

## **FIRE MITIGATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**July 16, 2022**

### **FIRE DRILL REVIEW**

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, CMR had our community Fire Drill/Evacuation. For the first community-wide drill, it was a success. Eighty-five (85) CMR residents participated along with the Montezuma County Sheriff's Office, Mancos Fire Department, and the Montezuma County Office of Emergency Management.

Everyone involved learned valuable lessons for the next drill or for a real incident. There were some areas that need to be worked on and some questions asked by CMR residents, that I will try and answer.

The ribbons place by MCSO on residences were yellow (there was no one to contact); orange (people were there but not participating in the drill); and blue (participating/compliant).

Residents were not notified by phone that the drill had started. This was because it was a drill, not an actual evacuation incident. In the case of the "real thing" you will be notified by the authorities. Please make sure you are connected to NEXEL. See the MCSO website for information.

Some residents did not hear the sirens or see Emergency Vehicles in the subdivision. Again, this was a drill. In the event of an emergency, there will be many, many more emergency vehicles throughout the subdivision.

It was suggested that in the future we have a "full scale" exercise including a simulated "incident" such as a fire on Road 35 and J.8 and the use of emergency escape roads. This has been passed on to the Montezuma County Agencies for consideration.

A thank you goes out to the numerous volunteers in CMR, and the County Agencies involved. Without so many people working together, we could not have had such a successful drill. Let's hope and pray we only need drills and not actual evacuations in the future.

### **SLASH CHIPPING**

Because of the high winds and the expectation of a fire ban, it was decided not to burn the slash piles. Instead, a chipper was rented. Ten volunteers showed up with 3 tractors/skid steers and worked for 5 hours to chip the slash. The remainder of the debris (too small to chip) was put into small piles. A pile of large logs for firewood was stacked. All the mulch was collected by various property owners for their personal use. "No Slash" signs were put up for now.

### **EVACUATION SIGNS**

All the signs were put up prior to the fire drill. They have been well received by the property owners and the Montezuma County Fire and Law Officials.

### **SAFE ZONE**

Bob Sanders continues to work and level the Safe Zone a little at a time. After there is rain, a workday will be called, and the Safe Zone will be enhanced.

### **ONGOING MITIGATION**

Continued fire mitigation is being discussed. Chipping, burning or both? The Committee is considering doing both; chip during the spring/summer and burn during winter. The existing site on Road K.3 will be used for slash collection.

The program of Native Americans helping with fire mitigation by cutting down dead trees and taking the wood for family and friends on the reservation worked well. We will contact them again to resume this program.

### **EVACUATION ROUTES**

These routes need to be toured and evaluated for passibility. The route between J.9 to J.8 will be the first to be evaluated. The condition of the road will be documented with pictures and description before any improvements begin.

Work on visibility on Road 35 (especially going down the hill) will be done this summer. Property owners were notified about the trees bordering Road 35 on their property which need to be cut down last year. If possible, the Committee will work with the Native Americans to remove the logs for firewood.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Campbell, Chair  
Fire Mitigation Committee