



Safety Committee Regular Meeting

March 20, 2025, 2:00 PM, Library Conference Room

1) Call to order

2) Land acknowledgment statement: I would like to begin by acknowledging that we gather today on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish Peoples

Anti-racism Statement: The Sudden Valley Community Association (SVCA) stands against racism of all colors.

3) Attendance: Members: Rick Asai, Chair; Tom Henning, Vice-chair; Debbie Davolio; Daniel Harris; Kolleen Mitchell; Ted Wang; Judy White (committee is full).

Quorum is 50%, minimum of 4 members present and at least one Board member;

4) Adopt the agenda.

5) Announcements.

May 12 Wildfire Workshop 6:30pm in the Dance Barn (Barn 8). Discussion to follow.

6) Program updates (continuing business)

6a. Judy White-Wildfire Workshop (Firewise program); planning details, committee assignments.

6b. Ted Wang- Water safety-life preserver update and next steps

6c. Kolleen Mitchell-School bus safety-update and next steps

6d. Discuss dates for two more Safety oriented programs this year (Go Bag, Disaster Preparedness Plan, Emergency Communication Plan, other?)

7) New Business:

7a. Declared Emergency Towing Policy-new policy submitted by GM (see attached)

Next meeting: 2:00PM Wednesday, April 17th at the Library Conference Room.

Adjournment

Policy Title: Declared Emergency Towing Policy

Policy Number: 2025.06

Date: March 13, 2025

Policy Statement:

In the event of a severe weather event or other emergencies that impair vehicle traffic within Sudden Valley, the President of the Board of Directors, the General Manager, or their designee may declare a state of emergency in all or part of the Sudden Valley Community Association. The declaration of emergency will be immediately publicized by all practical means.

Powers During State of Emergency:

For the duration of the state of emergency, the General Manager or their designee shall have the following powers:

- To close roads or portions of roads.
- To restrict travel to vehicles equipped with chains or four-wheel drive.
- To remove or contract for the removal of vehicles that are blocking roads or hindering road clearing operations and to charge the cost of removal to the owners of the vehicles, in compliance with RCW 46.55.070.
- To contract for services or equipment needed to cope with the emergency.

Notification and Coordination:

Upon declaring a state of emergency, the General Manager will notify the Director of Emergency Management (DEM), the South Whatcom Fire Authority Fire Chief, and the Emergency Preparedness or Safety Committee Chair to determine whether the severe weather emergency plan must be implemented.

Termination of State of Emergency:

The general manager or the president of the board shall terminate the state of emergency as soon as the need for it has passed. The lifting of the state of emergency will be publicized by all practical means.

Citations for Abandoned Vehicles:

Sudden Valley reserves the right to issue citations/fines for vehicles left abandoned on its private roads. These citations will be in addition to the cost of having the vehicle towed and impounded by the towing company.

Citations for Vehicles on Closed Roads:

Sudden Valley reserves the right to issue citations/fines for vehicles that ignore a closed road and become stuck. Sudden Valley will have the vehicle towed and issue citations.

Documentation of Abandoned Vehicles:

The Incident Command Post will note abandoned vehicles on the situation map and document their locations to ensure the safety of the crews in the field involved in the severe weather emergency.

Compliance with Washington State Laws:

All towing and impoundment actions will be conducted in accordance with Washington State laws, including, but not limited to, RCW 46.55.070, which outlines the requirements for private impounds from private property, and RCW 46.55.105, which addresses the registered owner's responsibility for costs incurred due to vehicle removal, storage, and disposal.

Notice Requirements:

In compliance with RCW 46.55.085, reasonable attempts will be made to notify the legal and registered owner of the vehicle before impoundment unless the vehicle is impeding traffic flow or poses an immediate threat to public safety.

Liability and Costs:

As stipulated in RCW 46.55.105, the registered owner of an abandoned or illegally parked vehicle is responsible for all costs associated with towing, storage, and disposal of the vehicle.

Appeal Process:

Vehicle owners have the right to request a hearing to contest the validity of the impoundment or the amount of towing and storage charges per RCW 46.55.120.