



# MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2022

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

We hear from Program Manager Carol Hallett as we start off the warm summer months. Margaret Lawrence, our new Traffic and Crowd Control Unit Leader, is the subject of this month's Member Profile. We have some summer safety tips, in honor of National Safety Month, and we hear about our Firefighter Rehab deployment.

We also get updates on our Vehicle Maintenance and training, and from our UAS Unit Leader on mapping of emergency routes. We have a reminder on water conservation, and, with the upcoming 4th of July holiday, a reminder that **all fireworks**, including those marked "safe and sane", are **illegal in Tuolumne County**. And mark your calendars for some exciting upcoming events, including our THA-CERT/THFD fundraiser, coming up in October.

We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on safety and health.

If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact us at [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com) for consideration of the topic by the board.



Enjoy a safe and happy 4th of July



# DE'JA' VU FIRE

by: Matt Kain, POD Unit Leader, THA-CERT



We received a call to deploy our Firefighter Rehab crew to the Bluebell West Fire but we had been there a few months back. Could this be correct?



Same neighborhood, different house

We did not question the request it was just acknowledged. Crew B was on call and responded immediately. I was to be the leader with Luz and Carol on the team. Carol was first to arrive at Vantage Point and she started getting the Firefighter Rehab truck ready to go. We went through the start up procedures, took our places in the vehicle and off we went.

We arrived on scene in 22 minutes. It was the same neighborhood as we had been to before, just a different house. Carol jumped out to find the Incident Commander. The street was lined with fire trucks, water tenders and other support vehicles from all around the county. There was no way I was going to get our truck up this narrow road.



Crew B: Carol, Luz & Matt

In no time we saw Carol coming back with the incident Safety Officer. They worked to clear a path for me to drive our truck right up front.



Set up and ready to serve



First responders came in force

Crew B worked together like a well-oiled machine, we assessed our situation, made some decisions and then set up our station. Within minutes we welcomed our first firefighters.

The sun was setting as the water doused the flames and the crews soon were taking items out of the house to make sure there were no smoldering items. Mop up is a messy job but vital to ensuring the fire will not flare up again.



After Action Brief

In the end the fire fighting team assembled to have an After Action Brief and then we were all dismissed.

We packed up our gear and made the drive back to Vantage Point. We put everything away so that the next crew that is called out will have a safe and effective deployment.

# FIREWISE QUICK START MEETING

by Ann McInerney, Twain Harte Heights  
FireWise Community



A FireWise Quick Start Meeting was held at the Twain Harte Community Services Division building on June 13th. There were 21 enthusiastic attendees. The geographic focus of this meeting were the cities of Twain Harte up to Strawberry. Carol Hallett was the facilitator. Two FireWise Neighborhood Leaders also were in attendance: Patricia Herrera (Mark Twain/Sierra) and Anne McInerney (Twain Harte Heights). Fire Chief Neil Gamez was called away so was unable to attend the meeting. He is a strong proponent of the FireWise program. The first FireWise neighborhood created in Twain Harte was Cedar View. There are now 6 certified FireWise communities in the area and we may be adding an additional 7 neighborhoods based on the attendees. Our goal is to have contiguous properties/neighborhood in our area of focus



Carol started with the “5 steps”. The first step is to create your committee of at least two people. Step two is to define your neighborhood. You can start with 8 households and if you are really ambitious, 2,500!! She suggested not to do that! The third step is the map of your neighborhood. The fourth step is the Risk Assessment and the final step, is your three year Action Plan.

