



Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde **Newsletter – October & November 2020**

What Did We Learn??

A LOT! I heard back from quite a few people about what they discovered in the moment of truth when evacuation was a real possibility for the fire. If there is something below that you want to do, get it on your list and get it checked off today. Then know that you are really ready. (see bottom of Newsletter for additional help)

- Did you find that you had forgotten where your Go-Bag was, or you never made up a Go-Bag?
- I was really grateful that we had our 5 and 10 minute evacuation lists already prepared.
- I found out that if you have your iPhone on do-not-disturb at night, you can select "emergency bypass" numbers that can get through as calls or texts. In that person's contact, click "edit," then "ringtone," then toggle "emergency bypass" on. Do it for calls or texts from SMCAAlert.
- Not signed up! Do it right now at smcalert.info.
- Do you have a propane tank hooked up to your grill or fire pit. Remove it and take it with you so it doesn't catch fire and explode creating a bigger fire.
- I found when I went to grab charging and connection cords that they were all bundled neatly and tacked down. This took way more than 5 minutes to sort it out. Bought backup cords to quickly grab.

Here are a few ideas and discoveries that I had:

- Take pictures of the LTW directory phone numbers and evacuation route and instructions we got from WFD so you have the phone numbers and instructions handy and with you at all times.
- If you feel comfortable doing so, leave before it's required.
- As one of the emergency coordinators, I'm going to prepare an emergency text thread with all my neighbors so we can easily communicate with each other. Remember not everyone uses their cell regularly, so have a reliable backup for those individuals.
- Follow Cal Fire Twitter
- Check wind patterns
- Leave a porch light on when I evacuate.
- Put an empty sign on the door.
- I found the live briefings given to the firefighters (not the press) at 7 a.m. every morning provided the most accurate and up-to-date info.
- The briefing spoke of what happened overnight, containment, forecasted weather for the day, what part of the fire was most problematic etc.
- The briefings were available live via Facebook or you could see the recorded version all day.
- Make a list of what is in the safe deposit box, so I am not searching for it.
- Keep a safe deposit key in my GoBag.
- Put the following items in the safe deposit box, GoBag, or fireproof metal container: social security card, deed to house or mortgage docs, pink slips for cars, marriage certificates, birth certificates, video or photos of house and contents, insurance policy numbers, financial records, trust and/or will documents, passports, mementos.

- Grabbed things to add to the car contents i.e., zip lock bags of prescription drugs, a weeks' worth of clothing, jewelry, laptops, flashlights, important phone numbers on my iPhone & extra chargers.
- I started taking all the framed photos, patents, etc. off the walls.
- Then realized that I could photograph every wall with framed photos, etc. so I would at least remember where they went.
- I've started to scan many such photos.
- I decided to photograph all the rooms and their contents, in case needed for insurance purposes.

Submitted by various and sundry residents who are sharing their wisdom with the community. THANKS!

Emergency Preparedness

Primer on your FRS or GMRS radios (walkie-talkies):

For **rechargeable** FRS or GMRS radios, make sure that the radio is off and back in its charger.

For **alkaline battery** FRS or GMRS radios, check the battery power. If it is low (mine ran out after 3 days), remember the channel and code numbers on the face. Replace them with 3 fresh AA batteries, and reset the channel and code.

If you forgot how to do that, read on:

You will need to reset the channel and code AFTER replacing the batteries. It's simple--

- Just hit the "mode" button
- The channel number on the face will flash
- Hit the up arrow until you get the proper channel (from your memory, or check your CRG for the channel and code for your neighborhood)

Pages 5-9 for VV

Pages 16, 18, 20, 22 for LTW

- When you have the proper channel, hit the mode button again, and the second number (code) will flash. Hit the up arrow until you have the right code
- Hit the transmit button and the radio will save the channel and code.
- Now turn the radio OFF (usually turn the volume all the way down until you feel a click)

Store the radio where you can find it quickly if needed. This is a reminder that everyone should have a FRS Radio on hand for emergencies and should take a quick look at the community guide to know what channel to tune to in an emergency.

Submitted by Tom Bleier

Los Trancos County Maintenance District - Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Due to Covid, the CAC has not been able to conduct our normal annual community meeting, but your feedback to ongoing projects and ideas for new ones are encouraged. An example of the impact you can have is provided by the change in curbing on Los Trancos Road. As a result of your concern, we were able to persuade (and fund) the County's Department of Public Works to modestly widen that section of road, where possible, and replace the high curbs with ones that could be driven on when needed. Please contact one of the Community Advisory Committee members with your thoughts. We are also considering hosting a Zoom meeting so that we can provide a more comprehensive update and have an interactive forum for input.

We hope all stay healthy and happy. The Los Trancos County Maintenance District (LTCMD) CAC exists to advise and offer feedback to DPW and WFPD and to inform the community about LTCMD sponsored programs. Feel free to contact any of us on the CAC: Jerry Hearn, Ken Kormanak, Amanda Lee (Co-Chair), Claudia Mazzetti, David Smernoff, Bill Tagg and Tom Thayer (Co-Chair)

Submitted by Tom Thayer, Co-Chair of CAC

2020-21 Community Resource Guide

If you have any changes to the listings please contact Linda at dreynight@aol.com.

Community Associations' Web Sites

Web site addresses are:

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>

<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

To subscribe to group e-mail lists:

vvltw+subscribe@groups.io

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Thank you, Jerry Jensen & Rob Kalman for maintaining web sites

Newly installed Analog Algorithmic Safety Recommendation Engine proved to be 100% accurate. Round A funding is already oversubscribed. (Thanks to Don and Amanda Lee for this notice.)

