



## DRY CREEK-LOKOYA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

5900 DRY CREEK ROAD, NAPA, CA 94558

(707) 944-1562

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation Tax ID #68-0383597

[www.drycreek-lokoya.com](http://www.drycreek-lokoya.com)

and

## MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

PMB 715

4225 SOLANO AVE., NAPA, CA 94558

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation Tax ID #84-3315945

[www.mountveederfiresafe.org](http://www.mountveederfiresafe.org)



### CHIEF 16's CORNER

#### NEW VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF KEN VAN OEVEREN

#### Dry Creek-Lokoya Fire Company Needs Your Help

Please help the firefighters with up to date information so they can make quick, appropriate decisions if additional resources are needed to fight a fire based on resources you have.

The Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council (MVFSC) has developed a water supply survey to help. Please click on <https://arcg.is/01fz8b> and fill out the survey to update the information.

- Since the 2017 fire, many properties in our community have changed.
- The Community still has excellent firefighting equipment but we need the current information of your water resources.
- The first engine there carries many gallons of water but this is not enough to extinguish a fully involved structure fire or a large vegetation wildfire.
- We can request more water tenders and engines but this takes precious time during which structure or vegetation fires rapidly increase in size.
- After you complete the survey, in some cases you will be asked to let someone verify your access and hooking up to our engines. This is only done with your agreement and understanding that it is a visit to verify key information.
- The Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council has trained people who will help you identify where you can improve protection of your home from a wildland fire. We encourage you to sign up for a Free Residential Wildfire Risk Evaluation at <https://arcg.is/14fXPK> This is a free service provided by the Not-for-profit Fire Safe council. They are independent from Napa County Fire Department and do not report any information to the Fire Marshal.

If you would like to join the Mount Veeder-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department to protect your home and neighbors, go to our website and view some of what we do. <https://drycreek-lokoya.com/>

The Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council web site is <https://www.mountveederfiresafe.org/>

From:

Chief Ken Van Oeveren, Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department September 2020

Editor's Note: Last newsletter introduced Dave Robertson as the new Volunteer Fire Chief. Dave was offered a job in Canada and left for that position. Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief, Ken Van Oeveren, has stepped in as the interim Chief 16. New elections will be held this November.

## NEW MVFSC LOGO!

It is with pride and excitement that the MVFSC would like to introduce our new logo. While the new logo has subtle changes, we are still the same, great organization doing great work for our community. Please look for the new logo as we move forward with our latest communications.



Original Logo



New logo

### Have We Prepared For A Wildland Fire At Our Own Homes?

At this late date, using chainsaws and lawnmowers are too likely to start a fire with the wood so dry and hot. The best we can do is use handsaws, rakes, and maybe weed eaters (as long as a charged garden hose is nearby).

- When driving through our area, the feeling is there has been less vegetation clearance this year.
- We are way less prepared for a fire than we should be.
- In 2018 there was a lot more and bigger chipping piles. You know the piles of neatly stacked tree parts and large shrubs at the side of the road that the Napa County Fire Safe Council chips for us at no cost.
- It's easier to blame COVID-19 or County Roads who instead of trimming back our roadside was busy repairing our roads instead.
- We all know lack of preparation only increases the chances of losing our own homes.
- We are still in hotter and dryer drought. This year we also added an unusual amount of lightning.
- A lot of the leaves after the lightning storm came through ended in our gutters. Therefore, they should be checked again today.

Remember, if you start a fire and have a nearby garden hose and you're confident you can put it out, do so. However, if you're not sure call 911 immediately, tell everyone there to get your pets and be ready to leave quickly and then carefully keep the fire from approaching your home or whatever is the safest thing to do next. A Safety Tip, while working in the summer heat, be aware of what your body feels like. If you feel thirsty you actually waited too long to hydrate. When outside drink water often and rest if breathing hard. The best times to work outside is early morning and quit by 11:00 AM or, wait till 6 PM when it's a little cooler. Do a little work before dark. A Heat Stroke can be fatal and there is no need to work that hard. Do a little each day, not a lot in a few days.