She then went into some detail on the Five Steps. When looking at the parameters of your neighborhood for step two, what makes sense to you? After you define your

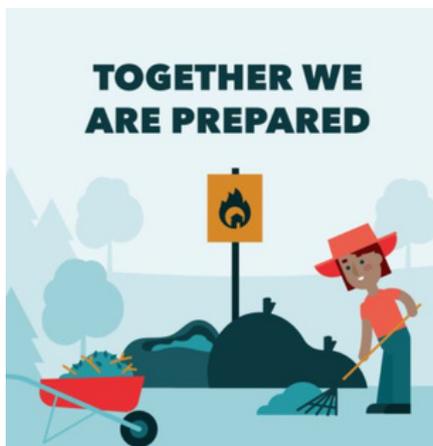
neighborhood, give it a name. The map is the next step – you will contact the county’s GIS specialist and provide him the streets of your neighborhood. He will provide you a map with parcel numbers, owner’s names and addresses. The Risk Assessment sets the baseline for the conditions in your neighborhood. The Action Plan delineates the line of attack that comes as a result of your Risk Assessment. The Action Plan could take the form of monthly work parties in which a specific property is cleaned up. Carol suggested that you make a folder in which to place your map, Risk Assessment, Action Plan and neighborhood contact list. On the front of the file, write in your FireWise User Name and Password for the FireWise website (this is where you will upload your documents and complete the application).

The attendees of the meeting will be sent a package that will include samples of the Neighborhood Map, Risk Assessment and Action Plan, a task list which will enumerate the steps to be taken and provide contact information for the county department that will provide your neighborhood map, Fire Department and CalFire personnel as well as contacts on the county level. Some of these contacts will be utilized during the application process, others when you hold your neighborhood meetings after your application has been submitted. Carol pointed out that we are the worker bees, the list of contacts provide us support. FireWise is a grassroots organization, where neighbors help neighbors.

# FIREWISE QUICKSTART MEETING, cont'd

Carol then introduced TJ Moyle, from the company “A Cut Above”, a property management company who is now offering dumpster rentals for green waste as well as hauling and brush removal. Additional steps Carol talked about were road side clearance so no driver would need to drive through a “fire tunnel”. There was discussion about what a shaded fuel break is (create a park-like setting by thinning trees, trimming them up and removing ladder fuels.). A side benefit to that, is you create a healthier environment for your trees by taking away the competition for water and soil nutrients. The meeting was then opened up to questions and answers.

We look forward to welcoming in new FireWise communities and will be holding another Quick Start meeting soon.



**FIREWISE USA®**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

## THA-CERT VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader, THA-CERT



Our CERT vehicles are in great shape, thanks to some recent vehicle maintenance, The Firefighter Rehab vehicle got two new front tires, thanks to Chief Neil Gamez, THFD, and an alignment, donated by G&H Service in Sonora. Thanks to you both for your donations; our FF Rehab vehicle is in the best condition it has ever been.

The UAS truck had an oil change this month, too.



We also trained a new driver for the Firefighter Rehab vehicle. Margaret Lawrence is our new relief driver for FF Rehab.

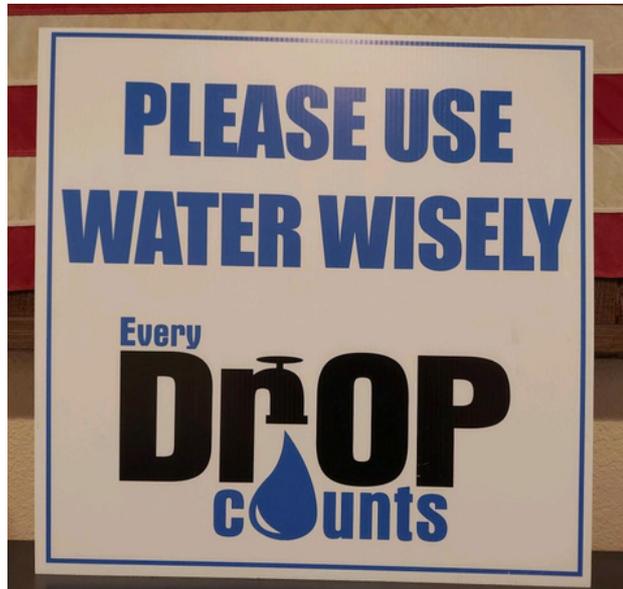
Any THA-CERT members who are interested in becoming trained as drivers, please let me know

# WATER CONSERVATION

by Twain Harte Community Services District



The last six months rank as the 4th driest on record. The Sierra snow pack, which provides more than 40% of California's water supply, melted quicker than normal and much more of it absorbed into the ground and evaporated into the air than we have seen historically. This means that the flows coming into our two small water storage reservoirs (Lyons and Pinecrest) are not sufficient to keep them as full as normal. In other words, our region's water supply is very limited this year.



