



Country Club

Homeowners' Association

Dedicated to the protection

quality of neighborhood living

www.countryclubestateshoa.org

MINUTES of the COUNTRY CLUB HOA ANNUAL FIRE MITIGATION/SAFETY MEETING – 9 Mar 2019

The meeting began at 8:30 on 9 March 2019 at the Ascension Lutheran Church, 2505 North Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

The first 45 minutes of the meeting was a social get together.

A total of 15 people attended, including 6 CCHOA Board members.

FIRE MITIGATION

- a. Steve Paradis started the Fire Mitigation section of the meeting with an overall introduction.
 - 1) Steve stated that a lot of good work has been done over the last few years to mitigate the fire danger in our area.
 - 2) We are in the Urban-Wildfire danger area because of our proximity to Palmer Park.
 - 3) Steve reported that we are one of 25 recognized Fire Wise neighborhoods in Colorado Springs.
 - 4) Steve then introduced Ashley Whitworth, the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) Education and Outreach Coordinator, and Sherrie Storey, the CSFD Fuels Program Coordinator.
- b. Fire Mitigation Presentation
 - 1) Ashley stated the CSFD is focused on the first 30 feet around the house and that was the focus of her presentation
 - 2) The entire presentation is available on the CCHOA web page.
 - 3) Slide 2 showed how Colorado Springs has changed from a prairie type landscape with little vegetation to one that has more dense vegetation and houses.
 - 4) Slide 3 showed the Wildfire Urban Interface. This area includes, per Ashley, 120 Home Owner Associations, and 36, 485 residential structures.
 - 5) Slide 4 showed the Wildfire Risk Assessment for the CCHOA area. Ashley pointed out that this assessment is only used as an educational tool. It is not used during firefighting.
 - 6) For a specific address risk assessment, one can go online to <https://gis.coloradosprings.gov/Html5Viewer/?viewer=wildfiremitigation>.
 - 7) Ashley stated the CSFD Fire Mitigation office currently has five people and this shrinks to four in the summer.
 - 8) Slide 5 showed the areas where homeowners can mitigate wildfire dangers. These include roofs, decks, siding, vegetation density and creating a defensible space around the house. Additionally, Ashley stated the CSFD also looks to see if the house address is clearly visible from the street.

- 9) Ashley stated the CSFD offers free on-site consultations which provide homeowners recommendations, not mandatory actions.
 - 10) Slide 6 discussed mandatory roof and exterior cladding and siding if building a new house or replacing an old house. If replacing more than 25% of an old roof, one must meet the Class A roofing requirement. Decks and roofs are the biggest collectors of fire embers.
 - 11) Slide 7 discussed decking material. Ashley stated composite materials melt and stay in place, thus reducing fire danger. Wood is allowed for the underside of a deck.
 - 12) Slide 8: Ashley stated that large embers, during the Waldo Canyon fire, were able to get through large mesh screening and that is why 1/8" mesh screening is now recommended.
 - 13) Slide 9: Ashley stated that the CSFD learned a lot from the Waldo Canyon fire. Since mulch under overhangs can spread fires, it is now recommended to have 1-3 feet of rock around the house to mitigate the spread of fires. They also recommend no plants under overhangs.
 - a) Steve stated that Junipers were especially bad in that they easily combust.
 - b) Steve also stated that, if an evacuation is ordered, we all need to get out as soon as possible so the CSFD can fight the fire.
 - c) He also stated Colorado Springs and El Paso County have tremendous resources for fighting wildfires and assisting people who need to evacuate.
 - 14) Slide 10: Vegetation management is to keep the fire on the ground and not spread to the tree crowns.
 - 15) Slides 11-16 showed examples of vegetation management.
 - 16) Slide 17 showed a fire in California with the black smoke indication fuel rich and structures burning. Ashley noted that embers from a wildfire can blow 10-15 miles ahead of a wildfire.
 - 17) Slide 18 showed how homeowners can reduce their wildfire risk.
 - a) The reason no more than 4 inches of mulch is recommended is that flames can go anywhere from 1.5 to three times the height of the mulch.
 - b) Pruning lower branches, typically up to 10 feet from the ground is recommended to prevent creating a fire staircase.
 - c) Keeping window wells clear of leaves and branches is recommended because if these items catch fire, the windows could heat up and break, allowing the fire to enter the house.
 - 18) Slides 19 to 21 provided information on the CSFD free neighborhood chipping program.
 - a) One can sign up for the Chipping program by calling 385-7342, or online at <https://coloradosprings.gov/fire-department/page/neighborhood-chipping-program>.
 - b) One can request an on-site evaluation by calling 385-7342.
 - c) Ashley recommended an on-site consultation, which is also free, once every five years.
 - d) Ashley also pointed out they track chipping participation by address so combining material for chipping actually hurts our Fire Wise participation statistics.
- c. Post Fire Mitigation Discussion
- 1) Steve pointed out that, even with all the moisture we have received, it would take only about a week for vegetation to become dry again.
 - 2) Steve mentioned that USAA offers a 5% discount on home insurance for Fire Wise neighborhoods.
 - 3) Steve stated we need to figure out how we can help our neighbors with fire mitigation efforts.
 - 4) Ashley stated that, in order to keep the Fire Wise designation, we must have the equivalent of one hour of volunteer/individual work per lot (i.e., 317 hours of equivalent dollars). One hour is equivalent to approximately \$24.
 - 5) The CSFD is working on improving their Fire Wise tracking system.

