



Volume 1, Special Issue 5.
September 6, 2011

Woodlake Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

The publication of this newsletter is unofficial and does not reflect any opinion, directive, or policy of the Woodlake Property Owners Association members or Board of Directors.

The primary purpose of the newsletter is to convey information designed to assist us to reduce or prevent crime in our community.

The information presented is available through various public access sources, personal interview, or observation. Your comments as to how we can better improve this effort are welcome. Thank you, the Editor.

1. Are You Still Prepared? - The Labor Day holiday weekend may be over but the threat of wildfire still lingers. More than 1000 Texans are left homeless – over 400 houses in the Bastrop area alone have been destroyed by wind-driven wildfires.

If you're still skeptical, just take a look as you drive through the neighborhood. And, now that you've been made aware, the danger sticks-out like Granny in a game of Texas Hold'em. Many vacant lots are overgrown so thick an inferno could erupt in minutes from the slightest ignition. Practically every home in the community is flanked or backed by trees and shrubs that have been deprived of moisture for so long they'll likely explode like a Roman candle if exposed to a raging fire. In many cases, our homes are close enough to each other and dense enough that you're not safe if your neighbor's house catches fire. Our lack of multiple escape routes increase the difficulty we'll have if any of the streets become smoke obscured or flames making the only thoroughfare unsafe. And, not to disparage the ability and confidence in our volunteer fire department, if their presence isn't blocking our escape, by the time they respond our only hope would be that they can control the blaze.

If you are prepared the anxiety over the possibility of losing everything you've worked all your life can be somewhat easier to handle. This is no time to let your guard up – on the contrary. If you haven't finished the inventory of your house hold goods, gathered your important papers, photos, and high-value items ready to put in your car(s) – don't put it off anymore.

It's when we become complacent that is when the risk of a disaster increases. Regrettably, we've suffered no relief from TS Lee and no appreciable probability for rain; we so desperately need, for the near future. Our only reprieve from the lurking danger is the cooler temperatures and the calmer wind.

Keep your radio dial tuned to any station that will provide you emergency information alert messages or your weather alert radio close at hand. Stay aware of your surroundings and environment; be suspicious if you smell smoke – Assess, Alert, Report, and if necessary, Evacuate.

2. On The Horizon -

The National Night Out event is scheduled for October 4th this year. Glenda Northam as graciously volunteered to coordinate our proposed activities. If you have an interest in promoting anti-crime education for our community discuss your ideas with Glenda. She'll appreciate the assistance.

The venue will be the community tennis courts. Some of the proposed events/activates include: Displays and demonstrations on home security systems, presentation of contents of Emergency Survival Kits, Bell County Deputy Sheriff on patrol, information about pandemic response, and Central Bell County FD and EMS.

Maybe the weather will cooperate and by then the temperature will be down to a tolerable level so we can get started around 7PM so you'll have a chance to walk-off your dinner. Hope to see you all out and about.