



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Thursday, September 23, 2021 3:00pm-5:00pm
Via Zoom Teleconference

Due to COVID-19, and in accordance with California Assembly Bill 361, this meeting will not be physically open to the public and all Members will be teleconferencing into the meeting. To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can observe the meeting by attending the Zoom webinar (on the day and time of the meeting) and may provide public comment by sending comments to the Board President and Board Clerk via email at public.comment@kensingtonfire.org. Comments will then be read into the record, with a maximum allowance of 5 minutes per individual comment, subject to the Chair's discretion

Instructions on how to make a public comment during the meeting: At points in the meeting when the meeting chair requests public comment, members of the public participating in the live meeting either via internet or telephone shall indicate their desire to speak. If participating via internet, please click the "raise hand" feature located within the Zoom application screen. If connected via telephone, please dial "*9" (star, nine).

Any member of the public who needs special accommodations should email public.comment@kensingtonfire.org 48 hours prior to the meeting. This will enable the Kensington Fire Protection District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title 1).

Public comment will be taken on each agenda item. Each member of the public will be allotted the same maximum number of minutes to speak as set by the President before or during its consideration, except that public speakers using interpretation assistance will be allowed to testify for twice the amount of the public testimony time limit (California Government Code section 54954.3(a)).

Internet Address:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89962414863?pwd=b0tTbHFleFRkMG5xZ2J2OFY0YkQ5UT09>

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(720) 707-2699 or (346) 248-7799 or (253) 215-8782

Webinar ID: 899 6241 4863

Passcode: 112233

TIMING OF AGENDA ITEMS: *Approximate times are included below but may vary to accommodate appropriate discussion time and attention to the individual items.*

1. **(3:00pm) CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian
Public Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell, Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss, David Spath
Staff: General Manager Bill Hansell
Consultant: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela
2. **(3:01pm) PUBLIC COMMENT**
This place on the agenda is reserved for comments and inquiries concerning matters that do not otherwise appear on the agenda.
3. **(3:04pm) ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**
Items listed below are consent items, which are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. Reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent item designations to the various items have been received and considered. Copies of the reports are on file in the Fire Protection District Administrative Office at 217 Arlington Avenue and are available to the public. The disposition of the item is indicated. There will be no separate discussion of consent items. If discussion is requested for an item, that item will be removed from the list of consent items and considered separately on the agenda. (Supporting material)
 - a. **Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of August 26, 2021 (Approve)
4. **(3:05pm) NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Emergency Warning System**
(3:05pm) Status of the public address systems question -
See Summary document attached, and also minutes of August meeting
 - b. **CWS Alerts**
(3:30pm) Review of CWS alerts vis-à-vis weather radios and NOAA broadcasting with CCC OES personnel.
 - c. **Evacuation Routes and Parking Restrictions**
(4:00pm) Report from GM on conference with Police and Fire Chiefs, Sup. Gioia's office, and DPW head Monish Sen about feasibility of evacuation route signs and parking restrictions in Kensington.
 - d. **Nixle**
(4:20pm) Clarifications on how Nixle will be deployed in an emergency.
Follow-up query with Chiefs.
 - e. **Evacuation Drill**
(4:30pm) Discussion on Evacuation Drill options -
See City of Mill Valley example.
5. **(4:40 pm) EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR'S REPORT**
6. **(4:45 pm) REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

7. (4:50pm) CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. (5:00pm) ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on October 28, 2021 at 3:00pm via Zoom Teleconference.



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday, August 26, 2021 3:00pm-5:00pm
Via Zoom Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian

Public Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Liddell, Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss.
David Spath

Staff: Chief Michael Pigoni, General Manager Bill Hansell

Consultant: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela

Public: Mike Shanks (Genasys), Sgt. Nath (KPD), Meredith Gerhardt (OES), Chris Roller,
Chris Hilliard, Lorena Herrera (CWS), Paul Dorroh, 14154716586

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

This place on the agenda is reserved for comments and inquiries concerning matters that do not otherwise appear on the agenda.

There was no public comment.

