.
- Water Sources for Suppression – Poor

Burland/Roland Valley Community Areas of Refuge

- Ball Parks
- Horse Arena
- Burland Ponds
- Hi Meadow Burn Scar
- Deer Valley Park Association?

Burland/Roland Valley Alternate Evacuation Routes

- Kudu Rd through Deer Valley Park Assoc to 285
- Hi Meadow Dr to Holmes Gulch Rd to Holmes Gulch Way through Hi Meadow burn scar to 126???
- Old Hwy 285 to 285
- Foot path out of Burland Mountain to Park Subdivision

- Brookside Dr to Wisp Creek Ln to Wisp Creek Dr to Hwy 285 (through Will O Wisp Subdivision)

Burland/Roland Valley Open Issues

- Resources required for:
 - On the ground evacuation support
 - Traffic Management
 - Refuge area access, control, & management
- Contra Flow policies/options for CR72, Roland Valley Dr, & Rosalie Road
- Refuge Area Development, signage, & Maintenance
- Alternate Route Priorities, Development, & Maintenance
- Mount Bailey Communication Tower
- Bailey Mtn Subdivision evacuation

Woodside

- ~500 Households
- Two Evacuation Routes
- Factoring in Nova Rd to Parker Ave thru Jeffco
- Cell Coverage – Better
- Refuge Areas – some
- Estimated Evacuation Clearing Time - < 2-Hours.
- Complicated by overlapping jurisdictions.
- Water Sources for Suppression - Good

Woodside Community Areas of Refuge

- Magness Ranch
- Woodside Equestrian Center
- Lions Head Ranch

Woodside Alternate Evacuation Routes

- Mt Evans Blvd through Magness Ranch to Forest Drive
 - Forest Drive needs mitigation.
- Nova Rd to Spirit Rd through Magness Ranch to Vigilante Rd

Woodside Open Issues

- Coordination with ECFPD and Jeffco Sherriff
- Resources required for:
 - On the ground evacuation support
 - Traffic Management
 - Refuge area access, control, & management
- Contra Flow policies/options for Mt Evans Blvd & Nova Rd
- Refuge Area Development, signage, & Maintenance
- Alternate Route Priorities, Development, & Maintenance

Platte Canyon (Lost Acres to Grant)

- ~500 Households
- Multiple Evacuation Routes to 285 & CR68
- Cell Coverage – Poor
- Refuge Areas – some

- Estimated Evacuation Clearing Time - < 1-Hour.
- Water Sources for Suppression – Good

Platte Canyon Refuge Areas

- PCHS parking lots & football field
- CR68 adjacent meadow land in Estabrook
- Echo Valley Ranch - CR70
- Boxwood Gulch & Long Meadow Ranch – Hwy 285 Trailhead

Platte Canyon Open Issues

- Coordination with PCSD
- Commercial Propane Tanks
- Bailey Commercial District
- Possible gridlock on 285

Regional Issues

- Contra Flow strategies for 285 & CR68
- Possible 285 Road closures @ Fairplay & Richmond Hill
- Resources, signage, & mutual aid required for above.
- Areas of refuge adjacent to 285

Communication

Infrastructure

- Line lines
- May be lost due to fire and/or call volume.
- Cell Towers
- Limited bandwidth. Call volume during event will limit us to text messages (at best)
- Radio – Mount Bailey
- What is our backup if we lose Mount Bailey tower?
 - Bailey cell tower too hard to mitigate against wildfire - will likely be lost.
- Satellite phones?
- Incident Command may not be able to stay at original post if fire conditions change (San Jose wildfire).

Dispatch (911)

- Dispatch will be overwhelmed with 911 calls during a major event, and we may have poor or limited intel on the location, severity, and direction of the fire.
- You may be the last human voice someone hears before dying.
- What does this imply for policy? Training?
- Evaluations made on limited information if no aircraft up to monitor situation from air.
- Intelligence received dependent on notification by on-site personnel.

