

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ALPINE FIREFIGHTERS CLUB
JULY 31, 2004**

Meeting held at 2:30 PM at hydrant number 2 (across from the Phillips' and Cronin's houses).

Attendees:

Joanne Landeros	Wayne Winch
Hugh Cornett	René Landeros
Wayne Krajeski	Tony Phillips
John Cronin	Robert Caddoo
Steve Young	Jack Van Vonderan

The meeting was attended by representatives of 8 of the landowner households of Tract 2, Aspendell Subdivision, as well as Jack Van Vonderan, who lives adjacent to Tract 2. Tony Phillips chaired the meeting.

Tony reported that Donnie Kunze of the Bishop Volunteer Fire Department will join us at our next meeting on August 14, 2004.

Those who brought their Family Radio Service (FRS) walkie-talkies set them to channel 9, security code 11 ("911"), to use them to communicate in the event of a fire.

Tony distributed a draft letter to Tract 2 homeowners for review. The letter notifies them of the existence of our group, and for those whose lots were observed to be in need of brush clearing, informs them of this fact. It was agreed that the letter will not refer to a "volunteer fire department" until we have investigated the requirements for such status. There was a consensus to change Tony's office from "president" to "chief" for clarity. Tony will send out the revised letters.

Hugh Cornett has labeled each of the seven hose cabinets with a painted number.

Tony handed out several air horns (all that he had been able to find in town).

The procedure in the event of a fire was memorialized as:

- 1) Upon discovering a fire, **first call 911**; remind the 911 operator to ring the Aspendell siren
- 2) The person who discovers the fire and calls 911 then goes outside and blasts their air horn several times. This will be the signal to assemble at hydrant 2 on Alpine in front of the Phillips and Cronin houses.
- 3) The person who discovers the fire should then get on the internet and go to www.aspendell.com and push the alert button that will call everyone in Tract 2. Tony will also do this when he hears the siren and/or air horn.

A magnetic flashlight was placed under hydrant box 2. A sample headlamp and strobe light (which can be placed on top of the hose cabinet nearest the fire location) are on order.

Tony handed out card with the link to <http://SpaceweatherPHONE.com> to get your phone number added to the alert system. At that link, sign up for “backyard astronomy alerts.” Notify Tony if you do not actually want astronomy alerts, but only fire alerts, and your credit card will not be charged.

Tony circulated an article from the *Sacramento Bee* talking about homeowners losing their fire insurance coverage for not clearing around their homes.

Hugh Cornett suggested that our role is not to **fight** house fires, especially inside the house, since we are not trained or equipped to do that, but rather to prevent a house fire from spreading to other houses or brush. This led to a discussion of the hazards of propane tanks (or the few homes that have heating oil tanks) in the event of a fire. Any tanks near the fire need to be hosed down to keep them cool. There was discussion of preparing a master map of propane and heating oil tank locations.

John Cronin pointed out that since our reservoir has a finite quantity of water, that the use of water to wet down the brush or structures surrounding the fire should be limited to what is necessary, rather than a continuous flow, to hold sufficient water in reserve for use when the fire trucks arrive.

John Cronin reported that our hydrant-to-hose adapters will fit on the Tract 1 hydrants. Thus, we can take adapters, hoses, nozzles, and hydrant wrenches with us to Tract 1 and help put water on a fire.

After the meeting adjourned, a fire training exercise was held. A mock fire at Lot 26 on Manzanita was fought with hoses deployed from hydrants 1, 2, and 3. Three hose lengths were required from hydrants 1 and 2. In the case of hydrant 1, no significant change in pressure was noted with three hose lengths rather than two.

The team deployed to hose box 3 wet the mock fire in 3 minutes flat.
The team deployed to hose box 1 wet the mock fire in 3 minutes 35 seconds.
The team deployed to hose box 2 wet the mock fire in 5 minutes 15 seconds.

These are times we wish to improve in future exercises.

The team at hydrant 2 found that the easiest way to run hose through the brush was to roll out the first hose length on the street and then drag it into the brush; subsequent hose lengths should be rolled out in the brush as you go.

Following the exercise, distances to Jack Van Vonderan’s driveway were paced off. It was about 375 feet (five hose lengths) from hydrant 5, and about 300 feet from the nearest Aspendell Mutual hydrant on Sage (which would have a lower pressure since the Aspendell Mutual reservoir is lower than Alpine’s).

The next meeting will be Saturday, August 14, 2004 at 4:30PM.