3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS

Items listed below are consent items, which are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. Reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent item designations to the various items have been received and considered. Copies of the reports are on file in the Fire Protection District Administrative Office at 217 Arlington Avenue and are available to the public. The disposition of the item is indicated. There will be no separate discussion of consent items. If discussion is requested for an item, that item will be removed from the list of consent items and considered separately on the agenda. (Supporting material)

a. Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting of July 22, 2021 (Approve)

MOTION: Moss/Spath: To adopt consent items.

Motion passed by consensus.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Emergency Warning System

Kevin introduced the topic of emergency warning systems. He prefaced his remarks by noting that in a prolonged outage (wildfire, earthquake, PSPS) after a few days most cellphones and laptops would be dead, as would routers. Cell towers would mostly be down and providers would likely not be able to recharge them. Battery-powered radios could be the only option because CWS, WEA, reverse-911, etc. would not work. PA systems could be the only effective local source of notifications and warnings (blocked routes, electrical and other hazards, etc.). But they would have to

be controlled and activated through our Police and Fire departments and the County OES, and this is what we needed to learn about.

Chief Pigoni weighed in on the warning systems. He has no problem with a public warning system as an additional level of warning for the public. His concern is how the system would be used in conjunction with other communities and the county. One major design problem is who will do the testing and where should speakers be positioned. Another question is whether County will be willing to support these systems. We've been talking about this for two or three years. Chief Pigoni noted that it is time to get more details such as determining how many speakers we need, what permits will be necessary, whether the public is supportive of these systems or whether they are opposed to the noise. Another issue that needs to be resolved is how will these systems be activated and who will be responsible for activation. Chief Pigoni feels that there is a lot more research to be done.

Lorena Herrera (Contra Costa County OES) noted that the CWS can already reach local neighborhoods (and Zonehaven is a localized grid to facilitate this). We have WEA, reverse-911, and the NWS (NOAA) radio notifications. She said that in an emergency the County can use the NWS system, but that likely this would be a last resort compared to the other systems.

(In a subsequent conversation, Meredith from the OES clarified, if I am understanding it correctly, that the County would not be asking NWS to make an announcement. Instead they would override the frequency, much as an EWS can interrupt a TV program to issue a bulletin. We need more clarification on this.)

Danielle Madugo asked whether we could depend on NOAA weather bands for local evacuation orders, and we need to confirm this. She also noted that PA systems can give real-time, fine-grained information for local neighborhoods. (A big question is who will issue such information during emergencies, because all personnel may be engaged in the field. To be discussed ...)

Mike Shanks noted that Berkeley will be using warning sounds and voice messages. Chief May at the Berkeley Fire Department is a lot farther down the road on these issues. Mike noted that all these different services are great and all of the systems are complementary.

Kevin Padian noted that there are about 100 sirens in Contra Costa County but it isn't clear who operates them. Kevin noted that it is inevitable that there will be complaints from citizens, but we will need a strong program of education and a survey of the community to find out what they understand and what their concerns are.

General Manager Bill Hansell noted that he and Johnny Valenzuela had a meeting with Assistant Chief Keith May from the Berkeley Fire Department and the meeting was very productive. There will be a proposal presented to the Berkeley City Council in September. Bill noted that Chief May and his staff have come a long way and are completely behind the public alerting system. Bill also noted that messages from the Berkeley system will be prefaced with the information about who the messages are for. Bill's goal for our new Grant Proposal Writer is first to focus on the PSB funding and second on the possibility of getting funds for these devices, should the

Board decide to acquire them.

Dave Spath asked if there could be interference in notifications with Zonehaven because three of the zones overlap both Kensington and El Cerrito. (We'd need to know more about how Zonehaven might be used, and we'd need potential examples of how a PA notice in Kensington could possibly mislead folks in El Cerrito.)

Larry Nagel asked how well the system could be heard in high winds. Mike Shanks answered that the speakers have been designed to render intelligible voice, but the answer is very dependent on individual circumstances. Bill Hansell noted in his conversation with Chief May that Berkeley believes that the alerts can be heard by many but not all of the Berkeley residents. Kevin Padian noted that it is not necessary that every resident hear the system; with a neighborhood alert system that must be part of this project, neighbors will help neighbors.

