



## BLUE ROCK NRG POSITION ON WILDFIRE

6/22/17—**DRAFT** rhm Rev 6/24/17

The Blue Rock NRG was formed in the fall of 2014 to meet the needs of the residents of the Blue Rock neighborhood (the bowl formed between Magnolia Avenue, King Street, King Mountain Open Space, and the Escalle property) in the event of an emergency, most likely earthquake or fire, with the purpose of organizing residents to be self-reliant until first responders are able to respond, which could take days. Our goal is to build community and individual household resilience, served by our NRG medical team and incident command system reporting to the Marin County Emergency Operation Center (EOC). The Blue Rock NRG is part of the Twin Cities network of NRGs, as directed by the Larkspur and Corte Madera councils and the Twin Cities Disaster Preparedness Committee. In late 2016 it was identified that most preparation had been made for the event of earthquake, and that a wildfire (most likely coming from the King Mountain Open Space or Baltimore/Madrone Canyon) presented different circumstances. The 2/1/17 Steering Committee meeting was devoted to discussion of the wildfire-related responsibilities of our NRG and a presentation by CM Fire Battalion Chief Dan Reese.

It was generally concluded that in the case of a wildfire, the NRG would probably NOT activate, as we would more likely be evacuating. However, we strongly believe that the NRG can help educate and prepare the neighborhood beforehand.

### Ideas for education and preparation include:

- “Harden” our homes and take responsibility for securing our safety by creating a defensible space through debris removal and maintaining safe spacing/pruning of plants up to 100’ from buildings. The ember zone is ONE MILE! In our wooded neighborhood, it is difficult to do this literally, but well worth our efforts toward compliance.
- Identify evacuation routes (generally downhill to Magnolia) and shelters (Redwood High School). The Police Department (not Fire) is in charge of evacuation. The biggest problem Police anticipate is that people wait too long to evacuate, obstructing Fire Department access. Within blocks, identify pedestrian stairs and paths available for evacuation routes—some of which may be on private property.
- Consider adding simple walk-out evacuation drills (on our regular emergency drill day, with beverages/treats as “rewards” at our control team assembly point)
- Host a neighborhood-wide fire education event (i.e. feature it at our annual Social/Fundraiser), with the Fire Department in attendance, possibly including a walk-thru of an actual property to comment on hazards
- Remind people that they can request an individual fire-safety inspection from the Fire Department (415/927-5083)
- Blue Rock NRG request a windshield survey by the Fire Department of neighborhood hazards, for which the NRG can help facilitate abatement, since all of us are put at risk by indefensible homes.
- Identify who in our neighborhood would need assistance in evacuating (including what kind of help, and how to contact them)
- Encourage people to prepare a “Ten Minute List” of items to quickly gather when evacuation is imminent
- Educate people about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, including current location regulations and maintenance. (1 CO monitor/floor, 1 smoke alarm in each bedroom, sealed 10-year batteries or annual battery replacement, replace entire alarm every 10 years) [http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_firesafety\\_smokealarms](http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_smokealarms)
- Provide Fire Department materials (i.e. *Ready, Set, Go!* brochure) to our neighborhood. Encourage people to refer to it to prepare their own Action Plan
- Encourage people to take the fire safety class taught through Fire Safe Marin. Their robust website <http://www.firesafemarin.org/> provides useful resources.
- Request that the City of Larkspur reactivate their fire siren to alert residents of fire (and incidentally enhance small-town character)
- Blue Rock NRG encourage and facilitate painting house numbers on each curb for Fire Department support
- Investigate alternate egress routes—up the fire road to King Mountain, connecting to Ridgcrest in Kent Woodlands and Wilson Way in Madrone Canyon
- Register cellphones to participate in TENS (telephone emergency notification system). TENS automatically includes landlines. Register for text alerts through Nixle-Marin <https://local.nixle.com/county/ca/marin/>
- Refer people to the CalFire checklist: [http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact\\_sheets/Checklist.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/Checklist.pdf)