



## Emergency Communications Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 7:00 pm to 8:55 pm.

The meeting was held via ZOOM Online Video Conference

<b>Members</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Dru Anderson, Co-Chair	KG6LAD	P
Eduardo Arias, Co-Chair	KM6LSX	E
Bob Anderson	KC6ZWG	P
Ben H. L. Hu, Secretary	KK6HH	P
Edwin R Jones	W7WPO	P
Terry Kearney	KM6LTQ	E
Andrew Kirk	WB6CLS	P
Scott Overstreet	N6NXI	P
Jay Sutaria	KN6JAY	P
Sam Wood	K6MSR	P
<b>Council/Staff</b>		
Stanley Mok, LAH City Council	Council Liaison	P
<b>Associate Members</b>		
Neil Katin	K2LL	P
Peter Evans	A16MV	P
Larry Carr	KE6AGJ	P
Kjell Karlsson	KD6BPP	P
Duncan MacMillan	K16VMY	P
Craig Miller	WA6OXK	P
<b>Guests:</b>		
Denise Gluhan, LAHCFD	KM6IFY	P
Victoria Bebee, LAHCFD	KN6HOU	P
J Logan, LAHCFD, General Manager		P

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by co-chair Dru Anderson KG6LAD. Followed by a rollcall of members with a quorum of 6 members present, then the other two members joined in to make 8 members at 7:05 pm.
  - a. Roll Call: Attendance:18 including 8 members, LAH Council member and Liaison Stan Mok and 6 associates, and 3 guests. KD8BPP Kjell attended the meeting at 8:45 pm.
  - b. Dru introduced our new Council Liaison, Stan Mok to the ECC. Stan gave a summary of his past life and working experience and expressed his eagerness to help the Committee to be successful in building better LAH emergency communications.
  - c. Minutes of Feb. 2, 2021, prepared by W7WPO Ed Jones: Approved on a motion by Scott N6NXI with note of a typo pointed out by Jay, KN6JAY. Seconded by Jay. There was a unanimous roll call approval of the 6 members present. Ed W7WPO and Andy WB6CLS had audio difficulty at the time of the vote, but subsequently emailed the secretary their concurrence.

2. EC Report:
  - a. Neil K2LL, EC, noted that the Fundamentals of Emergency Communications (Zoom) course offered by County ARES®/RACES would be on 3/27 and the training exercise “Message Passing Practice”, on 3/16 (Tuesday night). Peter AI6MV inquired about the C4 credential at the County level, and Neil answered that C4 is equivalent to the former trainee status of Mutual Aid Communicator (MAC), the most basic credential, and could be obtained after taking two basic courses and equipped with a go-kit.
  - b. Emergency Responses Guidebooks availability status; County DSW participant status. Jay KN6JAY asked whether the frequency list in the QRG could be simplified. Other members offered their input. Dru concluded by asking Jay and Neil to work on the issue together and report back at a later meeting.
3. Repeater Report: Equipment status by Scott Overstreet N6NXI  
Scott stated that LAH repeater W6LAH and its backup are all in good working order. SPECS repeaters are all functional at the site of El Camino Hospital, but the 2 m repeater was relocated at an undisclosed site in LAH. When Peter AI6MV asked about the backup power for these repeaters, Scott replied that the LAH repeater and its backup used Diesel powered-generators that could last a couple of days without refueling and then a battery backup for a week. The battery backup was not tested to such a duration. The 2 m SPECS repeater relocated to LAH has a huge battery backup and the ones at the Hospital are backed up by the emergency power backup system of the Hospital. Dru asked about the power backup of EOC, Scott answered that it was supposed to be backed by the LAH emergency generator but had not been tested for quite a while. Stan, LAH Council member, and ECC Liaison mentioned there was a substantial funding request to the Council for an upgraded emergency generator and he would make certain that Heritage house backup requirement is reflected in the proposal.
4. Tech Talk/Community Service opportunity.
  - a. Guest presentation: Denise Gluhan KM6IFY gave a concise and clear discussion of the FireWise program. Her slides are attached in the Minutes. Three salient points were made:
    1. In view of recent California wildfires, it is important to reduce wildfire risk for the residence within LAHCFD. While individual improvement efforts by homeowners are helpful, the wildfire risk is really a neighborhood affair as fire embers do not observe the boundaries of an individual property.
    2. Therefore, it is important to have a community organized within a neighborhood to plan and take action to reduce wildfire risk. LAHCFD is prepared to help with such a multi-year endeavor to make the neighborhood be recognized as a national “FireWise Community.” Such recognition could help gain a favorable fire insurance premium in addition to the reduction of wildfire risks.
    3. One of the critical elements of such a plan is to meet the minimum wildfire risk investment annually. The bi-annual Branch Chipping Program offered by LAHCFD is more than enough to meet the obligation. Anyone who is interested in organizing such a community could contact Denise KM6IFY at [dgluhan@lahcfd.org](mailto:dgluhan@lahcfd.org).
5. Public Comments from the floor
  - a. LAH CERT: Focus for 2021 by Victoria KN6HOU - Events and Activities (a Slide in the presentation is enclosed)
  - b. Planning and coordination of events with ECC. Discussion of objectives and planning for a Zoom/Radio drill on the emergency ham communication protocol by Victoria/Dru and the group. Peter AI6MV inquired whether there were drills at EOC independent of CERT ones. Neil answered that prior to Covid-19, there were twice per year but always together with CERT as the numbers of volunteers not only overlapped but also too few