Sgt. Nath, substituting last-minute for Chief Gancasz, affirmed that the Chiefs agree with each other and that they will support the technology if it's acquired. He stressed that we will need a broad campaign of community awareness.

Lisa Caronna expressed concerns about using NOAA because people are just not familiar with this service. Lisa noted that the EOC would be responsible for providing information to the public, so it is important to tie in a local system with the EOC.

Danielle Madugo asked Mike Shanks how the Genasys system would be tied into the Earthquake Warning System. Mike noted that the quick answer is that the Genasys system can take in a number of inputs, including an Earthquake Detection System.

Mike Shanks noted that Genasys just purchased Zonehaven and that they are still working on the integration process.

b. Evacuation Communication Discussion

Bill brought up the related question of the evacuation plan for Kensington. Police and Fire are coordinating on plans to modify parking configurations as needed. Chief Pigoni stated that the Zonehaven zones are up and running, and could be used today if needed. They will use CWS for a controlled evacuation with Zonehaven. We're going on faith that the residents know the roads well enough that they can have alternate evacuation routes in mind if necessary. Sgt. Nath noted that Lt. Harms and the DPW have erected two new evacuation signs near Arlington and Sunset, and he recommended that people watch the Netflix biopic on the Paradise Fire and the evacuation hazards that they faced. Larry said that zones are important, because we can't very well all evacuate at once; pre-evacuation is important but will we have the luxury? (This might also be said for deploying zones sequentially, if a fire flares close to us suddenly.) Danielle announced that Hilltop School has a new principal so hopefully progress on evacuation drill procedures can continue.

(Another note from a later conversation with Meredith: she asked why we would be interested in spending money on outdoor PA systems when we could simply buy everyone in town a weather radio that can be programmed to go off (sound and light) for an emergency announcement. Good idea, although this could be a labor-intensive project: the devices have to be charged, plugged in, and activated for alerts in order

to be of use, and this may be difficult for some residents to do or maintain. Moreover, the NWS tests its emergency notification system once a week, so you have this huge noise and flashing lights going off in your house all the time; after a few weeks some residents might simply unplug the things. But maybe there are similar, less problematic solutions ...)

Mike Pigoni noted that we have zones for evacuation. There are only a few ways to get out of town and residents have to know the roads and know how to use alternate routes to get out of town.

Sergeant Nath noted that changing the parking culture in Kensington will be difficult. Also, the Police Department will not have a lot of people to assist with an evacuation.

Kevin agreed that we have to address the parking issue. Residents have to understand that these decisions are not the purview of individual blocks or neighborhoods. Obstructions farther along the evacuation routes will lead to blockages and hazards at upper levels. We need a strong campaign of education and sensitizing residents to the reality that they influence more than their own blocks.

Larry Nagel noted that we have to evacuate by zones or we will overload the roads.

Johnny Valenzuela asked if there is anything keeping us from evacuating by zones. At present, the only thing keeping us from evacuating by zones is a lack of understanding of Zonehaven zones.

Paul Moss noted that the CWS will, at the direction of the incident commander, notify the residents of which zones to evacuate and which routes to take.

c. JPA for Vegetation Management of East Bay WUI

Bill Hansell gave an update on a meeting with David Early regarding the formation of the East Bay Vegetation Management Joint Powers Agency (JPA). This agency is in the very early stages of formation and would have as a mission funding and managing vegetation management projects along the WUI extending from Oakland to El Sobrante. The members of the Emergency Preparedness Committee thought that there was power in numbers and that we should investigate this matter further. Peter Guerrero volunteered to serve on a committee, and it was decided to bring the matter before the Kensington Fire Protection District Board.

PA for Vegetation Management of East Bay WUI

5. (4:15pm) Update on meeting with David Early regarding formation.

- a.** Action – Approve motion to recommend participation to the Board of Directors.

MOTION: Nagel/Madugo to participate in discussions regarding the formation of the East Bay Vegetation Management Joint Powers Agency (JPA)

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Report

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela noted that he has put together a pamphlet that addresses emergency preparedness, including go kits, red flag days, parking, evacuation. This will be mailed very soon.