- 6) Ashley stated that firefighters will go where they can defend houses (i.e., where fire mitigation efforts have occurred making the house more defensible).
- 7) CSFD will soon have 23 fire stations, up from current 22.
- 8) Steve recommended putting out connected hoses in front and back of house before evacuations. This proved very helpful in the Waldo Canyon fire.
- 9) People need to plan for people, papers, pets, and prescriptions when they evacuate.
- 10) Ashley stated that everyone should know what their home insurance covers. Some policies cover landscaping and foundations while others do not.
- 11) We need to work with the other HOAs that surround Palmer Park (i.e., St Andrews, Garden Ranch, and Green Crest).
- 12) Ashley stated the CSFD can write a letter on behalf of homeowners, regarding fire mitigation, to insurance companies if the insurance company is asking for more fire mitigation than the CSFD recommends. This has helped homeowners in the past.
- 13) Ashley reiterated that the first 30 feet around a house are critical for fire fighters.
- 14) What we see today with regards to our vegetation is not natural. There is much more vegetation now than would have been here without people. This created a lot of biofuel in an urban area.
- 15) Nature's way of doing fire mitigation is wild fires every 50-100 years to clear out old vegetation and allow new vegetation.
- 16) The CSFD has the equipment to do fire mitigation but needs volunteers. Ashley cited Palmer Park as an example. The CSFD could provide trucks, pruners, etc. but need people to volunteer for a cleanup day. If the City sees people are willing to volunteer to save Palmer Park, we might be able to get some funding for further efforts.
- 17) Steve has several Wildfire Mitigation packages available for those who did not attend the meeting. The packages include information on:
 - i. Income 65 (a program of tax credits for wildfire mitigation)
 - ii. The Chipping program
 - iii. Creating defensible spaces
 - iv. Homeowners insurance
 - v. Reducing wildfire risk
 - vi. Contractors with wildfire mitigation experience
 - vii. Emergency planning
 - viii. Firewise Plants
 - ix. Wildland fire action plan

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

- a) Steve introduced the Neighborhood Safety portion of the meeting by stating the HOA's priorities this year are Social events and Safety. He then introduced Joe Joseph, Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD).
- b) Joe stated that Stetson Hills Station covers 60 square miles with only 53 officers.
- c) Joe recommended getting to know your neighbors and the neighborhood.
- d) If you see something suspicious, call the non-emergency number 444-7000.
- e) There has recently been a 219% increase in auto thefts. Many cars are stolen when the owner either leaves the car running or unlocked with the keys in the car.
- f) Joe reiterated that we, the general public, are the eyes and ears for the CSPD.
- g) Robbery involves a weapon while burglary does not. Therefore, police respond more rapidly when a weapon is involved.


- h) If people call the non-emergency number more than three times for a particular suspicious activity, the CSPD will start patrolling the area.
- i) Tuesdays and Thursdays are the peak days for auto thefts with peak times for 6-9 PM.
- j) Joe suggested the following to make your house safer:
 - 1) Have lights on timers
 - 2) Have a radio or television on a timer
 - 3) If do not have an alarm system, keep your car alarm key near your bed. Turning on the car alarm could deter a burglar.
 - 4) Crooks go to the easiest targets so do not make it easy for them.
 - 5) The Ring door bell system, with its camera, is vey useful for checking what is occurring at and around your front door.
 - 6) Do not let strangers into your house.
- k) Steve stated our neighborhood is too dark with not enough lights. He suggested LED lights to help light up the streets and fronts of houses.
- l) The typical CSPD response time is 12 minutes.
- m) Janice Marie-Gallof asked about drones flying over our neighborhood from Palmer Park. Steve stated flying drones in the City and County parks is already illegal. If you spot a drone coming from Palmer Park to over our neighborhood, you can call 444-7000 and report it.
- n) Joe provided two handouts (Attachments 1 and 2) on protecting yourself and your valuables and Neighborhood Watch programs. Note the "Helpful Phone Numbers" in Attachment 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 PM.

.

