

Public Safety Commission Subcommittee Report Summary
October 28, 2024
Commissioners Citron and Chilco

This is a summary of our subcommittee's report in the areas of Communications/Training and Outreach.

COMMUNICATIONS/TRAINING:

We are continuing communication and training efforts for the distribution of FRS radios provided by the City. This includes hosting distribution events, documentation of receipt of the radio, the location of the radio users and the creation of neighborhood networks. FRS network coverage is tested every week by an EPIC/ECHO announcement via the Calabasas repeater. Users are encouraged to report back if they receive the transmission, the quality of the reception and their location.

As reported in the July 22, 2024, Subcommittee Report, we participated in a Firewise outreach to the Calabasas Hills Community Association which took place on June 24. Subsequently, Calabasas Hills/Estates has joined 2 other Calabasas communities in submitting their application to achieve recognition. It has been noted that a resident in one of the communities submitted the recognition notice received from Firewise and obtained a 10% discount from their insurance company. We anticipate more of our local communities will be interested in pursuing Firewise recognition. A Firewise Community can include as few as 7 homes, so the opportunity to participate is available to residents that are not represented by an HOA.

OUTREACH:

Continuing outreach to FRS users is being accomplished by working with the EPIC/ECHO team. In partnership with the City and with the support of Debbie Larson and Mike Dyer, the outreach plan implemented by EPIC/ECHO has resulted in six successful distribution events. Other distribution events will continue in the near future.

Currently, 205 residents now have an FRS radio. We have 119 requests waiting to be fulfilled. New requests continue to be received. Since last report, we have registered new FRS users in Genasys Protect Zone 413 when previously we had none. Zone 407 requests continue to elude us.

We are working with EPIC/ECHO creating training modules and preparing drills.

Currently, there are 13 Hams in 8 Genasys Protect Zones. We will be working with EPIC/ECHO to pair EPIC/ECHO Ham radio operators with the FRS radio users in the field to facilitate communication with the objective of providing only reliable, vetted field information to the EOC.

Efforts in this area dovetail with the current recruitment of members for the revitalized Calabasas CERT.