Consider limbing up branches 4 times the height of the weeds or bushes under them or at least 10-20 feet. (In fire prevention, limbing occurs on live trees to prevent the branches from being a fuel ladder, which is a term for vegetation that allows a fire to climb from the ground into the tree canopy.) During the cooler wet months is the best time to cut overgrown trees. Thinning a woods allows neighboring trees to grow healthier and spaces the trees out further. If you want some help planning what needs to be done I'm sure you've seen the big signs entering our area that Mount Veeder Fire Safe Counter has displayed asking us to sign up for a free survey <https://arcg.is/14fXPK> They have been trained on what to look for to help us. In addition, they are independent from the Napa County Fire Marshall and do not report anything to them.

In summary, firefighters rely on homeowners to prepare their property so it has defensible space. During a large wildfire, firefighters look for what homes can be saved with the resources on hand. If firefighting resources are all used up protecting a poorly maintained house, many other homes that are better maintained will be lost.

References:

- Free Defendable Space Survey <https://arcg.is/14fXPK>
  - Napa County Free Chipping request <https://services.countyofnapa.org/ChippingForm/>
- From Chief Ken Van Oeveren, Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department - September 2020

## MT. VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (MVFSC)

### GOAT-GRAZING HEAVY FUEL REDUCTION - AUGUST 2020

Paul Woodward, MD, MVFSC Board Member



LOKOYA LOOP SHADED FIREBREAK BEFORE GOAT TREATMENT OF HEAVY FUEL LOADING 8-2020  
(look to the left of the photo for area to be treated)

**THE PROBLEM:** This area was heavily damaged by a wildfire in 2017.

22 homes were lost and an existing shaded firebreak was now overgrown with invasive non-native plants such as Scotch Broom (see picture above). Trees especially California Bay (Pepperwood) that had been damaged were sending multiple sprouts from their bases which were a fire hazard as well.

The 40+ existing homes were now at risk of fire damage from this accumulation of fuel, and the residents now were also deprived of an alternative method of escape from the area in case of wild fire because the Shaded Fuel Break was obstructed.

**THE SOLUTION:** Grazing by goats is well known to provide some advantages over traditional methods of mechanical clearing using crews with chainsaws, wood chippers, and other equipment.

\*Less expensive than traditional methods.

\*No dirty chemicals or toxic weed killers.

\*Quiet/ No loud equipment

\*Does not disturb the soil

\*Long-term solution to weed control/ Fire mitigation.

Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council discussed this issue at their December 2019 meeting and unanimously approved funds to set up a pilot project using goats and/or sheep. The goal was to evaluate the worth of ruminant grazing in this particular area as well as to explore whether wider usage may be appropriate in the future.

See picture above taken on the 3rd day of the project. The white 4 ft. mesh fence is electrified by solar power and designed to keep the goats within the desired area. Notice the heavy fuel load of Scotch Broom, Blackberry, Raspberry, and some Bay Tree shoots.

## MT. VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (MVFSC)

### GOAT-GRAZING HEAVY FUEL REDUCTION - AUGUST 2020 (cont.)

**THE PROCESS:** Inquiries were made as to what goat-grazing services were available.

Of seven notable and established Northern California Companies 2 were no longer in business, two had a 2-year waiting list and they also only dealt with much larger acreages. Two candidates remained that would work for MVFSC.

One was a State-wide corporation that only was doing with much larger projects around the State of California and usually booked 2 years in advance. They had a cancellation and agreed to try us for 1 week in April 2020 with the idea of larger projects in the future. However their Corporate requirements did not fit our financial situation or the topography unique to this particular location.

We chose the only other provider who is a Napa resident and Vineyard Management business owner with 20 years grazing and livestock experience. Jesus Gonzalves owner agreed to accommodate our requirements and help us set up a Pilot project on only 1 acre.

NUMBER ONE VINEYARDS MANAGEMENT, 3265 SODA CANYON RD, NAPA, CA 94558  
707-287-5313. [www.Number1VMG.com](http://www.Number1VMG.com)

### PROS OF OUR PILOT PROGRAM ON LOKOYA ROAD

**USING A LOCAL BUSINESS:** This provided sufficient flexibility to help ensure success. This local connection provides MVFSC possible “made to order” future grazing services.