Drought is "normal" in California and so we are always watching the water supply and planning to ensure our community has a reliable water supply no matter what may come. We have made several water supply reliability improvements since the last drought, such as installing grant-funded groundwater wells, but we still need to work together to protect our water supply.

While we are not requiring you to conserve water at this time, with an extremely limited water supply this year, we would like encourage you not to waste water.

For more information regarding drought, rainfall, snow pack, water supply, and ways in which you can conserve water, please check out the links at:

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/water-supply-information>



**Reminder: All Fireworks are illegal in Tuolumne County, including those labeled "Safe and Sane"**

# MEMBER PROFILE: MARGARET LAWRENCE

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT



As you may have read in last month's issue, Margaret Lawrence is now the Traffic and Crowd Control Unit Leader. We first met Margaret when we were assisting Tuolumne County Public Health with the drive-through COVID vaccine clinics last year. She made an immediate impression on us all and I know at least one of us (me) gave her the hard sell on joining CERT (I think it was the free backpack that finally convinced her to join). I sat down with Margaret over coffee the other day to learn a bit more about her.

Margaret was born and raised in Vermont. After graduating from the University of Vermont with a degree in biology, she found a job with the US Forestry Service as a firefighter in Porterville, CA. While with the USFS, she also earned her EMT certificate, along with qualifying to teach first aid and CPR.



Margaret hiking at Pinecrest

Her job took her to Shasta Trinity NF, where she worked as a biologist. It was while she was



Margaret and Maria bird watching

working at Shasta Trinity that Margaret met her wife, Maria. When Maria got a job working in Stanislas NF in 1990, the couple moved to Tuolumne county. Margaret got a job working with CalTrans as a biologist and worked there for 26 years, retiring as an Environmental Manager.

Margaret is an avid bike rider, completing the AIDS ride in 2014 riding from San Francisco to Los Angeles. She and Maria enjoy hiking with their two dogs, bird watching and clearing brush around their property, well not that so much!



Margaret "half way to LA" during the 2014 AIDS bike ride

Like a lot of us, Margaret wanted to contribute and help the community during the pandemic and volunteered with Tuolumne County Public Health at the vaccine clinics. She says she was somewhat familiar with CERT prior to that, having seen CERT volunteers somewhere. That chance assignment from Public Health was our good fortune as we gained an active member who fits naturally into our team.



Margaret taking a nap with Scout

# SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

by: John Buckingham, Safety Officer, THA-CERT



*In 1996, the National Safety Council designated June as National Safety Month. The goal was to increase awareness of the leading safety and health risks facing employees and decrease the risk for workplace injuries and deaths in the U.S. 2022 marks 26 years of National Safety Month.*

Here are some safety tips for Summer:

1. Stay Hydrated. Thirst isn't always a reliable early indicator of the body's need for water. Many people, particularly older adults, don't feel thirsty until they're already dehydrated. That's why it's important to increase water intake during hot weather or when you're ill.
2. Protect Your Skin. Use a sunscreen 30 minutes before going out and reapply after heavy exertion or spending time in the water.
3. Water Safety.
  - Remember to always have adult supervision for children.
  - Every person on a boat or other water craft needs to wear a life vest or PFD (personal flotation device). Pets on boats need PFDs, too.
  - Be aware of the signs of drowning; drowning isn't about loud splashing and noise (though you should respond to that too!):
    - Head low in the water, mouth at water level.
    - Head tilted back with mouth open.
    - Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus.
    - Eyes closed.
4. Eye Safety. The sun's ultraviolet (UV) light can harm the eyes.
  - Wear eye protection when outdoors, especially on sunny days.
5. Sports Safety. To help prevent sports injuries:
  - Wear the right safety gear and equipment.
  - Make sure the playing environment is well-lit and appropriate for the sport.
  - Enforce safety rules.
  - Stay hydrated during and after sports.
  - Take breaks while training and during games to prevent overuse injuries.
6. Pet Safety. Remember your furry friends during warm weather.
  - Have water available for your pets at all times; Outdoor pets need access to shade at all times.
  - During extreme heat (and cold), bring outdoor pets inside
  - Avoid walking dogs during the hot part of the day.
  - Don't leave dogs alone in cars in hot weather
7. Yard Work Safety.
  - Always use appropriate protective gear when using power tools and yard equipment.
  - Stay fire safe by only using lawn mowers to mow grass; for dry weeds and vegetation, use a line trimmer or other equipment that will not cause a spark.
  - Follow the owner's manual for each piece of equipment for instructions on how to use it safely.
  - Follow all burning restrictions and guidelines.



