National Wildfire Prevention Day Workshop

Sponsored by the Oakland Firesafe Council, the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association and the Montclair Neighborhood Council

May 4, 2019
Neighborhood Evacuation Planning

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Recent wildfires are more volatile

- 1971 Mission Valley fire  6 football fields/minute
- 1991 Tunnel Fire   11 football fields/minute
- 2017 Tubbs Fire   18 football fields/minute
- 2018 Camp Fire  30 football fields/minute

Leading to a new look at evacuation planning and implementation
Bottom Line:

Evacuate Early

Don’t wait to be told to go
Evacuation Issues

- Blocked roadways
- Limited routes in and out
- Traffic loads (We can impact)
- Timing of evacuation communication (City)
- Messaging (City)
- Motivation to evacuate (Personal)
- Destination of evacuees (and animals)
- Alternatives (Leave Early)
Pre-Planning

• Organize neighbors (CORE/Firewise)
• Identify alternative evacuation routes in neighborhood
• Promote safe parking on narrow streets—leave at least 14 ft.
• Survey maintenance issues--low hanging branches, brush or dirt encroaching on roadway
  – PWA Call Center to request support
  – Neighborhood workdays
• Inventory of children, seniors, disabled, pets and at what address—develop Plan B if caregiver/parent not home
• Survey neighbors to ascertain # of people/cars that could evacuate at different times of day/week
Neighborhood Communications

- Provide residents with information
- Develop plan for communications
  - Door to Door
  - Phone Tree
  - Email
Prepare to evacuate when Red Flag Days are called

www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org/what-does-red-flag-mean?.
When to go?

• Better to leave early to avoid traffic and flames
• Leave when you feel it is not safe– don’t wait for mandatory evacuation notification
• Given “new abnormal” no such thing as a voluntary evacuation

Better to save lives than worry about inconvenience
When you go

- Call neighbors to alert
- Assist elderly or disabled neighbor
- Carpool if possible to reduce traffic

Don’t wait to evacuate if you feel threatened