



# The SCFSC Fireplug

www.SCCFireSafe.org

October 2008

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## LH CWPP Community Meeting

Wednesday  
November 12th  
7PM

Redwood Estate  
Pavilion  
21450 Madrone Dr.  
Los Gatos 95033

Community  
Encouraged  
to Attend

## The Lexington Hills Community Wildfire Protection Plan Moves Forward

In partnership with community members and key stakeholders, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council has secured over \$50,000 in local funding to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for home and property owners around Lexington Reservoir.

The CWPP will include an extensive analysis of the vegetation, slopes, weather conditions and fire history to help protect homes, lives and the environment from the ravages of future wildfires which will occur periodically in the area.

The Anchor Point Group of Boulder, Colorado, will be facilitating the development of the plan.

The Lexington Hills CWPP (LH CWPP) study area includes about 22,000 acres, 2,400 homes, park lands, open space preserves and is a primary source of drinking water

for Los Gatos and the surrounding area. The perimeter of the study area follows the ridge tops surrounding Los Gatos Creek and the entire watershed that forms the upper Los Gatos Creek before it enters the town of Los Gatos. The project will identify assets and homes that are at high risk from wildfires and then identify and prioritize projects to help minimize those risks.

The completed plan, once approved by all the key stakeholders and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, can be used to secure Federal, State and local funds to complete projects identified in the plan. As an example, projects might include shaded fuel breaks, improved evacuation routes, and better access to water supplies.

The Summit Fire this year, in addition to the last large wildfire in the study area that oc-

curred in 1985 burning over 14,000 acres and several dozen homes, makes it paramount to have a CWPP in place.

The existing CWPP Working Group, comprised of representatives from the Community, San Jose Water Company, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Parks, CAL FIRE, Santa Clara County Fire Department and the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, has met monthly for the last year and is expanding to include additional representatives from the community.

Donations to help pay for the LH CWPP development can be sent to:

Kim Gardner  
Area Coordinator, SCFSC  
20895 Panorama Drive  
Los Gatos, CA 95033

*See page 4 for the organizations providing funding for the LH CWPP.*

## Welcome, Sergio Alatorre *SCFSC Area Coordinator, East Foothills*



From the small, southern California town, Calexico, Sergio Alatorre and his family lived in Los Angeles, then moved to San Jose. Sergio spent much of his life in San Jose, attending San Jose High School where he became very interested in pursuing a higher education.

Sergio also worked to help his family financially and built up significant work experience while pursuing his studies and earning an Associates Degree in Mathematics and a Combined Bachelor's of

Arts in Psychology and Biological Sciences. He also plans to explore graduate education.

As an active volunteer for the Ed Levin Boys and Girls Club, Sergio introduced SCFSC to them by coordinating a Wildfire Education Day in which Smokey Bear visited with the kids and San Jose Fire Department brought the Shark Engine. Working with SJFD Wildland Officer Captain Barry Stallard, Sergio has been actively engaging neighborhoods in the East Foothills and building awareness and support for our Chipping Programs. He has been

an outstanding team member in our Community Outreach and Education efforts, coordinating events and educating the public. Fluent in both Spanish and English, Sergio has also started a Spanish language page on our Web site.

Sergio's desire to serve his community drives his passion. As an active member of his community, his goal is to serve in a vocation that helps people and focuses on an area in which he can help solve problems affecting our communities.

Welcome, Sergio!

## Smokey Around Town

Smokey has been making his way around town educating the community, adults and kids alike, about wildfire prevention and safety.

### **\*FACT\***

**Created in 1944,** the Smokey Bear campaign is the longest running public service campaign in US History.



*Left: San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed with Smokey at the Strawberry Park Emergency Preparedness Awareness Fair*



*Right: Smokey at Take Flight for Kids at Reid Hillview Airport sponsored by the Valley Medical Center Foundation and the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 62*

## Smokey in the Classroom

### SCFSC Launches New Youth Education Program

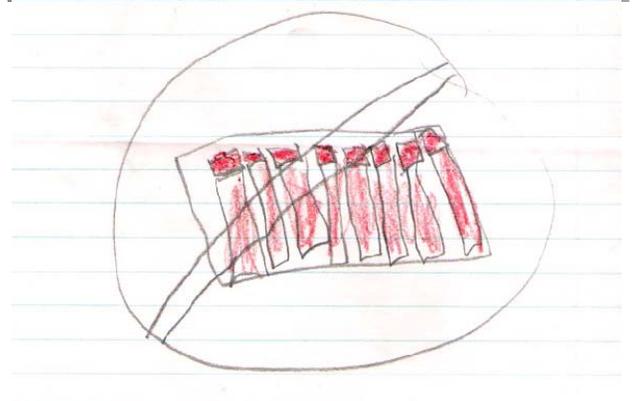
Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC), is teaming up with Smokey Bear, a long time advocate and icon of wildfire prevention, to educate school age kids throughout the County about wildfire prevention and safety.

Smokey in the Classroom is sponsored by SCFSC through federal grants for their Community Outreach and Education programs. Partnering with teachers and educators, this program introduces students to the importance of wildfire prevention using hands on, age appropriate methods including story time, Smokey Bear visits, and learning games and activities. SCFSC also works with local fire agencies including San Jose Fire Department to coordinate engine and firefighter visits.

“This is an exciting program,” states SCFSC President, Jerry Serpa, Fire Captain with the Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department. “Wildfire prevention starts with education and educating our youth will help prevent fires in the future.”

In addition to Community Outreach and Education, SCFSC provides valuable services to residents through the Defensible Space Chipping Program. This program, which reduces hazardous fuels in selected areas of the county, is funded by federal grants as well as matching funds from local fire agencies, companies, organizations and individuals.

SCFSC is looking to engage local schools particularly in the high risk areas of the County to participate in Smokey in the Classroom. To learn more about Smokey in the Classroom or SCFSC’s free chipping programs, visit [www.SCCFireSafe.org](http://www.SCCFireSafe.org) or call (408) 975-9591.





*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.*

**Jenn Viane Riese**  
44 S 16th Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

Phone: (408) 975-9591

Visit our website

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

[www.SCCFireSafe.org](http://www.SCCFireSafe.org)

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

## **Thank You!**

Thank you to the following who have made recent grant contributions to support the development of the Lexington Hills CWPP

**Aldercroft Heights County Water District \$1,000**  
**Aldercroft Heights County Water District \$500**  
**Chasewood Road Association \$350**  
**Chemeketa Park Mutual Water Company \$1,000**  
**Gillette Mutual Water Company \$100**  
**Hitachi Data Systems \$5,000**  
**Individuals \$100**  
**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District \$5,000**  
**North Aldercroft Road Association \$2,000**  
**Redwood Estates Services Association \$3,000**  
**Santa Clara County \$10,000**  
**Santa Clara County Fire Department \$13,000**  
**Santa Clara County Water District \$5,000**  
**San Jose Water Company \$5,000**



*SCFSC Secretary Rick Parfitt accepts a grant check from Hitachi Data Systems Senior Vice President Nancy Long for the Lexington Hills CWPP*

Funding provided by National Fire Plan grants from the USDI Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the California Fire Safe Council. Our Community Outreach, Education and Youth programs and other council activities are also funded in part by grants and donations from local agencies, companies, foundations, organizations and individual donors.

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