# KNOW WHERE TO GO

by Michelle Wagner, UAS Unit Leader, THA-CERT

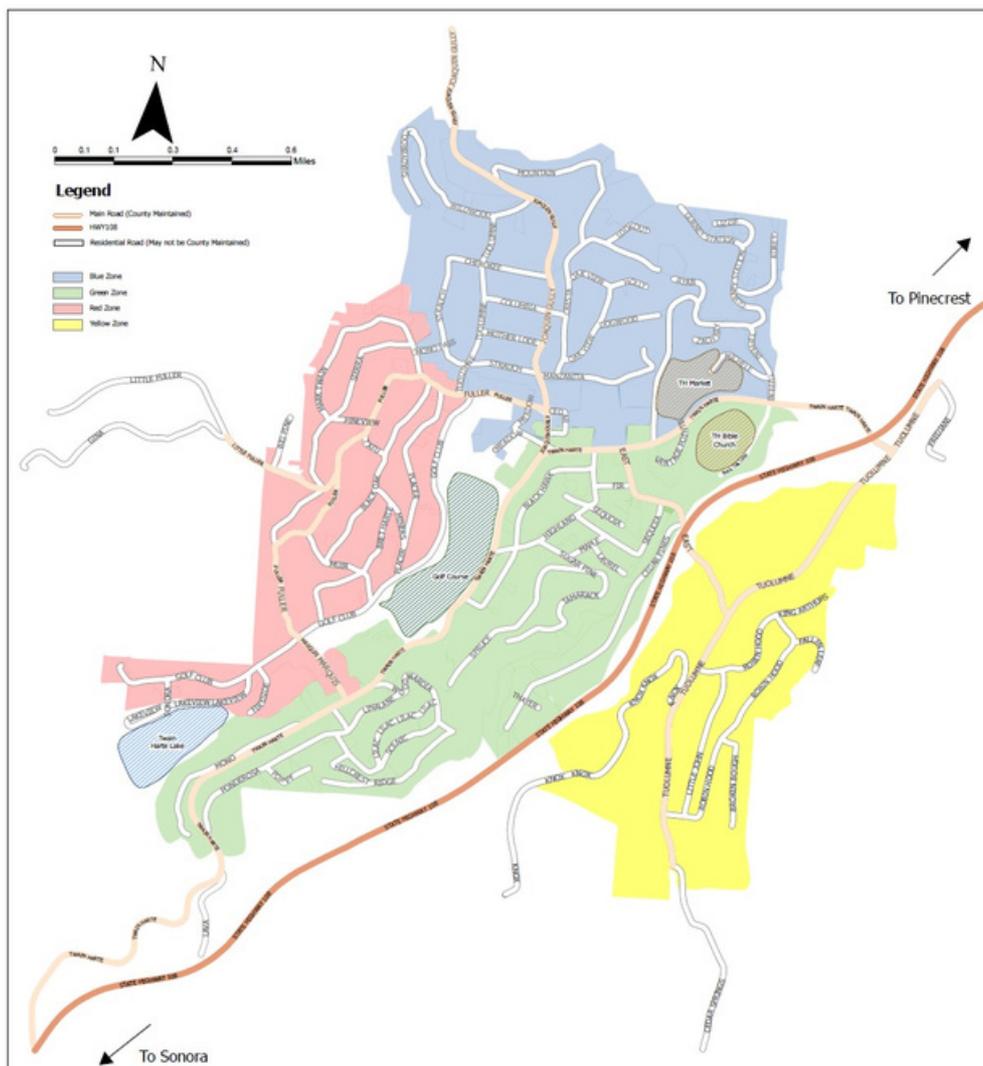


The Twain Harte Community Services District along with the Twain Harte Fire Department (and a little help from THA-CERT member Michelle Wagner) have developed an “Egress Map” to help residents and visitors alike learn and plan their evacuation routes in the case of a wildland fire.

