

Lessons Learned Sub-Committee Recommendations- March 2019 Update

The following list includes areas for improvement based on the sub-committee’s lessons learned from our counterparts in Sonoma and Napa Counties, feedback from the community, and an analysis of existing programs and policies in Marin. This document is designed to serve as a status update to the recommendations outlined in the September 2018 report, “*Lessons Learned- 2017 North Bay Fire Siege.*” Recommendations are numbered for reference, but no order or priority is implied by this list.

While some of these measures have already been implemented, several others need further exploration and/or are dependent upon the continued involvement of a broad group of stakeholders and collaboration between government and residents.

Fire	Recommendations from Sub-Committee	Responsibility	September 2018 Status/Comments	March 2019 Status
1	Coordinate annual joint meeting to review and prioritize recommendations in this report as well as ongoing goals of CWPP	All Agencies	Spring 2019	2018 CWPP accomplishments complete. Sub-group meeting March 6, 2019
2	Ensure/develop consistent application of defensible space codes and enforcement across fire agencies	All Fire Agencies	Code Adoption Fall 2019	Fire Protection Officers (FPOs) tasked Countywide approach for consistency
3	Increase crews for fuels reduction work. Consider North Bay Conservation Corps and other career path groups for youth	Marin County Fire Department (MCFD), Fire Safe Marin (FSM)	County added one 12-person crew supported through National Park Service (NPS) Agreement in FY 18-19	Second Crew with NPS- Current discussions with MCOSD Need to identify new resources to support crew expansion
4	Improve MCFD ability to cite for parking violations on fire lanes and critical access/egress roads and fireworks	MCFD, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO), District Attorney (DA)	Further exploration required	In progress – tasked to FPO group

5	Develop program to assist seniors and those with functional needs to accomplish defensible space	MCFD, Fire Agencies, Health and Human Services (HHS)	MCFD was awarded \$14K grant, with matching funds secured in FY 2018-19 disaster preparation set-aside	Grants funds available including matching County funds, working with HHS Division of Aging and Adult Services
6	Outline and/or develop process to enforce compliance of defensible space on properties including and up to liens on property in all fire jurisdictions	Fire Agencies	Code and standards review	FPOs tasked in progress
7	Mandate fuel reduction on vacant lots agreed upon size in agreed upon proximity limits to structures; Outline and/or develop process to enforce compliance on vacant lots including and up to liens on property	All Fire Agencies, County, Cities/Towns, code enforcement officials	Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)	FPOs tasked in progress
8	Break out mapping within CWPP by fire agency – CWPP online map viewer	MCFD	County contracted to develop online map viewer of results	Complete MCFD funded with funds from CALFIRE.
9	Increase community outreach for red flag and other critical fire weather events through FSM	FSM, Fire Agencies	Utilize Nixel, Social Media in interim as Fire Chiefs develop guide	Completed and ongoing
10	Guide and support FireWise Communities to increase from current 13 to 20 communities in 24 months	FSM, Fire Agencies	On track to complete	Exceeding estimates & expectations. Fire Agency programs need ongoing support and funding need to identify new resources to support.
11	Expand private fundraising for FSM	FSM	Focused effort for FSM	In progress – FSM hired a contractor
12	Secure funding to support Disaster Coordinator contract position estimated at \$80K annually	All municipalities	County contribution for a 0.5 FTE secured in FY 2018-20 Budget disaster set-aside. Commitment from other municipalities needed	Completed- MMA & MCFA approved funding position to begin 7/1/19

13	Increased funding for FIREsafe MARIN from the Board of Supervisors to \$40K to support coordination and public outreach	Marin County Board of Supervisors (BOS), FSM, MCFD	Will increase to \$40k in FY 2018-19	Open item. Need to identify new resources for support of FSM longer term.
14	Increase/improve public awareness of fire safety measures/preparedness through FSM	FSM, Fire Agencies	FSM was awarded CALFIRE grant \$75K grant for public education	In progress, FSM mailing Living with Fire Magazine to 50,000 residents May 2019
15	Consider Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) building codes for all building regardless of in or out of WUI zones	Community Development Agency (CDA), Fire Agencies, Cities/Towns	FPOs to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)	FPO's tasked in progress
16	Prohibit and/or ban pyrophytic plants similar to San Rafael code	Fire Agencies, County, Cities/Towns	FPOs to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)	FPO's tasked in progress
17	Widen/maintain right of way zones where possible to maximize access/egress on primary and secondary evacuation routes	Fire Agencies, Cities/Towns, County	Fire Agencies to meet with DPW Directors by 1/1/19	DPW, PGE, Fire and Cities/Towns met in December to improve coordination – MCFD & DPW partnership/pilot
18	Consider use of PG&E, DPWs, Land Management for non-conventional roles in disaster (traffic, EOC, call centers, etc.)	All	Further exploration required	MMWD recently completed Disaster Service Worker training for all employees so that employees can take on different roles in an emergency.
19	Consider dedicated funding source for vegetation management to support work in most critical areas	Fire Agencies	Fire Chiefs to develop recommendation by 1/1/19	MMA, CAO, Fire working on countywide approach. Fire Chiefs have presented a concept proposal
20	Evaluate and expand sheltering plans	HHS, Office of Emergency Services (OES)	In progress	MMA, HHS, OES have a workgroup established

