



Community Defense Plan

June 2012

Live Oak Springs San Diego County



OVERVIEW

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for defending the community infrastructure and provide emergency responders with a tool to prepare and respond to a potentially large wildland fire threatening the community of Live Oak Springs California.

This document is intended to enhance the San Diego County's emergency response plan for the community of Live Oak Springs. Emergency personnel assigned to the area should review and train with this plan on a regular basis, and update the accuracy.

Live Oak Springs is a 115 acre community established in the early 1940's as a resort area located in the mountains of eastern San Diego County. The recreational park provides sites for recreational vehicle and tent camping. On the south side of Old Highway 80, within the 115 acre community is a 9 acre motocross race track. This motocross track area, if maintained and kept clear of vegetation would provide the community with a safety zone in the event they could not be evacuated during an emergency incident.

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GENERAL PLAN

Incident Objectives:

Defend structures using aggressive perimeter control.

Plan for and develop potential Structure Group(s).

Keep the fire:

North of the community using the existing fuel break,
South of Old Highway 80,
West of the proposed dozer line, and existing service road,
East of the dirt road on the eastside of the community.

- The Incident Commander(s) may exercise the option to shelter residents in place or evacuate as the incident dictates. ***If evacuation is necessary, it needs to be ordered early. EARLY activation and notification of Temporary Safe Refuge Areas should be considered. If Old Highway 80 is cut off by the fire, sheltering in place may be the best option.***

Evacuation Considerations

Egress: On any established fire, evacuation of the community of Live Oak Springs is strongly recommended due to limited egress with narrow one lane roads and numerous dead end roads, thus making evacuation very difficult in a timely manner. The evacuation route for civilians and fire apparatus in Live Oak Springs would be to travel to the southwest and access Old Highway 80. From there they can go East or West depending on the location of the fire front. Going West they can seek refuge at the Golden Acorn Casino parking lot as it is the preferred Safety Zone, or continue on Old Highway 80 west to access I-8 westbound. Going East on Old Highway, they can travel toward the town of Boulevard and access I-8 eastbound. Evacuation should not be directed to the northeast of Live Oak Springs as this would place evacuees onto the Reservation which does not have access to I-8. Roads are narrow dirt roads that are not adequately marked for evacuation.

Safety Zone for emergency personnel: A nine acre motocross track south of Old Highway 80 at Royal Drive would meet the requirements of a safety zone for fire personnel and would be the a recommended location if it was not safe to travel to the Golden Acorn Casino parking lot.

Temporary Safe Refuge Areas: are designated for use by civilians, law enforcement or emergency workers in need of a temporary area of safety should their evacuation route be temporarily cut off. They should not be used in lieu of evacuation away from the fire, but in times of urgent need. If activated, the Incident Commander must be notified.

- The Safe Refuge Area for this planning area is at the Recreation Park in the Live Oak Springs community. As long as the vegetation management is maintained with no ground cover the area can park 50 vehicles and 350 people.

Fire History

Areas surrounding Live Oak Springs and Campo Indian Reservation have seen no significant fire history. A major fire in 1970 is several miles west of the area. Two large fires dating from 1940 on the north and 1944 on the south cover the current burned area, so most of the fuels are 68-72 years of age or older. This has resulted in mature brush fuels with a fuel bed depth of 10-15' in some areas. Dead to live ratio is high. In wet years abundant fine fuels can add to the fuel hazard.

Fuels, Weather, Fire Behavior

Using weather data from the Cameron Fire Station remote automated weather station (RAWS), normal summer daytime temperatures range from 85-95 degrees and 55-65 degrees at night. Normal minimum relative humidities range from 15-21 percent and maximum relative humidities 60-75 percent. Diurnal eye level winds are usually upslope and up canyon during the day and down slope and down canyon at night. Normal afternoon ridge winds are usually out of west to southwest with speed to 4-8 miles per hour. Speeds can infrequently reach speeds of 8-14 miles per hour.

Vegetation around the Live Oak Springs area is quite diverse. There are areas of brush including Manzanita, Ceanothus, Redshanks and Chamise, and areas of oak with a grass understory. Live fuel moistures range from 120 percent in early spring to 60-80 percent in late summer.

Fires burning in the brush vegetation under moderate to high fire danger conditions would have approximately 0.5-1.5 mile per hour rates of spread with flame lengths of 4-60 feet.

When developing strategies and tactics, safety zones and escape routes you should be evaluating potential fire behavior (worst case scenario), not just observed fire behavior. The extremely low fuel moistures can lead to instantaneous and dramatic increases in fire behavior if fuels weather and topography come into alignment. Essentially a small fire can exponentially increase in size and intensity very quickly catching personnel off guard.

Water Supply

There is a limited water distribution system supplied by a natural spring, and owned by Live Oak Springs Water Company, Inc.

