

## **GRAND HAVEN WILDFIRE ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION INITIATIVE**

### **UPDATE AND ACTION PLAN AS OF 4.16.09**

- **3/31/09** Representatives of the GH CDD, MA, ADC, CERT, Neighborhood Watch, and Village Forum met with Timber Weller, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Division of Forestry , and Lt. Lawrence Ruggieri and several other firefighters from the City of Palm Coast Fire Department. A Wildfire Mitigation Working Group was formed and walking tours of all Villages, common areas, and infrastructure commenced.
- **4/8/09** Timber Weller gave a presentation to GH CERT re support actions CERT Team can provide in a wildfire emergency.
- **4/9/09** Working Group walk-thrus continue.
- **4/13/09** Working Group walk-thrus continue.
- **4/22/09** Final walk-thru and Community Wildfire Mitigation Action Plan organizational meeting scheduled.

**Action plan to include Grand Haven applying and joining FIREWISE COMMUNITIES USA and applying for State/Federal Wildfire Mitigation Grant . The State has received an initial \$900,000 in federal funds to be utilized ASAP on wildfire mitigation with local contractors as part of the Economic Stimulus and Recovery Package. Timber will coordinate plan and secure approval from SJRWMD. Timber will also aide in GH application to the FIREWISE COMMUNITIES USA Program.**

**Action requested by GH BOS at meeting 4/16/09:**

**Authorize previously appointed Wildfire Mitigation Liaison to work with Timber Weller to complete, sign-off, and submit above mentioned program and grant applications.**

**Partial summary of other discussion/action items follows:**

**Palm Coast Fire Department Lt. Ruggieri requested that the FOM periodically verify the operation of the gate SOS systems, and their loss of power default-to-open operation.**

**The Lt. also requested that our CERT Team chart the location of all fire hydrants on our CERT Team Search Sector maps, and provide copies to the City of Palm Coast Fire Department. The GH CERT Team agreed to chart the location of fire hydrants at the 4/8/09 meeting.**

**The Lt. also recommended installing street signs at T-type intersections denoting the right and left hand intersecting street house numbering system.**

**Re emergency fire road exits: Timber recommended the CDD/FOM check on the status of the County barriers at the south Park Road. These are overgrown with vegetation that should be cleared. If the fencing is of a fixed nature, the fencing should be changed to locked swing gates, with keys available for emergency exit. Likewise, when the new North Park fence is installed, it also should have a lockable swing gate for emergency fire egress. Signage should then be installed indicating Emergency Fire Exit use. I have contacted Troy Harper, Chief Emergency Management Division , Flagler County Emergency Services. Troy has requested the County Engineer to evaluate clearing and converting to lockable swing gates the three barriers in place**

between GH and the South Park Road to Herschel King Park. Troy commented that any signage would be the responsibility of the CDD. Troy provided an aerial map of these three barriers.

**Re Wildfire Emergency Mandatory Evacuation Traffic Control:** Troy Harper has requested the FCSO conduct a Traffic Control Safety Course for all GH CERT and NW volunteers interested. This course will be scheduled shortly.

A question was raised as to fire hydrant flushing in GH. The GH FOM will be requested to follow up with the PCFD re this item.

A question was raised as to whether an ordinance exists as to the directional placement of vents of above ground propane tanks. Venting direction should be verified by homeowners.

**Re Firewise Landscaping :** Timber recommended we trim back dead Spartina and other vegetation originally planted to shield street electrical transformers, phone company and other utilities, as utilities will be lost if the vegetation were to ignite around the boxes. Replacement with low combustible vegetation where possible is recommended. (List of lower combustible landscaping attached.)

**Re Private Residence Landscaping:** GHMA and its ADC to inform residents as to Firewise Practices. Communication thru Oak Tree Newsletter and other methods. PLM contractors to be instructed in Firewise practices. ADC to evaluate new and re-landscaping submittals with heightened Firewise awareness and perspective.