

GREATER VALLEY SPRINGS ADVISORY GROUP

Emergency Services / Safety Group (Alice Raine & Diane Starner)

Our vision for the Emergency Services / Safety Group is, for Calaveras County to provide services and the necessary funding, training and staff to advance and enhance the safety of our community. Included in this vision is the desire to consolidate the Greater Valley Springs Planning Area into a community with joint Sheriff's Office and /or if we someday have a Police Department and Fires Services.

Our vision:

- Ensure adequate and stable funding, said funds to be used *solely* for both the Sheriff's Department and Fire Departments. Each fire district is to have its' own ambulance. Response times for the ambulance should be less than 10 minutes.
- Minimum Sheriff's Department staffing should be 1 officer for a maximum of 400 residents. This is especially important in the Greater Valley Springs Area because of so many new residents and increased gang activity.
- Ambulance Staff, Fire Department Personnel and Hospital Emergency Room staff to be trained *annually* to handle all aspects of damages from hazardous material spills, communicable disease and isolation emergencies.
- Funding for extensive training of community members to respond to neighborhood emergencies when professional staff is committed to other locations. Have evacuation plan in place, including child care for children whose parents are at work at time of emergency. Educate residents about evacuation plan. Encourage residents to have their own emergency plan in place.
- Bring roads and shoulders to grade, repair pot holes, and maintain fog lines. County roads must be maintained to standards required by California law. Work with CalTrans to create adequate capacity on Highways 26 and 12 to handle projected traffic volume for the next 30 years. Traffic safety will be included in this expansion.
- It is vital that the water district provide, maintain and repair water lines, to provide adequate water flow and pressure for Fire Service. New hydrants should have the latest technology for maximum pressure and ease of connection.

- All of Calaveras County is designated as having a Very High fire rating. Residential areas in the Greater Valley Springs Planning Area of one acre lots or less in size should have a weed control ordinance requiring the entire lot to be cleared of tall weeds. Adequate water pressure in these areas is essential and the minimum State requirement is only 35 pounds of pressure, which is totally inadequate for this area.
- Business or residential owners to be charged punitive fees after second false alarm, occurring within one month, requiring response of the Sheriff or Fire departments.
- Businesses to have installed audible and surveillance security systems. Outdoor night lighting for residential properties should be restricted to motion detector lights. Motion detector lights offer a much more effective deterrent to prowlers.
- All residential properties must have visible house numbers that may be easily seen when approaching from any direction. This will enable emergency responders to immediately locate the property.
- Need to follow minimum requirements stipulated by California Public Resources Code 4290. This applies to new construction driveways regarding length, slope, width and turnaround.
- New development should not be allowed in flood zones. Set 500 year standard.
- "Safe and Sane" fireworks for personal use should be banned due to fire danger.