Onsite Water Company contact information:

Nazar Najor, Chief Executive Officer
37820 Old Highway 80, P.O. Box 1241
Boulevard, CA 91905
(619) 766-4288 office
(619) 889-8666 cell phone
(619) 766-4944 Fax

1 Plans Chief
2 Field Observers
1 RESTAT UI
1 Resource Unit Leader
1 Logistics Chief
1 Safety Officer

- A community pond located at Royal Drive and Live Oak Trail has the ability to store 1,000,000 gallons of water. The pond is accessible by fire apparatus for drafting operations; **it is not** accessible for helicopter operations. There are two dry 2 ½" wharf hydrants operated by a 300gpm electric pump, drawing from the pond.
- There are three 20,000 gallon, and one 4,000 gallon above ground water storage tanks, for a total of 64,000 gallons of water available from the three fire hydrants in the Live Oak Springs water system, two with 2 ½" fire department connections, and one with a 4 ½" and 2 ½" outlets.

Resource Request Recommendations

If a new fire starts in the immediate area of Live Oak Springs, the following resources list is a minimum recommendation to effectively implement this plan:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Air Attack | 2 Dozers |
| 2 Air Tankers | 2 Water Tenders |
| 1 Type 2 Helicopter w/Helishots | 1 Safety Officer |
| 2 Type 3 Engine Strike Teams | 1 Duty Officer |
| 2 Handcrews | |

Live Oak Springs Structure Defense Rescores

- 2 Type 3 Engines Strike Teams
- 1 Structure Group Supervisor

If the fire appears that it will escape initial attack and that indirect or envelopment tactics must be employed, the following is a resource request guide. This will be used for extended attack and would be expected to be sufficient to get through the first operational period. This request gives the IC most of the available resources within the area, and would be a force with which the IC would have a reasonable chance of success in providing necessary perimeter control and providing for structure defense within the planning area.

Overhead Request:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1 Additional Chief Officer (IC or OSC) | 1 Plans Chief |
| 2 Information Officers (1 to ICP, 1 to Shelter Area to deal w/evacuees) | 2 Field Observers |
| 1 Staging Area Manager | 1 RESTAT UL |
| 2 Branch Directors | 1 Resource Unit Leader |
| 4 Division/Group Supervisors | 1 Logistics Chief |
| | 1 Safety Officer |

Contingencies

Structure Defense Tactics

Many of these homes have poor defensible space with construction features that pose an ignition threat. Some of the homes have not removed ladder fuels which makes the structure non-defendable by an engine company. With time and resources available, use of retardant product on these structures with the intent to re-enter after the flame front passes through, maybe the only safe tactic to consider. Many of the roads will support access for Type 1 and Type 3 engines. Some of the streets will be blocked by fire apparatus due to their narrowness and lack of driveways. Dozers and hand crews should be used if time permits to clear defensible space in and around the structures. In many cases homes may pose a danger to firefighters who stay and try to protect them due to lack of defensible space.

Application of Class A foams by SPG resources retardant products by helicopters and retardant application by air tankers around these structures may be necessary if available. It may be that engines companies may also have to apply class "A" foam, and then reposition to a safe refuge area and return after the fire front has passed and suppress the residual fire. Defensive firing out behind the structures may also be an option but due to the topography, firing needs to be carefully coordinated with adjoining resources so as not to cut off escape routes or impact others with the resulting fire.

Perimeter Control Tactics

Live Oak Springs Suppression Strategies

The fire threat to Live Oak Springs will most likely manifest itself in one of two scenarios: A fire influenced by off shore winds and fires influenced by the oceans on shore flow. In either case, life safety will be of paramount concern due to the restricted access and egress of the community.

Scenario #1 Offshore Flow from the Northeast

Fire coming into Live Oak Springs from an off shore influence could be wind, fuel or topography driven. Either case, the defensive strategy will be to keep the fire from crossing proposed dozer lines on the east side of the community as well as using the Interstate 8 and the established roads to the north east, or proposed dozer line to the east of the community.

Evacuation decision points will be as outlined in the evacuation considerations of this document.

As fire approaches existing fuel breaks, a concerted effort to monitor fire weather and use firing operations to support improved and hardened fuel breaks. Hardened will be those established roads around the community. When a fire has established itself and has the potential to burn into Live Oak Springs, immediate efforts to "open up" fuel breaks not previously opened shall commence.

Air resources shall ensure that retardant lines are placed along the south side of Interstate 8. Secondary retardant lines to support the dozer lines shall be utilized as the dozer lines are completed. Any last minute fuel modifications shall be completed before the fire front arrives. Orders for resources shall be initiated as soon as possible. Water drops shall be utilized as directed by the prioritized threats as identified by Air Attack.

Direct control operations should include the pretreatment of the ridges bordering the community with retardant and firing operations when and where needed to prevent the fire front from directly impacting the structures in the community. Crew work will be needed to clear fuels in and around structures as needed.