participants to have a separate drill. After some discussion, Dru proposed to have a separate discussion group by Neil and others on the subject.

- c. J Logan, GM LAHCFD, asked whatever happened to the proposal to have an antenna mounted on the peripheral of the La Cresta water tower to facilitate wideband communications between the EOC and the County. Neil K2LL replied that the short answer was that the discussion of the antenna installation between Town staff and the Water district was stalled due to other matters between the two parties. Peter AI6MV, also a PHWD board member, opined that there might have been a miscommunication and he asked that the antenna installation proposal be re-submitted to the water district. Neil replied that he would do so in consideration of the current schedule of the original project leader, David WQ1K. Stan Mok, our Town Council Liaison, offered to help and asked for clarification of the issue. Neil and Peter were asked by Dru and both agreed gladly to brief Stan separately. Scott N6NXI also brought up an earlier proposal for an HF antenna to be placed on the site.
6. Old Business
  - a. Inventory: Jay Sutaria KM6JAY:  
Jay commented that he was pursuing addition of a serial # of a mobile radio unit located at the PHWD office, for emergency use. That detail will finish the inventory update. Peter AI6MV volunteered to follow up at the PHWD office, to get Jay what he needs.
  - b. Reminder: Please send your favorite recipes of Ham Bakes to Dru KG6LAD. She explained she is assembling a "Ham Bake" recipe collection.
7. Continuing efforts: ECC Goals for 2021. Dru KG6LAD, Eduardo KM6LSX
  - a. **Goal #1:** Suggestions & volunteers for membership recruitment outreach.
  - b. **Goal #2:** Work with Town Emergency Management and LAHCFD CERT technical services on the coordination of processes and training/activities for emergency response, particularly unique to the Covid-19 restrictions.
8. Health and welfare check-in. Dru asked in turn the well-being of all 16 participants with either video or voice connection. All responded to be doing well and some reported they had completed or were just about to complete the 2-shot Covid vaccine sequence.
9. Adjourn. At 20:54, Bob KC6ZWG moved to adjourn, seconds by Scott N6NXI and Sam K6MSR, and all members present with activated voice connection agreed to the motion vocally.

10. **Reminders:** See online schedules for activities in the following:

**LAH town events:** <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/calendar.aspx>.

**EMERGENCY ALERTS: LAH:** <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/101/Emergency>

**AlertSCC:** <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/alertscc/Pages/home.aspx>

**CERT activities: LAH County Fire District:**

<http://www.lahcfd.org/community-programs/public-classes>

**County ARES/RACES courses & events:**

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/aresraces.htm>

**SPECS Monday Night Net information:**

[www.Specsnet.org](http://www.Specsnet.org) Northern SCC ham activities/Monday night net script.

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Ben Hu KK6HH, ECC Secretary*


**Slide Presentation Attachments Follow:**

- a. Denise KM6IFY's presentation on FireWise Community
- b. Victoria KN6HOU's slide summary on the presentation on the CERT program activities.

**FireWise Slide presentation:** Denise Gluhan KM6IFY, LAHCFD Emergency Services Mgr.

LAHCFD Wildfire Preparedness Programs in Collaboration with-  
Santa Clara County FireSafe Council  
The Town of Los Altos Hills

Wildfire Evacuation Workshop (WEW)  
Wildfire Evacuation Drill  
Firewise Community



The National Fire Protection Association's Firewise USA® program teaches communities how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action to prevent losses. SCCFSC offers workshops and guidance for neighborhoods and communities that want to become Firewise-recognized.

