



CITY of CALABASAS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

DATE: APRIL 20, 2023

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

FROM: DEBBIE LARSON, PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATOR
MICHAEL W. DYER, PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
MANAGER

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 24, 2023

EMERGENCY PLANS

Calabasas City Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Update - Debbie Larson and Michael Dyer are continuing to meet with MRG consulting to update the City's Emergency Operations Plan. The plan was shared with the Public Safety Commission for their comments and was placed on the city website for public comment. The final EOP draft will be presented to the Calabasas City Council on May 24, 2023.

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)- Also known as a Business Continuity Plan, this will give the City guidance on how to operate during a catastrophic emergency when normal city offices are not available and guide the city to provide services during an emergency.

CAL Fire Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP) – We applied for a Cal Fire grant which will cover costs of developing a Calabasas Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This plan will serve as the foundational strategic document that would guide the wildfire adaptation and prevention efforts in the City of Calabasas. Calabasas is located near several historical fire corridors and was most recently impacted by the Woolsey Fire in 2018. The grant was denied, and will reapply during the next grant cycle.

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) – Debbie Larson and Michael Dyer are assisting the Las Virgenes Council of Governments to update the current 2019 MJHMP that expires in 2024.

GRANTS

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant – As part of the original grant, we are still waiting for the parts for the mobile EOC trailer and the vehicles to tow the trailer.

The AM Radio Station was upgraded through this grant. An internet connection with remote access for the AM radio station was installed to allow remote programming, along with updated broadcasting equipment. Staff has received training on remote messaging capability.

Public Safety Council Taskforce

Michael Dyer and Debbie Larson are meeting with the Public Safety Taskforce (Mayor Shapiro and Mayor pro Tem Weintraub) April 24, 2023 to consider the EOP and discuss several other projects in progress. They will also receive input and direction for future public safety endeavors that include the PSC.

WORKSHOPS

1. Public Safety Workshop – 2/2/23

The Council Public Safety Taskforce (Mayor Shapiro and Mayor pro Tem Weintraub) and the PSC Crime Prevention taskforce (Vice Chair Boucher and Chair Slatoff) partnered with the Sheriff and Fire Departments to provide a workshop to inform HOA presidents and their board members on crime issues in Calabasas. Security companies that represent Calabasas HOA's and Neighborhood Associations attended. The goal is to create seamless communication between the security companies, the Sheriff Department and the City. You may watch the workshop at <https://youtu.be/31plg5i4poQ>

2. Brush Clearance Workshop – 3/10/23

Outreach was conducted by Los Angeles County Fire Department to members of the public at Founders Hall. Approximately 20 people attended in person. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed on the city's website <https://youtu.be/uMNDGoSodLM>. A follow up presentation was made to the city council on March 30, 2023.

NEW State Brush Clearance Regulations- As a result of two recent CA Assembly Bills, there have been some updates to the Brush Clearance requirements as of Jan. 1, 2023. According to AB 3074 & AB 38: Our residents are beginning to receive their annual brush clearance notices.

Every structure within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) must comply with brush clearance regulations (basically the entirety of the Santa Monica Mtns).

This added approximately 60,000 new parcels to the LACoFD inspection list county-wide. The city provided new iPads for the local fire station personnel to allow additional inspections to be completed in a timely manner.

The vast majority of these parcels have never received a brush clearance notice before.

Owners of structures within a VHFHSZ must do more intense fuel reductions between 5 – 30 feet around the structure, and should create an ember-resistant zone within 0 – 5 feet of the structure.

Assembly Bills can be found here: <https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/government/public-safety-emergency-preparedness/brush-clearance>

Fire Department defensible space requirements: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace/>.

Early Winter Storms FEMA Disaster Assistance

Debbie Larson attended the Applicant's Briefing for the early Winter Storms in Alhambra. An Exploratory Call with FEMA and Cal OES was conducted March 9 with Michael Dyer, Debbie Larson, and Public Works. The Recovery Scoping Meeting was conducted on March 20 to review damages, discuss site inspections and develop a program delivery plan. We will be seeking reimbursement through FEMA with the assistance of Cal OES for the emergency work performed by our Public Works department. Work is expected to be completed in a few months. As part of this reimbursement process, there is also funding for mitigation projects. We are continuing to meet with FEMA and Cal OES on a weekly or as-needed basis.

Safety Element of the General Plan Updates

The Planning Commission met January 19 to continue the update with the Safety Element of the General Plan 2030. You may review the staff report and attachments here, along with additional meeting information: <https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/government/agendas/current-planning-commission-agenda>. The Safety Element of the General Plan will be considered by the City Council on April 26, 2023.

NOAA Weather Radios

Seventy-five weather radios were distributed by Los Angeles County Fire Department on March 7 located in the Council Chambers with the assistance of the PSC and CERP volunteers.

Calabasas Park Homeowners Association Annual Meeting

Michael Dyer and Debbie Larson attended the CPHA meeting and updated the Board on current Public Safety projects.

Emergency Generators

Staff is evaluating the need to establish redundant power at all city facilities. This will allow the City to provide essential services during a power outage. The preliminary site walk was conducted with Public Works and Global Power Supply. The City is waiting for the contractor recommendations at this time.

EPIC UPDATE

Met with EPIC to discuss communications procedures with the city to ensure consistent messaging is performed. Brian Cameron shared EPIC-FSC's three key initiatives and updates:

1. A Smartphone App framework has been created and content is currently being developed.
2. ECHO - amateur radio-based emergency communications platform - under construction and Duty Officers will be selected and trained soon.
3. With improvements in the weather, home hardening evaluations will be gearing back up.
4. More than 100 Calabasas homes have undergone home hardening evaluations.
5. Three additional EPIC volunteers have completed the HIZE classroom training and have almost completed the field work necessary to conduct evaluations on their own.

TRAINING

EOC Section Specific training was conducted for the City Clerk's Office, Communications (Public Information Officer), Finance and Planning Departments. Emergency Shelter Management Training was led by the American Red Cross for our Community Services personnel at the City of Agoura Hills.

Fire Extinguisher – This training was offered to city staff.

IPAWS Webinar – Debbie Larson attended an IPAWS webinar introducing PBS Warn (Warning, Alert, Response Network) warn.pbs.org. This website has a live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) map which is used for alert validation, situational awareness and training. PBS Warn is used as a backup path for the WEA system which allows agencies to instantly send short message warnings from geo-targeted cell phone towers directly to a nearby user's mobile device.

Amateur (Ham) Radio – training will resume over the summer offered by Norm Goodkin at DeAnza Park.

Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise – Debbie Larson and IT staff attended a virtual tabletop cybersecurity exercise on March 15 with the County Operational Area, State Office of Emergency Services and Federal agencies (CISA and FBI).

Zonehaven - The City conducted a tabletop exercise with the Office of Emergency Management, Sheriff and Fire department to go through a fire scenario and public messaging. Need to train additional employees on Blackboard Connect messaging. Zonehaven will have an App available soon for the public.

CERT Community Emergency Response Training was recently completed through the LA County Fire Department. It was held on Tuesdays, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, March 7 to April 18, 2023 in Founders Hall.