**DRAMATIC REDUCTION IN FUEL LOAD.** Estimated 90% reduction.

**ABSENCE OF ANY NUISANCE NOISES.**

**ABSENCE OF MOST WORKMAN’S COMPENSATION CONCERNS AND LIABILITY OF MECHANICAL METHODS.** Note, Vineyard1Mangement if fully insured in all areas protecting MVFSC from liability.

**VERY COST EFFECTIVE FOR 1 ACRE TREATMENT (\$3,000).** Probably 1/3 the cost of mechanical treatment of the same area.

**FUEL LOAD EFFECTIVELY REDUCED DESPITE DIFFICULTIES OF DOWNED TREES, BRANCHES, ROCKY AND STEEP TERRAIN.** Goats operate despite these handicaps.

**GOATS REQUIRED LITTLE CARE, JUST WATER AND THE ELECTRIC FENCE.**

**DELIVERY OF 29 GOATS AND 3 SHEEP WAS SEAMLESS. A “SIMPLE” HORSE TRAILER AND FORD CREWCAB PICKUP TRUCK EASILY NEGOTIATED THE LIMITED ACCESS DRIVEWAY.** The fencing materials were delivered during the same trip stowed in the front of the horse trailer.

**VINEYARD 1 MANAGEMENT WAS VERY RESPONSIVE TO CHANGE ORDERS.**

**THE LANDOWNER WHO WAS ORIGINALLY EMPHATICALLY AGAINST USING GOATS SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED TO USE THEM AGAIN ON HER PROPERTY.**

ONE NEIGHBOR SPONTANEOUSLY VOLUNTEERED THAT HE FOUND THE GOATS CHARMING AND WAS POSITIVELY IMPRESSED BY THE EFFORT BY MVFSC TO SAFEGARD THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE RESULTS OBTAINED. THIS SHOULD HELP OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM WITH ITS EDUCATION AND HOME EVALUATIONS.

### CONS OF THE EXPERIENCE

**IGNORANCE AND PREJUDICE AGAINST GOATS:** The owner of the overgrown property causing a severe fire hazard to the entire neighborhood was totally against using goats. The same landowner felt comfortable using traditional methods of chainsaw and work crews. The landowner had a positive experience with the goats and requested further use on further projects. Her daughter vetoed that idea so the additional goats project was not consummated.

**BAY TREE SAPLINGS GROWTHS:** After 2 weeks it was evident that goats love Scotch Broom, Blackberries and other weedy plants but don't like Bay Leaves all that much. Goats did eat some of the most tender Bay Tree shoots and the Vineyard 1 Management felt that with more time they would eat more Bay Leaves

### FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider further use of Goats:

\*Maintenance of existing shaded fuel breaks. Control fuel load of annual grasses, flammable invasive perennials such as Star Thistle and Scotch Broom. Control saplings.

\*As part of creating new shaded fuel breaks. Goats can clear vegetation to make mechanical clearing easier. Goats can clear fallen branches of green twigs and leaves/ needles after mechanical clearing and thus eliminate the need for an expensive wood chipper and crew on site.

\*Expanding the width of existing shaded fuel breaks.

\*In place of mechanical clearing in riparian areas (stream beds).

\*As the preferred method on steep hillsides



Look on the left of photo for before goat work.



Same area on left after goat work.

# Your Local Volunteer Firefighters Do More Than Just Put Out Fires!

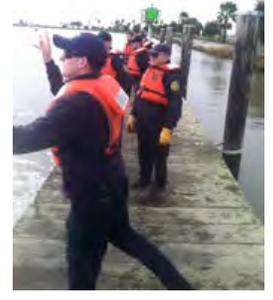
While fires, both structure and vegetation, are the most noticeable and seemingly most dangerous to the most number of neighbors, you local firefighters also respond to medical emergencies (about 95% of our calls), traffic accidents, assist with water and rope rescues, and mitigate other hazards (trees and power lines down across our roads). This is why they train so often and need to have the same training as the paid county firefighters. Below are some of our trainings we must attend to stay proficient in our skills.