**The 6 Steps for Becoming Recognized as a Firewise Community**

1. Form a board/committee comprised of residents and other wildfire stakeholders
2. Obtain a wildfire risk assessment from the Fire Department
3. Host a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event, or related activity
4. Develop a multi-year action plan based on the site's risk reduction priorities
5. Meet the minimum wildfire risk reduction investment
6. Create a Firewise USA® Portal account and submit an application to your state Firewise USA liaison

For more information on the Firewise: [programhttps://sccfiresafe.org/learn/what-is-firewise-usa/](https://sccfiresafe.org/learn/what-is-firewise-usa/)

Does LAHCFD & Support Becoming Firewise Community

**SCCFSC is here to help!**  
We are your local partner to Firewise USA recognition.

- SCCFSC coaches your committee and organizers through the Firewise USA steps and application
- SCCFSC networks with fire agency partners to obtain your community risk assessment
- SCCFSC offers workshop and presentation options to meet the Firewise USA education outreach requirements
- SCCFSC offers a yearly Chipping Program which fulfills the initial home investment requirement
- SCCFSC provides hazardous fuel reduction resources for your neighborhood's multi-year plan

How to Start a Firewise Community

This 30-45 minute presentation is intended for a neighborhood group that would like to know more about the Firewise USA Risk Reduction program. Lead by a speaker from the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, the presentation includes a PowerPoint slideshow which is followed by a Q & A. Discussion centers around the benefits and requirements needed to become a recognized, certified Firewise community. Ideal group size is 20-60 neighborhood residents.

## Few Firewise Community FAQs

### What are the most important things to do to protect my home?

Most homes that burn during a wildfire are ignited by embers or firebrands landing on the roof, in gutters, on or under decks and porches, or in vents or other openings in the home. Other homes burn from small flames (surface fire) that can touch the house – such as dry grass that can allow a fire to run right up to the siding. The Firewise Communities Program is a great place to start and find resources and action steps you can use around your home and working your way out into the landscape.

A wildfire safety tips sheet is available on NFPA's safety information page. You can also find additional information about how to create defensible space around your home on the Firewise website.

### If I make my home safer, do I get an insurance discount?

Typically, individual improvement efforts by homeowners are not reflected in discounts to their policy premiums. Most insurance rates are set using other factors, including community fire protection resources such as the presence of fire hydrants. In addition, fire protection is only one small piece of the insurance policy, so discounts for fire protection would be fairly small if they were available.

In areas where wildfires have caused damage, you may find that your insurance company is conducting on-site inspections to recommend wildfire safety actions. Companies that incur large losses from wildfire may be less likely to continue to offer insurance in areas that they consider high-risk. See the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association website for more important information about insurance and wildland fires.

### Will being Firewise compromise my landscaping or the local ecosystem?

Today's fire resistant building materials can be attractive and complement the area's culture and style. Firewise landscaping techniques can actually improve the aesthetic quality of your home by clearing out dry and dead vegetation, and allowing space between trees and plants. More information about landscaping can be found on the "Home and Landscape" page of the Firewise website.

## QUESTIONS?



## THANK YOU FOR WATCHING...

Denise Gluhan  
Emergency Services Manager  
Los Altos Hills County Fire District  
dgluhan@lahcfd.org

## Upcoming: From Victoria Bebee KN6HOU, CERT Program General Analyst

### **CERT PROGRAM GENERAL ANALYST REPORT - Events and Activities**

#### **Up Coming Meetings and Activities: MARCH**

- LAH Youth Commission/ Introduce Teen CERT March 7<sup>h</sup>
- CERT Bi-weekly training focus on HAM communications for month of March
  - March 10<sup>h</sup>- Recon activity review/ Ham Radio Basics
  - March 31<sup>st</sup>- Drill with CERT Ham's over Zoom
- CERT refresher training
  - March 4<sup>h</sup> Red Cross Shelter Update ( SIMEil Katin),
  - March 15<sup>h</sup>- Red Cross Shelter Fundamentals
  - March 23<sup>rd</sup>- SCCFD presents CERT Refresher : Disaster Preparedness and directly after a COVID 19 CERT Response Presentation by Anne DeGheest ( one of our LAH Cert's)

#### **Up Coming Meetings and Activities: APRIL**

- CERT refresher training
  - April 11<sup>th</sup>- Managing Donations in Disaster's
  - April 22<sup>nd</sup>- Logistics Section training

All CERT refreshers starting November 19th are on demand under the scheduled date of the class ( under CERT Classes ) on our w (LAHCFD.org) or you can log into our YouTube channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvDMiBSeIBfyjKyZp\\_koZtg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvDMiBSeIBfyjKyZp_koZtg)



Los Altos Hills County Fire District

(hot link for above): [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvDMiBSeIBfyjKyZp\\_koZtg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvDMiBSeIBfyjKyZp_koZtg)