21	Under Fall “red flag” conditions with regional draw down and and/or expected significant fire weather, develop process to enhance staffing/preparedness countywide	All Fire Agencies, State Legislature (DRISC), CAL-OES	Current and expanding	CAL-OES funded to support pre-positioning of resources. Marin County was one of the highest users
22	Volunteer coordination improvements in partnership with Volunteer Center and OES	OES, HHS, Cities/Towns	Further exploration required	In progress
23	Further develop recently implemented call center to include multiple languages and utilize “211”	MCFD, OES	Call Center established	Using for major events now
24	Regular communication and progress checks of PG&E infrastructure and improvements	MCFD, Land Management Agencies, County, Cities/Towns, FSM	Demand letter sent to PG&E from Land Managers and Fire Officials on February 28, 2018. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) engaged.	MCFCA continues to collaborate with PG&E to improve infrastructure within Marin. Anticipate power shut offs becoming more common Summer 2019 While PG&E has been upgrading wooden power poles to metal within Tier 3 Marin, veg mgmt. still needs work to be in compliance with CPUC regs. Need mechanism for PG&E/CPUC reporting on compliance
25	Adopt code to require battery backup for garage doors	Fire Agencies, Cities/Towns, County	FPOs to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)	FPO’s tasked State law to go in effect

Land Management	Recommendations from Sub-Committee	Responsibility	September 2018 Status/Comments	March 2019 Status
1	Increase fuels reduction work and response capabilities by expanding Fire Crew programs	NPS, MCOSD, MMWD, MCFD	County added a 12-person crew with NPS support	Countywide concept being explored to expand Fire Crew program
2	Create consistent approach to access of neighbors on public lands to create defensible space	NPS, State Parks, MCOSD, MMWD	Guideline being drafted	MMWD has worked with partner agencies on consistency in drafting letter notifications to adjacent property owners
3	Align land use restrictions protocol and access for public lands	NPS, State Parks, MCOSD, MMWD	Guideline being drafted	Tasked to Land Management Agencies
4	State Parks to produce/distribute fact sheet to neighbors	CA State Parks	Complete	Fact sheet completed
5	Fuel reduction work in strategic state park areas including China Camp and Inverness Ridge	CA State Parks	Further exploration required	State Parks to provide workplan
6	Focused work on projects as outlined in the CWPP	MCOSD	Annually projects are chosen utilizing the CWPP as a guide	New "Fire Fuels Partnership" meetings established between land management agencies to continue coordination
7	One Tam initiative "Early Detection/ Rapid Response program" to identify and remove non-native invasive plants	MCOSD	Implemented	Work/funding continues, 100 miles of surveys and response annually on MMWD lands, need mileage for State Parks/County Parks
8	Matching investments of funding or in-kind work with neighbors adjacent to MCOSD lands	MCOSD	Further exploration required	MCOSD exploring partnership with MCFD for fuel reduction work. MMWD is matching funds for Kent Woodlands fuel reduction/fuel break maintenance work on a grant that CCNB was awarded. CCNB is

				also doing work under this grant on adjacent MCOSD lands.
9	Use CERT groups to help engage neighbors	MCOSD, NPS, State Parks, MMWD	Further exploration required	Countywide Disaster Coordinator Position to utilize CERTs
10	Fund LiDAR vegetation mapping	MCOSD, State Parks, MMWD, NPS	Board of Supervisors approved \$584,400 purchase of 6 LiDAR on 5/22/2018	Survey is complete for LiDAR, data analysis still ongoing, maps to be generated by 2020
11	Utilize investment plan for vegetation management	MMWD	In progress refer to MMWD Vegetation Mgmt. plan	MMWD proposing \$1M fire/fuel capital investment/increase for veg mgmt. on rate proposal. MMWD's new Veg Mgmt Plan (known as Biodiversity, Fire, Fuels Integrated Plan, or BFFIP) which will increase scale of veg mgmt. work, Draft EIR anticipated for release on March 21, 2019
12	Consider road closure and land restrictions during high/extreme fire danger	MMWD, Fire Agencies	Further exploration required	Land closures and restrictions are standard part of Red Flag messaging
13	Develop and identify transition zones where public lands abut residential areas and provide additional fuel modification beyond traditional defensible space limits	Land Management Agencies, Cities/Towns, Fire Agencies	Pacheco Valle, Inverness Ridge in progress	In progress Fuel breaks continue to be maintained by land management agencies at WUIs
14	Maintain integrity of fire road network for access and egress of fire equipment in collaboration with fire agencies	Land Management Agencies, Fire Agencies	Continuous and ongoing	In progress – quarterly coordination with MCFD & LMAs continuing, but improved fire breaks on routes and defensible space around critical facilities such as Bon Tempe Water Treatment Plant.

