

LAW ENFORCEMENT FORUM

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

TCC Ranch House

The purpose of inviting some of our local law enforcement officers to the Ranch was to improve/build upon our relationship with them. In attendance were Lt. Harry Hall and Officer Dobbs from the Cibola County Sheriff's Department and Lt. Ramon Terrazas, New Mexico State Police District 6 Gallup. McKinley County and Navajo Police couldn't make the date, so we'll plan on having another forum next year (perhaps in conjunction with or around the Annual Meeting when lots of landowners would be at the Ranch).

Lt. Hall conducted the meeting. He noted that there have been only 13 recorded calls from Timberlake in Cibola County Sheriff's Office for 2014. Two of them were answered by Pete Lucero/Dog Catcher. It was apparent that calls are not being recorded due to incorrect transference to a dispatcher. The Sheriff's Department has a total of 18 personnel on staff to cover over 4,500 square miles with a population of 27-30,000 people. Thus, when we call for assistance, the normal response time is 30-90 minutes. If the incident is serious (life or death) and another agency is closer, they can be dispatched to stabilize the scene until a Cibola Deputy arrives. The State Police are 5 under their recommended number of Deputies for the Grants and Gallup areas. They backup McKinley County, but are not the primary backup for Cibola County.

The three non-emergency numbers for Cibola County are:

1-505-287-9476 1-505-287-9477 1-505-287-4404

The **administrative number for Cibola County for Monday thru Friday** (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) is 1-877-898-0097. **SINCE THIS IS NOT A DISPATCH CENTER, CALLS ARE NOT RECORDED OR LOGGED.**

Question: When calling 911, how do we know where the call is being directed and recorded?

Answer: If you have a physical address recorded in the county in which you live, it should direct you to the correct 911 dispatcher. Landowner must call 911 and say, "This is a non-emergency call, who am I talking to?" If you are in Cibola County, you should be talking to Grants Regional Dispatch. If you are in McKinley County, it should be Gallup Metro Dispatch. **All landowners are advised to call 911 to do this test before you have any kind of an emergency.**

NOTE: Cell phones will not work to properly direct 911 calls. Must be specific when calling – ask for Gallup Metro Dispatch 911 or Grants Regional 911.

Question: How long will it take for law enforcement to answer an emergency 911 call?

Answer: Cibola Sheriff's Office may call Ramah Police or the State Police if there is an officer closer. Cibola doesn't know or coordinate with McKinley County Sheriff's Office as to whereabouts of their staff.

Rural addressing was discussed. For Cibola County please contact Darryl McCullough at 1-505-285-2515 or dmccullough@co.cibola.nm.us. to get your home address red and white numbers. He uses GPS locator for house points. For McKinley County, please contact Tim Larson at 1-505-863-9517. There is not always good coordination between counties. **These house numbers must be easily seen by responders and must not be on the house, but at the driveway access from the road.**

When we call 911, make sure you indicate if you live in Cibola County or McKinley County. If McKinley, indicate that you need Gallup Metro Dispatch. McKinley County Dispatch is 1-505-863-1410. (NON EMERGENCY)

Cibola Code Red program – Go to www.co.cibola.nm.us and click on Code Red to sign up. It appears that Timberlake is outside the Cibola County service area. However, you can sign up for the National Code Red database. You can also download an app to your smart phone and stay informed of community, emergency and severe weather alerts. It is geo-aware, meaning that you will only receive alerts that impact your specific location.

Crime Watch Programs – TRLA does not have a “formal” program set up with any law enforcement agency. We use an alert system via email, which is maintained by Linda Pedersen. There are over 140 people on this alert list. Mary Jo Wallen maintains the Phone Tree list, which was originally set up for fire evacuation procedures. Timberlake is divided up into 11 zones with a Zone Coordinator for each zone., who, in turn would contact landowners in that zone of the emergency and what actions to take. It was agreed that most all of us watch out for our neighbors and their property; however, it is becoming more difficult as more people move into the area with lots of building contractors coming and going.

