



The SCFSC Fireplug

www.SCCFireSafe.org

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Welcome South County FireSafe Council

Fire service veterans lead the effort in South Santa Clara County

While SCFSC provides services and support to all communities within Santa Clara County, additional FireSafe Councils can help us be more effective and build local support for much needed wildfire prevention projects such as chipping and outreach and education.

The human caused 2007 Lick Fire in Henry Coe State Park, east of Gilroy, burned 47,760 acres and destroyed 4 residences and 20 outbuildings. It took 868 fire personnel, 3 helicopters and 10 water tenders over a week to suppress. The final cost? Over \$12M and 9 firefighter injuries.

"We want to do more in South County," explains SCFSC Treasurer Allan Thompson. "Since wildfires have no boundaries, our work to promote chipping services and raise awareness helps residents throughout the area, reaching into Lexington Hills and South San Jose."

Starting a FireSafe Council requires a commitment of effort and time. SCFSC's two South County Area Managers, Shannon Dinis and Kellie Guerra, are working together on chipping projects and community outreach. Kellie is currently leading the South County FireSafe Council efforts along with two dedicated fire service veterans: Chief Dave Bozzo and Chief Jeff Clet. *(Meet the SoCo FSC Chiefs, cont. page 3)*

RAWS Indicates Fuel Moisture Down

CAL FIRE and SCCFD Ready

On Blackberry Hill Road in Los Gatos, sits one of two Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) in the county maintained by the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD). The weather station monitors weather conditions for Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas by gathering information such as temperature, humidity, wind direction and velocity.

Every hour, this information is run through a complex program at the SCCFD Monte Vista Station in Cupertino along with historical data to determine "ignition component probability" and a "burn index" which determine the probability of a serious fire starting with the right weather conditions, and an overview of weather factors that contribute to fire, including "fuel moisture."

The burn index and ignition component probability are sent to firefighters three times a day. This often determines station staffing and response levels. In the event of a wildfire during high alert conditions, SCCFD and *(cont. page 2)*

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RAWS Indicates Fuel Moisture Down CAL FIRE and SCCFD Ready

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CAL FIRE may request additional resources such as helicopters and air tankers.

With recent fuel moistures for the Los Gatos area down considerably, brush is starting to dry out. As of 6/2/10, all CAL FIRE stations are open and staffed, including the staff, crew and helicopter, newly outfitted with an advanced tank, at the Alma Helitack station on Highway 17.

“The helicopter has a fixed 325 gallon tank that drops a foam and water mix,” explains CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Darrell Wolf. “There is a separate foam tank and they mix the foam internally so as not to allow foam in creeks when filling the tank.”

With hopes that rainy season is now past us, CAL FIRE and SCCFD are encouraging residents to clear their Defensible Space. Each year CAL FIRE and SCCFD respond to a number of fires started by Californians due to improper use of equipment.

“All residents are reminded to be smart when clearing Defensible Space,” adds Wolf. “Lawn mowers, weed eaters, chain saws, grinders, welders, tractors, and trimmers can all spark a wildland fire.”

CAL FIRE open burn season within the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County has closed. The burn ban for Santa Clara County will be in effect 6/15/10.

For information on SCFSC chipping programs or to learn more about fire-safe behavior, visit www.SCCFireSafe.org. Monitor the [Red Flag Warnings](#) and [Weather Conditions](#), including the [Los Gatos RAWS](#), on our [Weather page](#).

Partial text source: Santa Clara County Fire Department

2011 Grants Preliminary Selections

**Aldercroft Heights
Evacuation and Hazardous
Fuel Reduction Project**
11UFS0257, US Forest Service

**Lexington Hills Hazardous
Fuel Reduction Project**
11UFS0272, US Forest Service

**East Foothills Hazardous
Fuel Reduction Project**
11UFS0060, US Forest Service

**Morgan Hill Hazardous
Fuel Reduction Project**
11UFS0080, US Forest Service

2011 Federal Grant Selection Results

SCFSC and Aldercroft Heights County Water District proposals selected

SCFSC has been selected for three federal grants for 2011 and Aldercroft Heights County Water District has been selected for a federal grant with SCFSC as the fiscal sponsor.