Johnny also noted that National Night Out was very successful in getting the word out for emergency preparedness. Neighbors in the Willamette area were very constructive about possibilities of altering parking configurations as needed to facilitate evacuation.

Lisa Caronna expressed her appreciation for the two articles in the latest *Outlook* on Emergency Preparedness

c. Emergency Radio Page on Website

This item is in progress.

d. Reports from Committee Members

Danielle Madugo noted that we now have a principal at Hilltop and we are moving on an evacuation drill.

Kevin Padian noted that Lt. Harms has largely been pulled off traffic evacuation planning, because several senior officers have left the District and he is responsible for a lot of training and administrative work until some new people can be hired. We have new evacuation signs at the cemetery and the old signs are now at Sunset and Arlington.

Bill Hansell reported progress on the building and on a temporary building for the Police Department and the Fire Department. Our grant writer is working on grants for the earthquake retro fit of Station 65, as well.

6. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on September 23, 2021 at 3:00pm via Zoom Teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned with a moment of silence for the tragic events that happened today in Afghanistan.

Adjourned at 5:05 PM by Director Kevin Padian

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on September 23, 2021.

Attest:

Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

DRAFT

2021 Mill Valley Evacuation Drill Update & Reminder

Sign Up Today

Join Us: Saturday, September 25, 2021 - Line up at 8:30 am

SAVE THE DATE
MILL VALLEY
EVACUATION DRILL
Saturday, September 25, 2021
9:00 am

We have all witnessed the challenges people face when evacuating from wildfire. That's why evacuation preparation has long been a priority for the City of Mill Valley.

We need your help and participation as we continue to improve our evacuation planning.

For our 16th annual evacuation drill, we will continue to learn through practice and observation.

Google is studying evacuation modeling in Mill Valley. We seek to better understand our road network, problem intersections, and ways to improve overall community impacts during real-time evacuations.

The drill is set for Saturday, September 25th, with cars lining up on East Blithedale at 8:30 am.

We need your participation!

The goal of this year's drill is a timed event to help validate Google's current evacuation research.

We are asking 250 people to line up their cars on East Blithedale to simulate the gridlock we expect during the peak of a mass evacuation. It does not matter whether this is your normal evacuation route. We will then time how fast we can clear the traffic by directing cars to a nearby fire safe space.

Like when your local grocery store speeds things up by adding additional checkers during busy times, our evacuation planning includes utilizing large parking areas and open spaces like Bay Front Park to add safe temporary storage capacity to our road network. These are called "Community Refuge Areas" or CRAs.

The goal is to increase overall evacuation speed and get people down from the canyons quicker.

How can you participate?

To register for our September 25th event please visit www.cityofmillvalley.org/evacdrrill

From start to finish, we anticipate the evacuation drill will take no more than 90 minutes of your time.

Residents not interested in participating in the drill should plan to avoid outbound E. Blithedale between downtown and Camino Alto the morning of September 25, as the road will be blocked until the drill is run.

Additionally, there will be road closures on Sycamore in the area of Mill Valley Middle School and traffic delays on Camino Alto between E. Blithedale and Miller.

The City of Mill Valley continuously focuses on the safety of our community members. This is why we remain diligent in working with partners, studying other community disaster responses, and refining our evacuation plans. Please join us for the September 25th drill.

Learn more:

Watch a [21 min video](#) with more background information about the Google evacuation modeling and how it has informed our upcoming drill.

[Sign Up Today](#)

How do I participate?

Before the drill:

1. [RSVP here](#) (Required)
2. Sign up for the [AlertMarin](#) notification system and [Nixle](#): text your ZIP CODE to 888777 for mobile alerts.
3. Make a [Family Plan](#)
4. Pack your "[Grab and Go Bag](#)" filled with items from your "[Grab and Go Checklist](#)"
5. Choose one (1) car for the drill and park it facing outward.

