

Lostine Canyon Firewise Community

MEETING SUMMARY

Emergency Evacuation Planning

with Paul Karvoski, Wallowa County Emergency Services Manager
February 13, 2019

Firewise Committee Members Participating: Fred Brockman, Dick Bull (by phone), Mike Eng, Ron Polk

ISSUE: Blockage of Lostine River Road

- Only one way in/out of canyon
- Rockfall, treefall, downed powerlines
- Congestion/accidents
- Bridge access (6-Mile Bridge, Eagle Road Bridge)

ACTIONS:

- 1) Firewise Committee write letter to owner of Lostine River Ranch to explore use of private road on west side of river in an emergency evacuation**
 - cc: Matt Howard, ODF; Paul Karvoski, WC Emergency Services
- 2) Firewise Committee consult with Wallowa County Road Supervisor re: 6-Mile Bridge about requesting that OR DOT increase prioritization for bridge replacement to reduce congestion in an emergency**
- 3) Contact County Road Supervisor about clearing trees and brush on road easement around 6-Mile Bridge**
- 4) Contact Laura Lewis to determine load capacity and assess vulnerability of Eagle Road Bridge**
- 5) Is there a suitable route for emergency road cut on west side of river if 6-Mile Bridge is blocked?** (ODF normally dispatches a caterpillar tractor first thing in the event of a wildfire)
- 6) Identify suitable locations on river for foot crossing by HLOA residents**
- 7) Identify safe “meeting areas”, depending on where road is blocked**
 - Under 6-Mile Bridge, Eagle Road Bridge, Lostine River Ranch lake/ponds, McLean’s pond, open fields???

ISSUE: Notification of residents

- Part-time residents, renters, special needs individuals, livestock
- Poor cell coverage
- Not everyone has email/internet

ACTIONS:

- 8) County can use “Alert Sense” for reverse 911 notification**
 - Can text all cell phones in targeted area
 - Can call all land lines and leave message on answering machine if no answer
 - Possibility for county-wide test of “Alert Sense” before fire season
- 9) County will use “Ready, Set, Go” Notifications**
 - Ready: Begin packing and making preparations to evacuate

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- Set: Load up vehicle and be prepared to evacuate on short notice
 - Go: Evacuate the area immediately
- 10) Residents establish “Phone Tree” to efficiently notify neighbors**
 - 11) Official Evacuation Order issued by County Sheriff or Emergency Services Manager**
 - 12) County Sheriff’s Department and Search and Rescue (SAR) will go door-to-door to notify residents of evacuation order**
 - Residents who refuse to leave are asked Contact Info for “next of kin”
 - 13) USFS has lead for notifying and evacuating hikers/campers in Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**
 - Labor Day 2018, >200 vehicle overflow at Two Pan Trailhead

ISSUE: Residents Set Up Sprinklers to Wet Down Perimeter of Structures

- Limited gravity-fed HLOA water supply
- Electricity shut off when fire reaches branch line

ACTIONS:

- 14) Recommend HLOA residents purchase “low-flow” sprinkler heads to prolong limited water supply**
- 15) Recommend residents with wells consider purchasing generator**
 - Connection to propane supply with automatic transfer switch better than gas/diesel
- 16) Post-evacuation, ODF will turn on sprinklers set-up by owner**

ISSUE: Response by Firefighters

- Information to triage protection of structures/properties
- All fire agencies have access to real-time database of information, if available

ACTIONS:

- 17) Residents invited to voluntarily provide structural information to fire agencies**
 - Contact Tim Cudmore, ODF, regarding structural info fields for database
 - “Structural Assessment” provides all preferred information
 - Contact residents about process for voluntarily providing fire agencies with structural information for database

ISSUE: Evacuation Center Locations

ACTIONS:

- 18) Local Red Cross Chapter sets up Evacuation Center**
 - E.g., Wallowa School, Enterprise School, Community Connections
- 19) Fairground made available for livestock**
 - Cattlemen’s Association assists with trailers to transfer of livestock
- 20) Residents evacuating out of the area notify Sheriff so everyone can be accounted for**

ISSUE: Accuracy of Emergency Evacuation Plan

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ACTIONS:

- 21) Review and update Emergency Evacuation Plan annually before start of fire season**