Evacuation Call Policy

- *Nearly every resident of Bailey should evacuate on the first notification!*

Mass Notification Systems – Code Red

- What is our current subscription rate?
- Can this be broken down by evacuation unit?
- Predetermined evacuation polygons (units) need to be preprogramed into the system.
- Use the system to alert the community regarding Red Flag days much like a storm warning or tornado watch.
- Should we consider an alternate like Everbridge?
- *“Opt-in systems do not work.”* – Santa Rosa Fire Chief
- On a multi-year contract - not pay-per-use
- Only sent out for evacuations once Incident Command calls for it.
- Quickly overwhelmed in emergency - texting more effective than phone call.

Mass Notification Systems – WEA

- Wireless Emergency Alert System
- Not Opt-in
- 90/360-character limit
- Embedded links?
- How & when do we use it?
- What do we say?
- Opt-out system - Amber Alert is part of it.
- Very specific federal criteria have to be met to use.
- Still subject to cell phone capacity - sent along as text with Code Red.
- Efficiency subject to bottlenecks in local infrastructure - with greater radius, outreach is slower.

Mass Notification Systems – Trigger Points

- Weather, fire behavior dependent
- Given our evacuation risk factors, how much do we error on the side of caution?
- Do we need a policy?
- Many residents do not have landlines anymore, and cell phones do not work in many areas.
- Terminology: National Incident Management Team has own terminology
- Critical for communications that personnel at all levels of operation and communication use standardized (NIMT) terminology. Citizens too.

Alternate Means of Communication

- Social Media
- PCSD Parent text option
- Firewise community email lists
- Platte Canyon Chamber email list
- Hi Decibel loudspeakers on deputy vehicles.
- “Use every means possible” (Camp Fire)
- Cellular on Wheels (“COW” and “Calf”?) on pick-up truck
- Ham Radio
 - 26 operators in county - in most small communities at least one
 - Can interface with social media outlets.

- Many analog and digital capabilities
- Sheriff/911 Center can call for assistance if cell tower lost.
- *Imeshyou/GoTenna* community-based radio option (<https://gotenna.com/pages/community-guidelines>)
 - No cell service needed, but must have “node” nearby to connect with
- Sirens
 - Consider Lake Tahoe approach - use “backward” sirens which become specifically associate with wildfire emergencies.
- My Mountain Town - Sharon T
 - Good social media site
 - Contact Gene Stanley (Park Co Emergency Manager) to help get info out.
- Signage to identify evacuation routes and when to use.

Community Education

- FAB has and will take an active role in community education.
- We will need to share the results of this workshop.
- Should we share PACE routes?
- How do we reach a broader x-section of residents?
 - Utilize existing organizations and businesses. For example, Churches, Clubs, HOAs, FIREWISE, Food Pantry, School District, Short-Term Rentals, Insurance Agents, Realtors, Local Stores, Chamber of Commerce. Develop a Welcome Wagon function to provide information to new residents.
 - Offer home assessments.
- What links/resources should we provide the community for official information during an event?
- What is a Red Flag Day and what actions should you be taking?

PCSD Policies and Wildfire Emergency Issues

- No representative (Mike S) at meeting
- Self-sufficient? - Plan to operate independently of Sheriff’s Office
- Have evacuation plan for wildfire in place?
- Let schools evacuate kids, not parents?

Communication

- Phone
- Text

Evacuation Policies

- Bus availability
- Smoke
- Reunification

DCES

- Most at risk
 - Surrounded by Forest.
 - Well mitigated
 - Wood framed and sided addition.
 - Co-located with Bus Barn.
 - Shelter in-place Options

Evacuation Options

- PCHS & FMS
 - Shelter in-place Options
 - Evacuation Options

The Top Three CWPP Priorities are ALL Evacuation Related

Priority One

Thinning treatments should be utilized on roadways with Evacuation Pinch Points in every neighborhood that has them. This is the most important due to the impact on life safety.