By 8:30 am on September 25 get in line:

1. Grab your "[Grab and Go Bag](#)"
2. Get in your car and turn on your headlights

3. In order to enter the line of cars on East Blithedale - regardless of where you are starting, proceed:

- Northbound on Miller Avenue
- Right onto Sunnyside
- Right onto Eastbound E. Blithedale to join the car line

Beginning at 8:30 cars will be stopped at the corner of East Blithedale and Camino Alto and those behind you will stack up all the way back to Walnut. At 9:00 am, public safety personnel will escort cars right onto Camino Alto, and left onto Sycamore toward Bay Front Park. You will drive Sycamore Avenue until instructed to stop and have a quick interaction with our friendly volunteers before being released. We are timing and measuring the volume of cars using the strategy of quickly releasing gridlocked cars on E. Blithedale towards Bayfront Park. In a real emergency cars will be directed into the park to create a temporary refuge area.

What should I expect?

Please anticipate congestion as participants make their way to East Blithedale. There will be signs and public safety staff to direct cars to the CRA.

What if I DO NOT want to participate?

Please avoid East Blithedale from 8:30 - 10:30 am between Downtown Mill Valley and Camino Alto, and the sidestreets around the Mill Valley Middle School. Sycamore Avenue between Mill Valley Middle and Bay Front Park will be inaccessible by vehicle from 6:00 am - 12:00 pm.

If I have questions, who should I contact?

- General questions: Call 415-388-8182 or email info@smfd.org
- Media inquiries - Linn Walsh, Public Information Officer, City of Mill Valley Email: lwalsh@cityofmillvalley.org, Office Phone: 415-388-4863

Thank you

The City of Mill Valley, MV Police and MV Fire/SMFD would like to recognize and thank all the local and regional public safety personnel for their efforts in developing the drill. Thank you also to the following partner agencies:

- Mill Valley Middle School
- Tamalpais United Methodist Church
- Mill Valley Emergency Preparedness Commission
- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- FIRESafe Marin
- Southern Marin Fire Protection District
- Marin County Sheriff's Office
- Neighborhood Response Groups

Sign Up Today

City of Mill Valley
26 Corte Madera Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

www.cityofmillvalley.org





KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DATE: September 23, 2021

TO: Emergency Preparedness Committee
Kensington Fire Protection District

RE: **Agenda Item 05**
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Report

SUBMITTED BY: Johnny Valenzuela, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

The following progress items will be reviewed in the EPC meeting:

1. Community Event/Engagement

- N/A

2. District Communications/ Publications

- 08/29/2021 Cal Fire video
- 08/31/2021 National Forest Closure Announcement
- 09/01/2021 National Preparedness Month Week 1
- 09/02/2021 CWS Poll on Nextdoor
- 09/07/2021 Communication Tools Poll on Nextdoor
- 09/07/2021 National Preparedness Month Week 2
- 09/07/2021 Article re: Keeping Phone Charged in disaster
- 09/08/2021 Fire Weather Watch
- 09/09/2021 Red Flag Warning
- 09/11/2021 20th anniversary 9/11 remembrance
- 09/15/2021 National Preparedness Month Week 3
- 09/15/2021 National Preparedness Month Emergency Supply Sale
- 09/19/2021 Red Flag Warning

3. Initiatives/ Deliverables

- Shred Event Vendor Quotes
- National Preparedness Month Campaign Signage Production/Placement
- National Preparedness Month Campaign weekly content
- Subscriptions to KFPD emails
- Emergency Radios for KFPD Website
- Updated Service Stats on KFPD website per Chief/GM Hansell
- Review/feedback EP Committee submissions to Outlook October Edition

4. Meetings

- 09/02/2021 Marty Westby Phone Conference
- 09/02/2021 Lisa Corona Phone Conference
- 09/03/2021 R&S Paul introduction to Kensington Paths
- 09/03/2021 Chris Hilliard CERT/ Data Collection
- 09/08/2021 KFPD Monthly Meeting
- 09/10/2021 Anne Forrest
- 09/15/2021 KFPD/KPD/Public Works Red Flag Parking Meeting
- 09/20/2021 Chris Hilliard Working Session
- 09/23/2021 ZCEB Team Meeting re: Real Estate & Home Hardening

5. Introductions / Correspondences

- Eileen Nottoli
- Camden Richards
- Caitlyn Vincent
- Jaima Roberts
- Josh Dickinson
- Lisa Fox-Mullen
- Pamella Martin

6. Miscellaneous Topics

- N/A