Respectfully submitted,
Sanford Gallof, Secretary
CCHOA BOARD


ATTACHMENT 1
PROTECT YOURSELF/PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES HANDOUT



PROTECT YOURSELF

- Stay Alert!
- Who is around you?
Are they watching you?
- Do you know where you are?
- Could you tell emergency personnel where you are?
- Have you told your family members where you are going?
- Do you have any personal safety devices and do you know how to use them?
- Do you carry a whistle or personal alarm?

To report crimes or suspicious activities call
444-7000
For emergencies call **911**



PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES

- Are your doors locked?
- Are your windows rolled up?
- Are your valuables visible?
- How about perceived valuables?
 - Gym bags
 - School bags/backpacks
 - Lunch box
 - Packages
- Are wires to your electronics sticking out from under your seat?
- Are your garage door opener and your home address in your car?

Remember, it only takes seconds to get into your car.
Look in your car; would a thief want to get in?

CSPD Crime Prevention

Falcon (Northwest)	444-7246
Gold Hill (Southwest)	385-2117
Sand Creek (Southeast)	444-7276
Stetson Hills (Northeast)	444-3168

www.coloradosprings.gov

**ATTACHMENT 2
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

Helpful Phone Numbers

For Emergencies Dial 911

***For Non-Emergencies
Dial 444-7000***

***CSPD Text Your Tip 847411
(Text from your cellphone)***

Crime Stoppers 634-STOP (7867)

***To make a report on line use
this website
[https://secure.springsgov.com/
InternetCR/](https://secure.springsgov.com/InternetCR/)***

*El Paso County Sheriff's Office
(non-emergency Dispatch number)
(719) 390-5555
shr.elpasoco.com*

*EPSO Traffic Hotline
(719) 520-7192*

*Colorado State Patrol
(non-emergency Dispatch number)
(719) 544-2424
csp.state.co.us*

*Road Conditions
Colorado Department of
Transportation
(877) 315-7623
www.cotrip.org*



CSPD Crime Prevention Officers

Falcon Division (Northwest)
7850 Goddard Street 80905

Gold Hill Division (Southwest)
955 West Moreno Avenue 80920

Sand Creek Division (Southeast)
4125 Center Park Drive 80916

Stetson Hills Division (Northeast)
4110 Tutt Boulevard 80922

*Colorado Springs Police Department
(CSPD)*

**NEIGHBORHOOD
AND BUSINESS
WATCH PROGRAM:
THE BASICS**



Together we can make a difference!

Division's Crime Prevention Officer:

Falcon 444-7246

Gold Hill 385-2117

Sand Creek 444-7276

Stetson Hills 444-3168



What is Neighborhood and Business Watch?

It's a voluntary program whose goals are for citizens to make themselves, their families and their homes less vulnerable to crime and to increase cooperation between citizens and law enforcement to make their community safer.

A LITTLE HISTORY...

The Neighborhood Watch Program was created in 1972 by the National Sheriffs' Association as a way to bring together law enforcement agencies, citizens' organizations and individual residents in an effort to reduce crime in neighborhoods.

Since then, communities across the United States have formed Neighborhood Watch groups and have committed themselves to making their neighborhoods safer. This program is simple and inexpensive, yet highly effective in the fight against crime. The NSA reports that communities with active Neighborhood Watch programs show decreased occurrences of burglaries and related crimes.



Why Start a Neighborhood or Business Watch?

There are a limited number of police officers patrolling the entire city at any given time. Citizens can become extra eyes and ears for law enforcement.

Communication between you and the CSPD will enhance the safety of your neighborhood.

There are many benefits to forming a watch group:

- Get to know the people in your neighborhood better
- Learn ways to make your family and your home safer
- Be better prepared to respond to suspicious or criminal activity
- Help make your community a better place to live by using a proactive approach to fighting crime

By forming a watch group, you make it known that you won't tolerate criminal activity in your community and you make your community less attractive for potential criminals.

What Does It Involve?

It's actually very simple. There are three main responsibilities of Neighborhood and Business Watch members:

observation, communication and security.

1. Observation is paying attention to what is happening around you. Keep an eye out for your neighbors and their property as well as your own. Residents are the best experts on what is normal and acceptable for their neighborhood.
2. Communication is simply passing on your observations or information you receive. If you witness suspicious behavior or discover a crime, report it to the CSPD Dispatch immediately.
For emergencies, dial 911. Otherwise call the non-emergency at 444-7000.
3. Security involves each person taking a critical look at their home, their habits and the entire neighborhood to ensure that the area is not inviting to potential criminals. This includes assessing and possibly upgrading physical security measures, lighting, and other features to create the safest environment possible.



Questions? Call your Division's Crime Prevention Officer: Falcon 444-7246; Gold Hill 385-2117; Sand Creek 444-7276; Stetson Hills 444-3168