Priority Two

Shelter-in-Place [Community Areas of Refuge] locations should be improved in neighborhoods that currently have them and put into place where no current proposed location is. Shelter-in-Place locations give residents an emergency option and improves life safety, if executed to Shelter-In Place Treatment standards.

Priority Three

Evacuation Zones with High and Extreme Risk Ratings need Fire Protection District approved evacuation plans. Most of these zones have long evacuation times and fewer options for egress. Developing a Primary, Alternative, Contingency, and Emergency (PACE) plan in coordination with roadway mitigation is critical for residents of these neighborhoods.

General discussion Notes

Propane tanks

- If they explode, 2500ft radius is impacted.
- Relief valves should vent and mitigate this.
- If on fire, are contained and visible to emergency responders.

(Nb Commercial tanks downtown are now all-natural gas, not propane, so less of issue)

Areas of Refuge

- Mostly privately owned behind locked gates
- Limited by size - able to accommodate huge numbers of people AND vehicles?
- Ranchers reluctant to cut hay prematurely, so grass is wildfire hazard.
- NEPA restrictions on new Park Co open space property may prevent grazing/mowing.
- Never assume they represent a safe option.
- Add succinct signage (with owner permission) that can be folded down when not needed.
- Need signage identifying Areas of Refuge, access points, make all this clear that they are to be used ONLY if the Fire Protection District directs
- Would like to include the Deer Creek Wildlife Refuge as an area with possibility of egress on the 285 side of that property.
- Need to determine max occupancy for these areas, and if vehicles are permissible.

- Education on what to expect in an Area of Refuge, what you should bring / wear to survive.

Official Emergency Evacuation Center for Bailey

- Shawnee Community Center
- Too limited in size and location to be practical gathering place.
- Keep briefings during wildfire consistent - always at same time, same place.

Road Wardens

- Identify volunteers in each neighborhood who would be willing to help people know what to do in the event of an evacuation. This could be part of the FIREWISE organization, HOAs, POAs or just interested residents if there is no formal organization to champion.

Park County Emergency Preparedness Guide

- Incorporate new version into the communication package.

Jefferson Project

- Joe Burgett can provide more details on this project and how it impacts evacuation routes, fire breaks and general mitigation.

Volunteers

- The Sheriff's department has a posse. Can this be expanded to include volunteers willing to perform specific duties during a wildfire evacuation?

Videos

- Create short videos that provide information / education. Can feature the Fire Chief(s), Can make this entertaining by including the Regulators.

Public Briefings

- Regular and predictable. Well know location / broadcast so it is easily found.

Action items

1. Incorporate CWPP polygons into Dispatch database so evacuation notifications can be very targeted. Name each polygon for easy identification.
2. Determine what percent of each residential area is enrolled in Code Red so we know who to target for promotion. Possibly use a prize to encourage enrollment.
3. Coordinate with Jeffco about overlapping county polygons and potential areas of refuge in Woodside area.
4. Set dates for "roadblocks" at entry to major evacuation zones.
 1. Operate at start of wildfire season (late spring?)
 2. Target separate subdivisions over several days
5. Form sub-committee to produce "Wildfire Prepared" type brochure to be handed out to returning residents at roadblocks. Possible funding from BOCC.
6. Set out Fire Ban road signs in wildfire season when available.
7. Install more electronic signs over highway/major roads (wish list?)
8. Identify "Road Wardens" to be point people on each neighborhood road (wish list?)

9. Post standard signage for backcountry wildfire prevention/response at trailheads for visitors (wish list?)
10. Develop list of local businesses/organizations to contact to get the word out on wildfire preparedness: Realtors, rental property owners, Air B&Bs, stores, food pantries, churches, HOAs etc.
11. Use Rotary Fire Truck for mobile educational outreach.
12. Develop additional ways to utilize the HAM community to augment communications.
13. Provide help to Gene Stanley on utilizing Social Media, possible coordination between My Mountain Town and Emergency Services