Efforts to minimize loss of life and property will dictate that engines be spread throughout the community and that identified safe refuge areas are communicated to residents before the fire arrives and that fire resources take into account the fact that residents might not leave when directed to evacuate and therefore, actions to protect citizens need to be considered. Water tenders should be strategically placed to supplement the local water supply to fire resources.

The command structure for the fire as described shall include but not be limited to:

- Command Post located at Golden Acorn Casino
- Incident Commander
- Public Information Officer
- Operations
- Plans
- Logistics
- Divisions
- Groups
- Air Operations
- Law Enforcement
- Safety

Scenario #2: Offshore Flow From the Southeast

The primary threat to Live Oaks Springs will be a fire influenced from off shore flow, terrain or fuel. In recognition of this threat, significant fuel reduction should be done to the area of the motocross racetrack and the area between Live Oak Trail Road/Buck Horn Trail Road and the proposed dozer line to the east. The defense of the community should be top priority and any vegetation should be removed as it is a direct threat to life or property. Currently the defensible space is inadequate and every effort should be made to remove this vegetation. In this scenario, while in the initial attack, the vegetation shall be removed from the draw directly to the southeast/east of the Live Oak Springs Community.

Evacuation decision points will be outlined in the evacuation considerations in this document.

When a fire is recognized as having the potential to burn into Live Oak Springs, steps shall be taken to "open up" fuel breaks not previously opened on the side from which the fire is approaching. Specifically, fire lines will need to be built within the fuel breaks and any fuel that may allow the fire to cross these lines needs to be removed. An area of special concern lies along the eastern fringe of the community where no fuel

modification has been accomplished. The draw running between the Live Oak Trail Road/Buck Horn Trail Road and the proposed dozer line to the east will need to be cleared using Type I and II dozers, as well as several Type I crews.

Direct control operations should include the pretreatment of the ridges and natural open areas bordering the community with retardant. Although the Live Oak Springs community has adequate water supply, water tenders should be strategically placed to supplement the fire sources.

The command structure in the event of a large fire should consist of northern and southern branches with geographical groups as well as divisions to provide perimeter control. A staging area could be set up at Golden Acorn Casino take advantage of the infrastructure at that facility.

The command structure for the fire as described shall include but not be limited to:

- Command Post located at Golden Acorn Casino
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- Public Information Officer
- Operations
- Plans
- Logistics
- Divisions
- Groups
- Air Operations
- Law Enforcement
- Safety

Scenario #3 Onshore Flow

Fire coming into Live Oak Springs from an on shore influence could be wind, fuel or topography driven. Either case, the defensive strategy will be to keep the fire from crossing Old Highway 80 with secondary dozer lines on the east side of Old Highway 80. Williams Road will be used as the fuel break to the west with the interstate as the fuel break to the north.

Evacuation decision points will be as outlined in the evacuation considerations of this document.

As fire approaches existing fuel breaks, a concerted effort to monitor fire weather and the use of firing operations to support improved and hardened fuel breaks. Hardened will be those established roads around the community. When a fire is recognized as having the potential to burn into Live Oak Springs, immediate efforts to "open up" fuel breaks not previously opened shall commence.

Air resources shall ensure that retardant lines are placed along the Williams Road areas as well as Old Highway 80. Secondary retardant lines to support new dozer lines shall be utilized as they are completed. Any last minute fuel modifications shall be completed before the fire front arrives. Orders for resources shall be initiated as soon as possible. Water drops shall be utilized as directed by the prioritized threats as identified by Air Attack.

Direct control operations should include the pretreatment of the ridges bordering the community with retardant and firing operations when and where needed to prevent the fire front from directly impacting the structures in the community. Crew work will be needed to clear fuels in and around structures as needed.

Efforts to minimize loss of life and property will dictate that engines be spread throughout the community and that identified safe refuge areas are communicated to residents before the fire arrives and that fire resources take into account the fact that residents might not leave when directed to evacuate and therefore, actions to protect citizens need to be considered. Water tenders should be strategically placed to supplement the local water supply to fire resources.

The command structure for the fire as described shall include but not be limited to:

- Command Post located at Golden Acorn Casino
- Incident Commander
- Public Information Officer
- Operations
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- Groups
- Air Operations
- Law Enforcement
- Safety

Helispot: N 32° 41' 25.74 (Old Highway 80, east of road marker 22.5)
W 116° 20'19.42

This helispot has a water source to provide continuous dip site operation with a portable tank.

Recommendation

The local Ranger Unit should continue to work with community leaders and property owners, develop defensible space and fuel breaks.

Continue to develop this Community Defense Plan to insure accuracy, and to provide the best possible tools local response personnel for an effective response to a wildland fire in the Live Oaks Spring community.

Approval:

IC

OPSC

Safety