

Dan Orr spoke to some main points, then answered questions. This summary lumps the material by topic rather than how it played out in the meeting.

Generally, Dan does not have any deep concern for the houses in our park. We have enough separation from the forest around us. He also advised that we don't worry about removing flammable vegetation from up against our buildings; he said that the amount of vegetation we have is so small that it doesn't contribute to the risk of our houses burning.

Fighting a fire: We should **NOT** try to fight a fire ourselves. Our water pressure is just too low to be helpful. DBR does not have any fire hydrants, which normally supply water to the fire hoses. The fire tender trucks might use our pool water to load up to fight a fire – in the park or outside of it. They could also use local ponds. In SOME cases, the Dept of Natural Resources MIGHT be part of the firefighting operation, and they have a few helicopters that can pick up water and dump it at a fire. Unless it is critical, and no other options are available, no one fights a fire with seawater; the environmental consequences are seriously negative.

We have two routes for evacuation – the main gate, and the Meadow's gate out onto Old Gardiner Rd. If we have two day's notice of an approaching fire, it is OK to drive out pulling trailers and driving large RVs. If we have a shorter period to evacuate, we should NOT pull trailers or drive large RVs – they take up a lot of space on the road which becomes critical for how many can evacuate, and they create more potential for danger in congested traffic. (Imagine being told you must turn around on a narrow road, and you are pulling a long trailer.) If you need to evacuate on short notice and do not have a car, it is best to get a ride in another person's car – take your GO BAG, and GO.

An evacuation advisory is the last resort – before that, the recommendation will be to shelter in place (after you secure your home as detailed below.) If we get an evacuation advisory from the Sheriff or another local authority, how will we propagate this within the park? Will we have an air horn sound the alarm? Will we go door to door, or use a phone tree? We should discuss these ideas as a community.

It is possible that the Fire Dept will activate CERT6 to do traffic control to help us get out onto 101, if traffic is heavy and people won't let us in – but CERT6 cannot self-activate except after an earthquake – they'd have to wait for direction from the Fire Dept.

What can we do to prepare ahead of time, and then what can we do if a fire is approaching? We should remove any flammable material on our roof or in our gutters – clean gutters once a year or more. Install a metal skirt around the base of our house or stationary trailer. Since blowing embers from a fire can get underneath and ignite a house/trailer, it is best to skirt your trailer or park model. Best: skirt with metal. Next best – with Hardie. Next – with wood. Just skirt it. Also – think ahead to where you could go if you were advised to evacuate. Think in both directions – going E on 101, and going W. Have a plan in place. Note that YOU CANNOT BE FORCED to evacuate – but if you are advised to do so, you should evacuate. There is no point in trying to “protect” your belongings. You'll just be sorry.

Once we are warned of an approaching fire, if we have time we should:

- Take up any rugs inside and outside since they are fuel – roll them up and put them in the center of the house, or take them with you if you are in your RV or pulling your trailer.
- Close all windows and doors. Close vents in trailers.

- If you have lightweight curtains, take them down. If they are heavyweight, close them to keep the heat out.
- If you have a ladder, place it at the corner of your house – a firefighter might need it.
- Place outdoor furniture (plastic or wood = fuel) inside your house, away from any walls.
- Tape aluminum foil to the OUTSIDE of your windows, with the reflective side facing OUT. This will help reflect heat back, and possibly prevent your windows from breaking, which would then allow the heat and fire inside.
- Shut off all propane tanks.

Since we have clear-cut areas to the E and W of us, there is some concern in the park about the debris piles. Unfortunately, when we have a fire ban, the timber companies can't burn the piles. In fact, they can leave them as long as they like – legally, it's completely up to them. So basically there is nothing to be done about it.

Dan was told about the 11 acres to our E, and asked if we purchase it, should we clear it to reduce our risk of fire. Dan advised us to thin it rather than clear it – trim all limbs at least 10 feet up to prevent the “ladder effect”, which is all about the fire traveling up the tree after the low-lying limbs catch on fire.

Dan was asked about our air quality – specifically, the smoke in the air. He answered that the Fire Dept does not monitor air quality, so he couldn't speak to it any more than any of the rest of us.

Notes by Mary Harrison, Safety Team Leader