

TOWN OF FAIRFAX STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michael Rock, Town Manager 
Mark Lockaby, Public Works Manager

DATE: April 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Report on the Recent Storm Damage and Actions of Town Staff

DISCUSSION

There were a series of strong storms in Marin County and throughout the State the week of March 14th and the week of March 20th. On March 24, 2011 the Town received an intense downpour for several hours in the morning that created some localized flooding and other problems. Listed below are the three major issues (landslides, blocked storm drains, and downed trees) that the Police, Fire and Public Works staff dealt with:

Landslides:

1. 120 Tamalpais Road: The Town Manager and Chief Building Official arrived on site at 7:15 a.m. Monday morning March 21, 2011. A retaining wall collapsed onto the roadway leaving a vertical cut about 18 feet high. Above the landslide exists a home that was filled with mud from a landslide above in 1982. The home was condemned but the situation was never abated. Water was coming down the hill above the house, and then continued through the mud in the house and then into the ground. The water exited through the vertical slide face. From my experience I knew this had the potential to become a major disaster. At 9:00 a.m. I met with Linscott Engineering and our Town Engineer Ray Wrynski. Ray concurred that the slide needed to be shored up as soon as possible or we would be facing a major problem. On the rest of the day Monday and Tuesday the slide was dewatered by putting in a catch basin above the home and routing down to the street. (Exhibit A)
2. 500 Cascade and 290 Madrone: Both consisted of a small amount of soil onto the road. Our crew cleaned both of them and the roads remained open.
3. 335 Forrest: Homeowner had excavated the hillside to create a parking area without any retaining of the soil above. A fair amount of the hill collapsed onto his parking area and truck. (Exhibit B)

Blocked Storm Drains

1. Valley & Willis: Someone removed the grate and placed a garbage can in the drain. Residents hired Roto Rooter to remove it back in December but they were only able to cut a small hole in

AGENDA ITEM # 3

it. Public Works staff was able to remove the garbage can (on March 30) after the water flow subsided. (Exhibit C)

2. 124 Forrest: A storm drain on private property was clogged causing some flooding into the residence.
3. Hill Ave: At Hill Avenue there is a small pump that drains a small area to Belle Avenue. Residents on Hill requested that we turn the pump on and residents on Belle asked us to turn the pump off. The small pump has no effect on the flooding of both streets.

Downed Trees

1. 17 Ridge Rd: Two very large Acacia trees fell onto Ridge Rd. causing major damage to two cars. The road was closed for the whole day while tree crews removed the debris. (Exhibit D)
2. 25 Mountain View: A medium sized oak tree fell and blocked the road for a few hours. Public Works staff cut and removed the tree
3. 260 Forrest: A very large Acacia tree fell onto the road and power lines. PG&E removed the tree and restored power the next day.