Question: How can Timberlake get a more active presence of law enforcement patrols?

Answer: According to the signs observed on entering Timberlake, how active and serious is your Neighborhood Watch? When you see vehicles that don’t belong, do you record the license plate numbers? The Sheriff’s Office can contact these individuals and ask what they are doing in Timberlake. If the “no goods” drive around for several hours and don’t get questioned or stopped, the individuals figure out that the community is asleep at the wheel. **It has to be the duty of every citizen to help law enforcement. It will help if you can take a picture of a violator, license plate, etc. and/or be willing to go to Court along with law enforcement to prosecute violator(s).**

Question: What are our legal rights when threatened on our property?

Answer: We are not a castle law state, which is also known as castle doctrine or defense of habitation law. In other words, you cannot shoot someone who is on your property. You can only use deadly force if your life is in danger. NM is also an open carry gun state – i.e.: in your vehicle, horse, and bike. You can only conceal your weapon if you have a concealed weapons permit. If your house is burglarized, it’s best if your guns and ammunition are locked up. Go to a neighbor’s house to report a burglary because the burglar could still be in the house and have your gun in his possession. No shooting is allowed within 150 yards of a residence, and as you all know, shooting and hunting is not

allowed in Timberlake. Lt. Hall recommended that we get the video "Firearms, Self Defense and the Law" from California.

Restraining orders were discussed. There are two types: Domestic Violence and Civil, with the filing fee in Cibola County being \$132. It's always best to obtain a lawyer's opinion first before filing a restraining order so you do not waste your time and money if it isn't approved by the District Court. One landowner indicated that McKinley County only files for domestic abuse complaints. Lt. Hall indicated it was easier to obtain civil restraining orders in Cibola County and was of the opinion that even if you lived in McKinley County, you could obtain one from Cibola County.

Civil Restraining orders can be emailed if contacting Sheriff's Dept. in Cibola County. If filing Civil Restraining Order against a neighbor (barking dogs, shooting firearms, etc.), the neighbor is served and both you and your neighbor will appear before a District Judge. This may take two to four weeks. If the neighbor doesn't appear in Court, it usually benefits the person filing the Restraining Order. Judge rules and also sets length of the Restraining Order. You can file in Grants even if the occurrence was in McKinley County and again, the cost is \$132.

DWI Stops – Money is provided by the Federal Government and the number of officers, etc. is all set up per lawyer's rules. So, our County tax dollars are not used. Normally, they will catch a few people with outstanding warrants – not just DWI's.

Speeding – OHV's – I don't think very many of us knew that the speed limit is 10 mph when an OHV is going within 200' of a business, horseback rider, bicyclist, pedestrian, livestock or occupied dwelling. Parents can be cited for a child's offense (under 18 years of age). **Lt. Hall stressed that they need our help. If we see offenses, we need to either take pictures (include date, times, names, etc.) and/or be willing to testify in Court along with a Deputy.** A Game Warden can give out tickets for violations concerning OHV's, but not for someone committing a crime or for speeding.

Fingerprinting is not normally done on burglaries., but since valuable information can be lost, homeowners should ask the officer to print areas that the burglar touched (door knobs, safes, etc.). DNA can be done, but it **will include** finger prints and DNA of the occupants of the household.

Fence-Out State – If you do not want livestock or people on your property, you need to install a fence. Lt. Hall didn't have the specifics for height, etc., because he said they were different for barbed wire, wood, stone, etc. You need to have "No Trespassing" signs every 200' attached to the fence as well as one by your gate(s). He said we could read about the specifics under NM Statutes, Article 77, under Livestock.

As more information is available, we will post on the website and/or include in future Timberlake newsletters. If you have any questions or comments, please refer to one of the Board Members. If you want to be included in the Emergency Phone Tree listing, the form is on the website. Or, you can contact Mary Jo Wallen at 783-4207, or mrsdw19@aol.com.

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