

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FIRE SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 3:00 pm
Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 4th Floor, 2 S. Green Street Sonora, CA 95370
Contact: Office of Emergency Services at oes@co.tuolumne.ca.us (209) 533-6395

Chair

Supervisor Ryan Campbell

Vice Chair

Supervisor Steve Grier

Member Representatives

- Tuolumne County Fire
- Tuolumne County Sheriff
- City of Sonora
- Tuolumne County Fire Chiefs Association
- Public Representatives
Scott Fremd
Charles Sloan
Betsy Hurst-Younger

Advisory Members

- Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk Indians
- Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
- Tuolumne Fire Safe Council
- USFS Stanislaus

Staff

OES Assistant Director
Dore A. Bietz

2025 Strategic Goals

1. Support recommendations to improve and secure sustainable funding for fire safety.
2. Support increased education and outreach of Fire Safety and Wildfire Preparedness campaigns.
3. Support coordinated fuels reduction projects and secure funding for prioritized fuels management projects.
4. Support advocacy to address fire insurance rate impacts for Tuolumne County residents and businesses.

I. CALL TO ORDER at 3:03pm

II. ROLL CALL – In attendance.

Supervisor Campbell

Supervisor Grier

Tuolumne County Fire – Chief Gorham

Tuolumne County Sheriff – David Vasquez

Public Rep – Scott Fremd

Public Rep – Charles Sloan

Confirm quorum requirements are met (Quorum = 5 members) – MET w/6

Tuolumne County

Dore Bietz, Dave Salzer – OES Staff

III. PUBLIC FORUM - None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING 5/28/2025

Motioned by Supervisor Grier, Seconded by Sheriff Vasquez, All in favor no abstentions. Motion approved.

V. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

Tuolumne Fire Safe Council update Karen Caldwell announced TFSC president Mike Olincek resigned, Karen interim. 21 Firewise communities now, 3 in progress. TFSC status update: Mountain Boy project complete, contractor paid. Apple Valley complete. Smith Station this fall (CEQA finished), Big Hill maintenance underway. Kewin Mill and Dragoon Gulch starting CEQA, also connected to Jamestown project. Starting 8 defensible space projects in Groveland. Likely moving to Columbia next – multi-year. Council will be submitting for CalFire grants, nothing coming from Federal funding.

CAL FIRE – controlled burns wrapping up. Summary of aviation assets and capabilities. Invitation to meet at Columbia attack base. OV-10 control craft (2500 AOG), 2x S2T tankers, and Blackhawk.

SWIFT - Lindsay Mattos provided update on two NOFO Wildfire defensible grants (BLM & CalFire)

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Staff Reports and Recommendations –

- Wildfire Catastrophe Models Webinar
- Legislative updates

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)- none

VII. DISCUSSION and APPROVAL OF

- a. Subdivision review for Risk Reduction Communities List and approval of working towards recommendations to improve each identified subdivision's fire safety. – Staff presented the program and definition: 30+ home areas with no secondary egress. We know we have more neighborhoods/areas in challenging conditions than those that are on the current list. Explanation of criteria and recommendations for becoming a “fire risk reduction community” with prioritized actions. Committee discussed road clearance jurisdiction issue – handling red flag warning conditions (awareness and citation), suggestion to model LA/Orange county best practices, Emphasize education/outreach vs. enforcement and summary listing of each recommendation and status.

Committee members:

- What commitment (if any) are we as a committee making, and to what extent (i.e. nominated subdivisions only? County wide? Etc.) Staff asking to move forward with prioritization and assessment. Sonora Hills example – impact of drills on building awareness & readiness especially among the more elderly/at-risk cohorts with respect to mobility, enrolling mass-movers like YARTS, TCTC, School District...

Motion made by Supervisor Griefer, 2nd by Chuck Sloan to move forward with staff recommendations, passed unanimously.

Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per person) –

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS - none

IX. ADJOURNMENT at 4:31 pm

The Next meeting will be held July 23rd, 2025. NOTE: Location will be back at ANF Building – Committees and Commissions Room (3rd Floor)