The total for these four federal grants is \$220,160. We were selected for 70% of the Federal dollars we requested.

The California FireSafe Council received a total of 316 grant proposals for the 2011 grant cycle requesting a total of \$40 million. The preliminary decisions have targeted 72 projects totaling \$7.3 million for potential funding.

These selections mean that we can continue our programs in all our current areas next year and work to accelerate efforts this year.

Thanks to all of you who worked on these Grant Proposals and provided the Letters of Commitment that were essential for us to be selected for these grants.

Meet the Chiefs

Fire service veterans lead the effort in South Santa Clara County

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Meet Dave Bozzo

Chief Bozzo retired in 2005 at the rank of Division Chief after serving 32 years with the Gilroy Fire Department. His administrative and management responsibilities included coordinating field operations, training, EMS, master planning, policy and program development, and EOC coordinator for the City of Gilroy.

Chief Bozzo is a graduate of the California Fire Academy with several state certifications, including Chief Fire Officer. His educational background includes advanced studies in emergency management from California State University at Long Beach and an Associate Degree in Fire Science from Mission College. He has served the community in various capacities, including being a charter member on the advisory board for the local Salvation Army.

Chief Bozzo and his wife Leslie, married for 30 years, have three grown children. Dave is currently enjoys spending time with my family and friends, golfing, fishing, and doing building projects.



Meet Jeff Clet

Chief Clet has over 30 years of experience in the fire service, including 16 years as a Chief Officer, and over 5 years as Fire Chief for the City of Gilroy Fire Department and San Jose Fire Department.

Chief Clet has written several articles and is an accomplished and nationally recognized leader in response time performance, EMS deployment and related issues and works with agencies across the country on improving Fire and EMS performance. He has received several awards for his fire service leadership including a “life time achievement award” for his leadership in EMS Services from the Santa Clara County Fire Chief’s Association; the “Firefighter of the Year” Award from the San Jose Jaycee’s; and the City of San Jose “Pride of San Jose Award” from the Mayor’s Office for his outstanding leadership in forging an EMS Public/ Private partnership with American Medical Response (AMR) the largest Public Private EMS Partnership in the County at the time. He also was selected and served as Chair of the California State EMS Vision 2000 project System Access Committee where he received a special Director’s award.

Chief Clet has an Associate Fire Science degree from San Jose City College and holds a Bachelors degree in Vocational Education from California State University Long Beach and a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Alameda College and University. He is a past-president of the League of California Cities Fire Chiefs Department and the Santa Clara County Fire Chief’s Association. He was a member of the California Fire Chiefs Association, Executive Board as well as the California Joint Apprentice Committee (CJAC) Board member. He was also appointed to the Director’s Advisory Board for the State of California EMS Agency Director and the League of California Cities - EMS Representative. Chief Clet has memberships in the California Fire Chiefs Association, the National Fire Protection Association, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.



The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC) is a non-profit organization composed of individuals, public and private agencies and companies that share a common, vested interest in preventing and reducing losses from wildfires.

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Visit our website
Resources for Homeowners, Past Newsletters,
Kids Outreach Materials and more!

www.SCCFireSafe.org

“Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires.”

Support SCFSC

Thanks to the following who have made recent grant contributions to support our SCFSC programs.

Union Pacific

State Farm Insurance

The Allstate Foundation

Aldercroft Heights

County Water District

Santa Clara Valley Water District

Does your company have a grant making program?

Jan Cokely, Development Director

JanC@SCCFireSafe.org

Volunteers Needed!

Saturday June 26, 2010

Festival in the Park
@ Hellyer Park, San Jose

Friday August 6, 2010

Kaiser Permanente/Cisco Health Day
@ Cisco Systems, Cupertino

Saturday August 21, 2010

Alum Rock Salsa Festival
@ Alum Rock Ave., San Jose

Contact Jenn Viane Riese for more information
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