Verdemont Neighborhood Association Members Meeting

September 19, 2013

Welcome @ 1904: Mary Solis

(Missed the recognition of guests while searching for a flag for the Pledge of Allegiance)

Pledge of Allegiance: Mary Solis

Announcements:

Bob Edwards: Norton Air Museum and the event with a B52 bomber pilot and a presentation for the museum. Presentation 10/9 at 6, auditorium @ 7.

Michael announced on the Privacy for All Students petition availability after the meeting.

Intro of Guest Speaker: George Avery, Chief, San Bernardino Fire Department.

20 years as a member of various Fire Departments. Lived all the fires, earthquakes, etc. Intends to share “your fire department” with us this evening as well as, answer the question “What can the fire department provide you besides fire services?”.

What about sheltering in place? When do I evacuate?

The chief said he was aware of citizen concerns over cuts related to the bankruptcy. The firefighters are working 72 hours and longer shifts to ensure coverage.

Overview:

12 fire stations in the city as well as an airport station- protecting Boeing test flights into SB.

There are 133 positions and there are 28,000 calls. While some ask why SBFD can’t be more like Moreno Valley, the chief indicates that Moreno Valley has 14,000 calls, or half of San Bernardino’s.

SBFD not seeks assistance in every fire situation, they also provide assistance to neighboring fire agencies for most fires and disasters

Operation:- you name it, we do it.

Search and Rescue, including civilian Search and Rescue

Air operations support

Arson investigation out of Kendall

Ladder truck operations

High Rise rescues

Wild Fires

Martin Ranch, the Old Fire, and other small, medium, or large fires.

There are different approaches to these fires as there are different concerns, such as loss of possessions and home.

Kids made a bomb and started a fire on the north end. SBFD was able to start an investigation immediately. Lynette mentioned that she noticed several fire agencies respond to suppress the fire.

There is a website: wildfirersg.org to

Also, for homeowners and property owners:

Create defensible space, such as 100’ from home.

Robert asked about driveway fire pits and hoeowners creating large ‘bonfires’ in their driveway(s). Chief: If you’re concerned, call us.

Zone 1 around the home: Have at least 30 ft of defensible area qround your home.

Remove flammable vegetation from within 30 ft of homes, structures

Remove 50 ft of any structure in areas determined to be high hazard.

Single trees, ornamental shrubbery, cultivated ground covers may be permitted

Roofs: The roof is the most vulnerable spot for embers to land, including roof valleys, gables, open ends of barrel tiles, and rain gutters.

Eaves: Embers land in eaves.

Embers enter the attic or other concealed space and ignite combustible materials, Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable

Combustible siding

Window & doors: Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors

Plants or combustible storage near windows.

Shut all windows and doors and leave doors unlocked.

Remove all flammable window shades and curtains.

Create a Family Disaster Plan: Plan that includes Communications and meeting locations.

Ensure family knows where the utilities are and how to turn them off.

Designate a meeting spot away from the fire location.

Use the Service Road.

Assemble an Emergency Kit

Maintain a list of emergency contact phone numbers.

Structural tips:

Garage door latches – know how to manually release your garage door.

Flammable curtains, belongings on/near windows/doors.

As a Fire Approaches:

Notify neighbors

Dress appropriately

Gather up flammables from the exterior of your house.

Turn off propane.

Don’t turn on sprinklers since it will cause too low of water pressure for fire fighters from the hydrants.

Chief realizes that there is low hydra pressure in our area. Coordinating with water department to get pressure up when needed.

Go Early:

Don’t wait to be told to leave.

Leave to your pre-=determined location.

Use the Service Road

Earthquake Preparedness:

The Great Shakeout will be on 10/17/13 @ 10:17– and city hall will be involved in it this time.

The chief then showed a YouTube video for the Great Shakeout

Prep Kit:

Flashlight

Batteries

3 day water supply

Non perishable food

Can opener

Medications

Baby food/formula

RedCrosCRC.org for the full list

First Aid Kit

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – will be revived.

Firefighters have rehabbed the CERT trailer and are organized for a major emergency. Cert will prepare members of the community to respond to disasters to help firefighters, stop further loss of life.

Barb: Can we have a CERT card along with the CERT certificate? You’re CERT vest will i d you to the fire departments and they’ll provide you access to your materiel.

Donna: I smell gas in the street from time to time: Chief-call 911, FD will call Gas Co and locate source.

Michael: Earlier you said that we should leave our homes early and leave the door unlocked. Can I elave a note saying the home is vacant? Chief: NO, the note won’t help us. We have to assess every home –we also have the Master Lock (foot to the door). No don’t leave a note.

Mary thanked Chief Avery and asked the 45 attendees for ideas for future guest speakers:

Animal Control

Code enforcement

Mary indicated both Code Enforcement and Animal Control are under P D at this time.

Developer of the new strip mall.

School district disaster preparedness

Mary thanked everyone for their suggestions and mentioned that Lt Madden’s “ Coffee with a cop” is being held the third Wednesday of each month at Farmer Boys.

Mary adjourned the meeting @ 19:55