

## Notes from 10/21/2015 3:00pm Public Meeting

- **Judge Pape**

- Today is a day of stability for the fire. Still focusing on reentry and assessment.
- The reason we are meeting at the Bastrop Resource Center location is because this is now the focal point of the Hidden Pines Fire event. This location will be where residents can come for assistance.
- Fire still contained at 80%, 4,582 acres, and 64 homes lost.
- As of daylight tomorrow morning, all restrictions related to the fire will be lifted. Sheriff reports we have 13 deputies in the field and have had no big issues with security. Will be maintaining patrols in the area.
- We have begun preparation for recovery. Asking everyone to be safe during the recovery process.
- Judge acknowledged the 13 VFDs and 25 ESDs that assisted in fighting this fire. There was a total of 263 firefighting personnel who assisted in saving multiple homes.
- There were 113 homes in the fire footprint that were saved. Earlier in the day, A DPS helicopter took Judge Pape over the burn area showing just how close the fire came to most of the homes.
- Judge spoke about a book titled Hall of Fire written by Randy Fritz who lost his home to the 2011 Complex Fire. The book described his experience with losing his belongings/home to the fire and how his family coped. Judge Pape is working on getting the publisher for this book to donate enough books for each of the Hidden Pines Fire victims.
- Announced that there will be one more news conference at 3:00 tomorrow 10/22/15, at the same location (Bastrop Resource Center). Judge will determine if and when another press conference will be needed.
- Advised that we are aware of potential flooding from the expected rainfall and are taking precautions.

- **Commissioner Beckett**

- Had a team come in to complete assessment of trees.
- We will need experts to come in to remove trees. Should be able to have contractors in to remove trees in the next 2-3 weeks. This process will take months.
- Stressed that monetary donations are needed.

- **Mark Rose (Bluebonnet)**

- There are 1816 trees clearly identified and marked.
- Has had residents asking why trees that appear to be fine are being marked for removal. It was explained to them that professionals have assessed the trees and determined they must come down.
- Mr. Rose noted that the cooperation with Fire Command and the Sheriff's Office has been great.
- Stressed that while volunteers are greatly appreciated, monetary donations are critical.

**Kate Johnston (Citizens Services)**

- Explained the process for victims when they come to the Bastrop Resource Center for assistance. Everyone will come in through the front entrance of the BRC where they will sign in and look through different information that will be provided by approximately 7 organizations. These organizations will be on site tomorrow to assist victims. Once initial information is gathered, the organization will conduct follow ups with victims. Also, starting tomorrow at Noon, child care will be available at the Smithville Recreation Center for anyone that would like drop their children by until the registration process at the BRC is completed.
- Those who are interested in volunteering this weekend may come to the Bastrop Resource Center (back entrance) and sign up with American Youth Works. These volunteers may be sent out to assist victims with the cleanup process, however, they should remain sensitive to victims and their property.
- The BRC will open tomorrow morning at 8:00. Reception Center for volunteers will be open from 8:00am – 6:00pm. Saturday hours will be 8:00am – 8:00pm.