Auto Extrication



Medicals



Water Rescue



Building Entanglement Prop



Pump Operations



Structure Fire



Wild Land Fire

## Qualifications

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must be able to read and write the English language proficiently (Bi-lingual especially appreciated).
- Must pass physical.
- Must be living within responding distance from station but not necessarily in the service area such as in the city limits.
- Must attend two drills a month; there is criteria for excused and un-excused drill absences.
- Must attend recruit training through a College or from Napa County.

# Home Winemakers Classic

Wine tasting is an everyday pastime here in the beautiful Napa Valley. Worldwide travelers come to experience Napa-signature tastings. However, most don't realize one of Napa's best-kept secrets: The Home Winemakers Classic. This event spotlights winemakers who make wine primarily for their own enjoyment. You won't find any of these wines at Costco or BevMo!, or even at the local dining establishments. That's because the Home Winemakers Classic is a venue for private home winemakers whose wines were not created for commercial wineries. They participate in the HWC year after year to share their best successes with the hundreds of people who come to experience them. And we assure you they are worth it.

For the past 36 years, the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Company (DCLVFC), Napa County Fire Station 16, provided this event as a fund-raiser to support their local, volunteer fire-fighting efforts. This much-needed income supported much of the daily operations of the volunteer department. However, funding for the fire company was arranged through the Napa County Fire, Department and much thought was given to who could be the benefactor of the event since the fire company no longer needed to rely exclusively on this fundraising and it was an event that would be sorely missed. It was even considered that the HWC would no longer exist. Two local residents (Robin and Cynthia) heard about this and suggested they co-chair the event and during this same time, negotiations between DCLVFC and Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council (MVFSC) became resolved and the event circumnavigated its demise.

Fast forward to present: we're happy to announce that the event continues and that after the suspension of the 2020 event, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, 2021 Home Winemakers Classic is to be held at CIA Copia on First St. in Napa on Saturday July 17, 2021. This is the first year the MVFSC will be the benefactor and they are a worthy cause but the 37th year for the event!

DCLVFC and MVFSC have parallel charges. While the team at DCLVFC trains endlessly to fight fires, the mission of the MVFSC is to educate and assimilate information to mitigate wildfire spread and damage. They offer homeowners in the Mt. Veeder area the invaluable service of home fire safety assessment to inform homeowners of aspects of their properties that could be ignited by fire sparks common to wildfire (please see next article).

MVFSC also works to clear ingress and egress to support access to properties that are on and off the main roads and maintains fire breaks and performs many other proactive measures. Your new co-chairs, Robin and Cynthia hold a lot of experience in event and silent auction planning. Robin has been in the hospitality field and Cynthia has coordinated events for foundations, both for many years. That said, we hope to carry forward the traditions of the HWC that the DCLVFC has faithfully established.

The 2021 HWC invites our past wine makers as well as new ones. Come visit winemakers you've met in the past and get introduced to new ones. Oh, and by all means shop the silent auction. There are exciting donations that you can win and know that you've supported the very agency that may save your home in the next fire. In the past we have had items from Opus One, Mayacamas Winery, CIA, Hudson, and on and on.

See you on July 17, 2021

# HOME WINEMAKERS CLASSIC

Saturday July 17, 2021 4:00-6:30 PM



THE CIA AT COPIA  
500 FIRST ST. NAPA, CA

TASTE RARE WINES HANDCRAFTED BY

30+ HOME WINEMAKERS and SILENT AUCTION ITEMS FROM  
MANY FAMOUS WINERIES IN NAPA VALLEY, AND  
HORS D'OUVRES BY CIA

## SAVE THE DATE!

TICKETS:

\$55 ADMISSION AT THE DOOR (\$45 PRE-SALE)



Home  
Winemakers  
Classic



Wildfire season is here and the danger will only increase as high temperatures continue. Mt. Veeder Firesafe Council (MVFSC) provides *free & confidential* programs to residents that can help you reduce your risk.