Law Enforcement	Recommendations from Sub-Committee	Responsibility	September 2018 Status/Comments	March 2019 Status
1	Increase the number of evacuation exercises ensuring each law enforcement agency hosts at least one annually in their service area	Law Agencies, OES, Fire	Partially complete for 2018	Ongoing – agencies are scheduling evacuation drills for the Spring-Summer of 2019.
2	Improve law enforcement mutual aid	MCSO	Develop request plan for local agencies through MCSO	Law enforcement is engaged with Marin Managers and Fire Chiefs sub-group to address evacuation planning and exercises
3	Improve process for out of county mutual aid and reimbursement process for law enforcement	MCSO	Work with the State Legislature	Complete – Sheriffs Fiscal Services Unit improved process and cost recovery
4	Staffing OES to meet objectives/goals	MCSO, OES	MCSO to develop	In progress – Assistant OES Coordinator Position created and recruitment is opening soon

Office of Emergency Services	Recommendations from Sub-Committee	Responsibility	September 2018 Status/Comments	March 2019 Status
1	Update evacuation plan	OES	Final draft completed- developing training schedule	In progress
2	Develop emergency transportation plan within 36 months	OES	In progress – Plan in development stage. Working with UASI regional workgroup	No change
3	Create evacuation media message video/info for public distribution	OES	Complete by 1/1/19	In progress
4	Develop metric to track and increase volume of residents opting in to AlertMarin	OES	Complete	Complete
5	Add Spanish language version to AlertMarin	OES	In progress funding established	Complete
6	Address senior population and outreach for AlertMarin	OES	In progress	In progress
7	Improve consistency of messaging on social media platforms (Facebook, Nixel, Twitter, etc.) amongst public agencies to ensure accurate and timely distribution of non-emergency information to the public	All	Held joint meeting of countywide Public Safety Public Information Officers June. Developing guideline with police and Fire Chiefs. UASI funded project on emergency messaging	Police and Fire chiefs addressing jointly. MMA sub-group also prioritizing In progress
8	Develop best practices for preparedness, notification and successful evacuation of seniors and access and functional needs community members	ALL	In progress – working with County AFN representatives	In progress

Cities/Towns	Recommendations from Sub-Committee	Responsibility	September 2018 Status/Comments	March 2019 Status
1	Address access and egress roads with public works and host joint meeting of stakeholders	Cities/Towns, DPW's, Fire	Scheduled Fall 2018	MCFD/DPW have draft letter and prioritized roads. Other Cities/towns are also in progress
2	Engage neighborhoods to encourage FireWise Certification	Cities/Towns/County	In progress	Currently 31 FIRESWISE Sites in Marin County. Will need ongoing support and resources
3	Mill Valley to share 6 town initiatives that can be used in other Towns	Mill Valley/Towns/Cities	In progress	Complete
4	Improve /Expand/Add "Steps-Lanes-Paths in areas where access / egress of vehicles is limited	All	Further exploration required	In progress
5	Develop uniformity between cities specific to codes, planting etc.	Cities/Towns/County	FPOs to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)	FPO's tasked in progress
6	Expand EOC training for public agency staff (Disaster Service Workers)	Cities/Towns /OES	In progress	DSW training is being expanded and shared with Towns/Cities
7	Improve messaging during periods of heightened fire danger e.g. Red Flag days	All	In progress	Complete

Public	Recommendations from Sub-Committee	Responsibility	September 2018 Status/Comments	March 2019 Status
1	Harden homes to decrease structure ignitability. Install fire resistant roofing, siding, vents, and dual pane windows to meet Fire Code	Public	Ongoing	FPO's tasked in progress
2	Create and maintain defensible space including removing all fire prone plants from existing ornamental landscape	Public, Land Mgt. Agencies, Fire Agencies	Ongoing	FPO's tasked in progress
3	Keep driveways and roadways clear to ensure emergency access and egress	Public, Law	Ongoing	Ongoing
4	Ensure insurance policies are adequate to relocate and rebuild	Public	Annual review /Public awareness	FSM addressing as well as fire forums
5	Neighbors helping and knowing neighbors especially elderly and those with access and functional needs	Public, NGO's, CERT, HOA's	Ongoing	Engaging CERT's and re-energizing Get Ready
6	Become a Firewise designated community	Neighborhoods, HOA's, Fire Agencies	In progress and ongoing	Currently 31 sites in Marin County. Will need ongoing support and resources

Glossary of term:

MCOSD – Marin County Open Space District
NPS- National Park Service
MMWD- Marin Municipal Water District
MCFCA – Marin County Fire Chiefs Association
BOS – Marin County Board of Supervisors
DPW – Department of Public Works
OES – Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services

FPO's- Marin County Fire Chiefs – Fire Prevention Officers
FSM – Fire Safe Marin
CCNB- Conservation Crews North Bay
NGO's – Non-Governmental Organization

HOA's – Home Owners Associations
CERT – Community Emergency Response Team
DSW – Disaster Service Worker