

DRY CREEK-LOKOYA VFD/FIRE COMPANY HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

Please visit our new website for more information on your local Volunteer Department/Fire Company. Go to:

www.drycreek-lokoya.com

5900 DRY CREEK RD. NAPA, CA 94558

DRY CREEK-LOKOYA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

WELCOME TO THE DRY CREEK-LOKOYA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRE COMPANY



WE ARE A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

DONATE HERE!

MVFSC 911 Address Sign Project

911 REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS

Help The Fire Department Find Your Home When Every Second Counts!

Have you noticed all the new, green address signs in our neighborhood? Join your neighbors as seconds count in emergencies. Your local volunteer firefighters have been able to find emergencies much faster due to the 911 green signs.

Go to mtveederfiresafe.com and look for the store. You may order your address sign there.



Great for multiple addresses!



MT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL ALSO HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

Please visit our new website for more information on the Mt Veeder Fire Safe Council. Go to:

www.mtveederfiresafe.com



What Should We Do Now?

Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council

By Bill Robertson, MVFSC Board Member

This past October we experienced a wildfire disaster the likes of which our region has never seen. The Mount Veeder neighborhood was especially hard hit, with thousands of acres of forest, dozens of homes and a life lost. For many years we have warned our community about the real possibility of a devastating fire and we have reminded people that our neighborhood is in a Very High Fire Severity Zone. Some listened and took measures to protect their homes, but many did not, either because they thought that it could never happen here or that the fire department would save their home. This past October brought the worst-case scenario. It not only happened here but in other nearby communities as well and all at the same time. The fire weather conditions of October 8th were extreme due to the excessively strong wind, low relative humidity and relatively high temperatures. As multiple fires ignited and exploded into communities, there were not enough resources available to fight the fires and there was no way to stop the fire spread with the prevailing conditions of weather, fuel and topography. Given those limitations, the priority had to be to protect life and to get people out of harm's way.

Could this happen again? To us, the answer is obvious. Yes, it could happen again and it will. As time passes

the vegetation that was consumed will grow back and people will continue to build new homes in the area. Fire season, like Christmas, comes around every year and the new vegetation will dry out and be ready to burn.

What can we as a community do now? The answer lies with you. Fire is a threat to the community itself and, as we found out, fire does not discriminate. When the Partrick Fire and the Nuns Fire merged and came over the mountain into our neighborhood, it didn't matter whether you were a prominent lawyer, an executive with a large mansion or a low-income person living in a small cabin at the end of Lokoya Road. The fire consumed everything combustible that was in its path. Can we keep this from happening again? Since it is a community problem, we as a community must come together and work together to reduce the risk. Here are some things you can do:

- 1) Take action on your own property to reduce the accumulation of dangerous fuel, not only by creating defensible space around your home but by maintaining a healthy forest. There are government programs that can assist forest landowners. If the fire moved through your property and has reduced the vegetation, then keep it that way by limiting new growth to maintain a more open landscape.
- 2) Design your home and property so that it can survive without fire department intervention by hardening your structures and landscape against embers and flames. Learn about materials and methods that can make your structure more fire-resistant. Build new houses to code or, when remodeling, bring existing houses up to California Building Code Chapter 7A requirements.
- 3) Consider whether there is sufficient separation between the house and other structures such as wood fences or outbuildings. You can create barriers against flames on your own property with retaining walls, setbacks from a slope, and adequate protection of openings.
- 4) Make sound decisions about where buildings should be located and where they shouldn't. Avoid putting structures on a vulnerable mid-slope or in a saddle or chimney. Remember, where water flows downhill in creeks, ravines and draws, fire moves uphill in the opposite direction and the heat becomes concentrated and funneled. Cal Fire and Napa County can be useful resources.
- 5) Learn about Home Ignition Zones—the areas around your home that are most vulnerable to ignition by embers or radiant heat. Learn how you can mitigate risk in those areas around your home.
- 6) If you live locally full time, if you can make the time commitment and if you meet the requirements, join the local fire company and become an active qualified member. Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Company, Station 16 is always looking for new recruits. Contact Chief Gary Green at (707) 738-7132.
- 7) Get involved with the Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council. Most of our completed fuel reduction projects paid off during our recent wildfire. Other projects are on the drawing board but it takes work to identify them, plan them and fund them. Many hands make lighter work. You may have knowledge, skills and abilities that can be brought to the table to help with a variety of tasks. Contact Chairperson Joseph Nordlinger at (707) 944-1562 to inquire about becoming involved.

There are many lessons to be learned from the events from this past October. Our Mt. Veeder community, along with other communities in Napa and Sonoma Counties, will undergo a lengthy healing process as our physical environment recovers and as we ourselves proceed along our path to recovery. If we don't take these hard lessons to heart and learn from them, if we don't stay diligent in our efforts to reduce wildfire risk in our community, if we don't recognize our vulnerability to wildfire, and if we don't get involved with the local organizations that strive to reduce the risks, then history is bound to repeat itself.

[The Real Story Behind the California Wildfires](#)

If you want details of what caused our horrible fires in October, here is where you should go for the Real Story!

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2017/10/the-real-story-behind-california.html?m=1>



Nuns Fire comes to the Piner's property and across the street from Chief Green's house.



And behind a neighbor's house on lower Dry Creek Rd.

THE BRIDGES IN OUR AREA

We have many bridges that cross the creeks in our area. These bridges need to be certified by a structural engineer so that all fire engines can safely cross the bridge to provide the important emergency services. Please see the example below of a local bridge that has completed the process. This ensures that both local and visiting engines would cross your bridge.

