

# Portola Valley

## Ad Hoc Wildfire Preparedness Committee

### Communications/Evacuation/Outreach Subcommittee

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Version Final



# Introduction

- Mandate was extensive
  - Subcommittee met 10 times
    - Guests included PG&E, ATT, SMOES, WFPD, PVSD, & Priory
    - Summary is in package
    - Many issues associated with PSPS were identified early
    - EPC prepared AM Radio for Emergency BEFORE PSPS

# General Observations/Lessons Learned

- Portola Valley experienced PSPS's on Oct 9 & 10 and Oct 26-29
  - Much of the impact was expected
    - Power was not cut off to all of PV
    - Cell service, internet service, and even landline service failed at various times and locations
    - Water and Sewer service was generally uninterrupted\*
    - Timing notifications by PG&E were approximate\*
    - WFPD provided updates on SMC-Alerts
    - Town AM Radio functioned well
    - Issues were reported when power was restored\*
  - SM County EOC was activated
  - Town center had generator power and landlines but internet and cell service was poor or non existent. Town EOC communications were not staffed.
  - Some residents were not well prepared
  - Construction, Landscaping, Gardening activities continued

# General Recommendations

- Prohibit Construction, Landscaping, and Gardening activities on Red Flag/PSPS events (Staff Report 1.f)
  - Action: Town Staff and Town Council,
  - Timing: Short Term
- Insure Town Center has Internet Access during PSPS events (Staff Report 1.f) \*
  - Action: Town Staff
  - Timing: Short Term
- Open Town EOC and Communication Room during PSPS events (Staff Report 1.g)
  - Action: Town Staff
  - Timing: Short Term

# Evacuation Recommendations

- Update Evacuation Plan with new exit routes, emergency gates, and updates from Zone Haven (Staff Report 1.i) .
  - Action: Woodside Fire Protection District
  - Timing: Short Term
- Follow-up on Evacuation Plans by Town Institutions (Staff Report 1.j)
  - Action: WFPD
  - Timing: Short Term
- Approve Evacuation Plan when updated by WFPD (Staff Report 1.i)
  - Action: Town Council
  - Timing: Short Term
- Prioritize vegetation management and insure egress on main evacuation routes (Staff Report 1.k)
  - Action: Town Staff
  - Timing: Short Term

# Evacuation Recommendations

- Replace locks on Emergency gates with Break-away mechanisms and improve signage on Emergency gates (Staff Report 2.f)
  - Action: WFPD and Town Staff
  - Timing: Medium Term
- Encourage annual evacuation drills for each WPV-Ready Division (Staff Report 2.g) :
  - Action: WFPD, WPV-Ready & Town Staff
  - Timing: Medium Term

# Communications Recommendations

- Work directly with wireless carriers to insure 36 hours of battery back-up on PV cell sites (Staff Report 1.l) .
  - Action: Town Staff
  - Timing: Short Term
- Modify Town regulations to require 36 hours of battery back-up on PV cell sites (Staff Report 1.m) .
  - Action: Town Staff & Town Council
  - Timing: Short Term
- Work with State and Federal government to support mandate for at least 36 hour power back-up on cell sites (Staff Report 2.e) .
  - Action: Town Staff & Town Council
  - Timing: Medium Term

# Communications Recommendations

- Support Town AM Radio as secondary notification system for Emergencies. Provide financial and staff support as necessary to EPC (Staff Report 1.n) .
  - Action: Town Council & Town Staff
  - Timing: Short Term



# Outreach Recommendations

- Develop an education and outreach plan for residents so they are aware of AM Radio in Emergencies (Staff Report 1.o)
  - Action: Town Staff, EPC (Lorrie Duval)
  - Timing: Short Term
- All Wildfire subcommittees should produce at least 12 preapproved information paragraphs in the style of a “tip of the month”. These will then be used to provide monthly updates on all Town social media (Staff Report 1.p) .
  - Action: Town Staff, EPC, Ad Hoc Wildfire Prep Committee
  - Timing: Short Term
- Continue to work with WPV-Ready, WPV-CERT and WFPD via Neighborhood Watch and other groups to educate residents on self reliance and emergency preparedness (Staff Report 1.d) .
  - Action: Town Staff, EPC (Lorrie Duval)
  - Timing: Medium Term