Landscape clean-up and maintenance are keys to defensible space. Hardening your home against wind driven embers will greatly reduce its risk of catching fire. MVFSC offers valuable information to help you make good decisions about protecting your life and property.

### **FREE RISK EVALUATION**

Our experts will evaluate your home's access/egress, defensible space, home hardening, water resources, and other factors that pertain to fire safety.

The MVFSC *respects your privacy*. When signing up for this service, you can choose how your data will be shared. If you check "Share NO data," our evaluators will honor your choice. *We are not a regulatory or enforcement agency*.

To sign up, please visit our web site [www.mountveederfiresafe.org](http://www.mountveederfiresafe.org) and click on "Wildfire Risk Evaluation" in the top right corner.

OR

If you are unable to access the Internet, contact me at [jeff.mtveederfiresafe@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.mtveederfiresafe@gmail.com) or 707-333-4332 and we will help you sign up.

Fire mitigation is considered essential work under California's shelter at home order. Our evaluator(s) will follow all the COVID-19 local, state and federal recommendations to protect you, and us.

When it comes to wildfire, we're all in this together!

Thank you for helping to make our community safer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Enos".

Jeff Enos  
Project Manager, Community Outreach/Education & Data Gathering

**MOUNTVEEDERFIRESAFE.ORG**



*Funding for this project provided by the California Fire Safe Council and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investments Program*



# LOWER YOUR RISK FROM **WILDFIRE**

*Are you prepared? Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council provides **free & confidential**\* programs that help residents reduce their risk. \*At your request*

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## **HOME RISK EVALUATION**

Fire protection experts will evaluate your home's access/egress, defensible space, home hardening, water resources, and other factors that pertain to fire safety. The results of the evaluations are provided to the property owner to help reduce the risk of fire.

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## **NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

The Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council Neighbors in Need Defensible Space Assistance Program allows individuals to apply for assistance in providing a defensible space around their home without any cost to the home owner.

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## **CHIPPING PROGRAM**

The Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFF), in cooperation with the Napa County Fire Department (NCFD), provides a free chipping service to all Napa County residents who live in a designated fire hazard zone – meaning most all of rural Napa.

**[WWW.MOUNTVEEDERFIRESAFE.ORG](http://WWW.MOUNTVEEDERFIRESAFE.ORG)**



# MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

THE MISSION OF THE MVFSC IS TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF LIFE AND THE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/ECOSYSTEMS, THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION AND BY EXECUTING FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS. INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ACTIONS INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE TO REDUCE THEIR OWN RISK IS ESSENTIAL.



## DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONES

Creating a defensible space is one of the most important things you can do to protect your home.



## 911 ADDRESS SIGNAGE

It is essential for all houses to have proper reflective address signs for responders to identify your house.



## HYDRANT COMPATIBILITY

Napa County requires a 4.5" discharge on all wet draft hydrants, but fire companies from other areas that respond here may have different sized fittings. Buying a 4.5" female NH to 2.5" male NH adapter solves this problem.



## FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS

Knox secure key entry systems are required for all locked and electric home access gates in Napa County. The required locks are keyed to the Napa County Fire Department (including, Dry Creek Lokoya FD) keys. Only the FD has keys.



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SIGN-UPS AT:**  
[www.mountveederfiresafe.org/programs](http://www.mountveederfiresafe.org/programs)  
or call Jeff Enos at 707-333-4332



## EVACUATION TAGS

During the 2017 fires in Napa County, first responders spent days evacuating neighborhoods. Evacuation tags are now available for free for residents to place on their mailbox, fence, gate, or door before evacuating.

The evacuation tags save first responders considerable time and allow first responders to clear neighborhoods faster.

You can pick up your free evacuation tag at the Sheriff's Office (1535 Airport Blvd., Napa) or at the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Station (5900 Dry Creek Rd. – please call first to see if anyone is present – 707-944-1562) or we could mail a tag to you. To request your free evacuation tag please email your request to either: [sheriff@countyofnapa.org](mailto:sheriff@countyofnapa.org) or [chief16@drycreek.org](mailto:chief16@drycreek.org).



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Dry Creek-Lokoya  
Volunteer Fire Department.**

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