The map enumerates different evacuation zones and identifies larger “feeder” roads that may be the fastest routes out in the event of an emergency. If those roads are impacted by heavy traffic, then the map can be used to plan other ways out.

The time is now to start planning. Pick up a copy of the map at the Twain Harte Community Services District office at 22912 Vantage Point Drive in Twain Harte.

## Know Your Twain Harte Egress Routes



### Get to Know Your Egress Route:

1. Find your home on the map and identify your Zone.
2. Identify the shortest routes from your home to the Main Roads.
3. Identify multiple routes out of town.
4. Pick a different route to take home once a week to become familiar with road conditions and the amount of time each route takes you.
5. Knowing and practicing your egress routes will enable you to leave the area quickly and safely in an emergency and will help you follow any evacuation orders issued by the Tuolumne county Sheriff.

# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT



The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for June are:

Administration = 120

Training = 14

Deployment = 9

Total May hours = 143



## WHAT'S NEXT?

# July

### Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

<https://www.visittuolumne.com/events>

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

<https://www.twainhartecc.com/events>

**Summer Outdoor Market & Car Show - Gearhead Revival**

**Location:** Downtown Twain Harte

**Date, Day & Time:** Saturday, July 23 & Sunday July 24, 2022  
10:00-5:00

### Training

**Traffic Control Training - Twain Harte**

**Subject:** Training & Drill on Traffic Control

**Trainer:** California Highway Patrol (CHP)

**Location:** 18775 Manzanita Dr, Twain Harte, CA

**Date, Day & Time:** Saturday, July 30, 2022 0900-noon

### Save The Date!

**Support our Firefighters Dinner & Music**

**Location:** Inner Sanctum Cellars, 22004 Parrotts Ferry Rd

**Date, Day & Time:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022

6:00-9:00 pm (1800-2100) Buy your tickets NOW!

### Holidays

**Independence Day, Monday, July 4, 2022**

*Reminder: All fireworks are illegal in Tuolumne County, including those marked "safe and sane".*

### Meeting

**THCSD Board Meeting**

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>

**Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 9:00 am**

**CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting**

**Thursday, July 14, 2022, 9:30 am**



Happy Independence Day

# SAVE THE DATE!

*You Are Cordially Invited...*



...to join us for our July training. This month's training is on Traffic and Crowd Control

- Instructor from CHP
- Learn how to stay safe while helping your community
- Be prepared to help your neighbors during an evacuation event or other emergency



Saturday, July 30th  
9 am to 12 pm

Twain Harte Community Center,  
18775 Manzanita Drive, Twain Harte  
(behind car wash)

Twain Harte Area CERT members,  
please bring your high-visibility vests to  
the training.

Community members who attend will  
be provided with high-vis vests.



For more information, please contact THA-CERT at [TwainHarteCERT@gmail.com](mailto:TwainHarteCERT@gmail.com)

Have dinner with us and support

Cost: \$45 per person  
after Labor Day the price goes up to \$50/person

Your Ticket Includes:

- All you can eat Taco Dinner
- One beverage
- Live Music

Tacos by Sergio

Music by Jill Warren

Wednesday, October 19, 2022  
6:00 - 9:00 pm (1800-2100)  
Inner Sanctum Cellars Basecamp  
22004 Parrotts Ferry Road, Columbia, Ca

Purchase tickets:

- Venmo: @CERT\_Fire
- [twainhartecert@gmail.com](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com)

This event will sell out so get your tickets NOW!

**All profits will go towards feeding and rehydrating our firefighters during a fire.**