

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ALPINE FIREFIGHTERS CLUB
JULY 18, 2004**

Meeting held at 2:30 PM at hydrant number 2 (eastern hydrant on east-west portion of Alpine).

Attendees:

John Cronin	Robert Cadoo
Laurel Walters	Joanne Landeros
Tony Phillips	Wayne Krajeski
Hugh Cornett	René Landeros
Millie Winch	Wayne Winch
Betty Edmondson	Jenny

The meeting was attended by representatives of 8 of the landowner households of Tract 2, Aspendell Subdivision, and chaired by Tony Phillips.

Tony reported that his friend and other representatives from the Bishop Volunteer Fire Department will not be able to meet with us until early August. They will discuss with us the process of forming a volunteer fire department, and will take a look at our existing equipment. Tony's friend inquired about Aspendell VFD, and told Tony that he does not believe that a water company can also be combined with a fire department. He wanted to know if they were a County fire protection district, and whether Tract 2 was within their service area boundaries [it is not believed they are, and Tract 2 is not within the service area, though it might have been at one time].

Tony has been working on the Internet "alert button" that will dial all of our phone numbers simultaneously. It will be at www.aspendell.com [not ".org"]. Once activated, it will not reactivate for 6 hours, to avoid repeat calling.

Wayne Winch made the suggestion that residents purchase the compressed-air-in-a-can-powered air horns (available at K-Mart and elsewhere) to use as part of the local Tract 2 alert system in case of a fire. It was felt that these horns should be audible throughout the tract [note: this should be tested].

Hugh Cornett suggested (and will follow through with this) that the hose cabinets be identified with a painted number. If residents familiarize themselves with the numbered locations as they walk around Aspendell, then it will provide a way for different individuals to be sent to different hydrants in the event of a fire. Hugh stated that generally, it would be desirable to assign at least one person (and preferably more) to the two (or preferably three) hydrants surrounding any house in the neighborhood that was on fire [note: someone or a group should sit down with a tract plan to plan out hose paths for this, and then field-check the access through side yards, back yards, etc.; and eventually this information could be shared with the entire group during training exercises]

After some discussion, a consensus was reached on the following general procedure in the event of a fire:

- 1) Upon discovering a fire, **first call 911**
- 2) Then, if you have internet access, go to www.aspendell.com and push the alert button that will call everyone in Tract 2 [presumably this will be done only by the person who discovers the fire and calls 911]. If you do not have Internet access, call someone who does and ask them to push the alert button for you.
- 3) While you are waiting to hook up to the Internet, you can go outside and blast your air horn several times [note: we should perhaps agree that three blasts is the fire signal, and that one blast is either a mistake or will be used in the event of a test]
- 4) Upon hearing the Aspendell siren, a telephone call, and/or an air horn, assemble at hydrant 2 on Alpine in front of the Phillips and Cronin houses. Common sense should prevail; if someone lives at the bottom of one of the streets, and feels that by going immediately to the closest hydrant to start getting water on the fire they will be able to prevent it from growing out of control, then take that approach instead of reporting to hydrant 2.
- 5) The senior Tract 2 firefighter at hydrant 2 will assign persons to go to the various hydrants that surround the fire.
- 6) If you hear the Aspendell siren, but do not receive a phone call or hear an air horn, the fire may be in Tract 1. However, still report to hydrant 2 to learn the location of the fire and/or travel to the fire in one vehicle, in lieu of reporting to the Aspendell fire station. It was stated that we should inquire whether it would be permissible for one person from Tract 2 to call 911 in the event the siren goes off, in order to find the location of the fire (just as is done from the Aspendell fire station at the current time.) There was discussion that the location of the fire could then be written on the door to the hose cabinet with a marking pen, and all subsequent persons reporting to hydrant 2 would know where the fire was [marking pens will be placed in the hose cabinet].

Tony suggested that to offset the cost of developing the alert button system, interested parties could sign up for space science astronomy alerts for \$5.00. The link is <http://SpaceweatherPHONE.com>

There was discussion of stocking the hose box at hydrant 2 with flashlights or headlamps for use at night, and the placing of a magnetic flashlight underneath the box. Batteries will have to be changed regularly. Members can also have their own lights positioned to easily bring from home.

Emailing of the minutes to everyone with an email address was suggested as a means of spreading the word about this group to others in Tract 2 who may not yet know of its purpose.

It was suggested that notices of future meetings be emailed 1-1/2 weeks before the meeting to give non-residents more time to plan to attend if they wish. It was agreed that meetings will be held on Saturday at 2:30PM every two weeks as a general rule. Tony said that he will also use the telephone alert system to send phone messages about each meeting.

There was discussion of how to raise money for supplies. Tony expressed his opinion that he doesn't want a situation where non-payers are not protected. Suggestions included clearing brush for hire (though Wayne Krajeski pointed out this could have liability issues), potlucks and raffles, or just sending out letters requesting that people pay some amount. The topic was tabled until we hear from Bishop VFD if there is a way that we can organize so that we can levy assessments.

John Cronin suggested that either our group or the water company considering installing a water draw at the reservoir for use by fire trucks that might be positioned there to fight a fire south of the community. The topic was tabled until we can ask the Bishop VFD whether they see such a need.

There was a discussion of the possible closure of the green dump by the U.S. Forest Service next year. We will wait to see the outcome of a meeting between APOA and the Forest Service on this topic before sending any letters from our group.

After the meeting adjourned, a fire training exercise was held. Three lengths of hose (225 feet) were run from hydrant 2 up the hill between the Phillips and Cronins. This length was required to reach the back of either of their houses. It was found that hose pressure was limited, and water could only be put on the edge of the Phillips roof. Running a second two lengths of hose up hill from the hydrant reduced the head from the first hose only by an estimated five feet. Manually activating both well pumps to increase the pressure in the water mains (which should be done any time there is a fire) added an estimated couple of feet of head from one hose. There was discussion of the need for a booster pump to alleviate the low pressure. Five lengths of hose (375 feet) were run from the hydrant to behind Joanne Schneider and Wayne Krajeski's house (this length was adequate to reach around the north side of the house), and there was sufficient pressure to put water on their roof.

During the training exercise, someone left the hydrant but had the hydrant wrench with them, pointing out the need to get a second hydrant wrench for each hose cabinet.

Wayne Winch suggested that everyone who has a Family Radio Service (FRS) walkie-talkie bring them to the next meeting. They will all be set to channel 9, security code 11, and we can use them to communicate in the event of a fire.

Following the training exercise, Wayne Winch, Hugh, Tony, and John walked the neighborhood to document lots where brush clearing is needed. Tony will draft a letter for the others to review, to send to those landowners. This letter will also be used to notify these persons of the existence of our group.

Wayne Winch asked whether our hydrant-to-hose adapters will fit on the Tract 1 hydrants. This will have to be tested.

The next meeting will be Saturday, July 31, 2004 at 2:30PM.